



# MOAH UPDATE

August 2019  
Number 86

*Invention & Technology*  
1750 - 1950

## Music at the Museum (Warehouse)

By Ken Kormanak

MOAH recently acquired a wonderful musical instrument. It is a baby grand piano made by the J. & C. Fischer piano company in the 1920s. But, this is no ordinary piano, as it plays itself. “So what?” you might say; there are lots of pianos that play music by themselves. The unique feature of this piano is that it has a mechanism installed in a conventional piano that reads the roll of recorded sheet music and faithfully recreates playing the keyboard touch and tonal nuances of the original artist’s technique. This technology was a departure from the field of ordinary player pianos that struck the keys mechanically in response to fixed holes punched in the paper roll. It was the most popular but most expensive of all player mechanisms. The cost of such an instrument was between \$4,000 and \$8,000, close to the average family income for a year!



This feat of mechanical wizardry was accomplished by the genius of Charles F. Stoddard (see photo on p. 8), a firebrand engineer who patented a system for recording and playback around 1908. His invention was purchased by the American Piano Company of East Rochester, New York. The company name was shortened later to AMPICO. Started in 1914, it made its main public product launch in 1916 and became the largest distributor and manufacturer of pianos by the mid-1920s.

There was a complicated process to produce this lifelike sound. First, the recording equipment reproduced the exact method that the artist delivered

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*See Music at the Museum, page 8.*

## From Our President

Jim Wall



### MOAH's 30-year journey

The wall was demolished, reuniting the joyous people of East and West Berlin. Meanwhile, high above the earth, the Hubble telescope began to send back images of the cosmos with a clarity never before seen. Not to be outdone, more down-to-earth technologists created the first web page and the World Wide Web was born ... although not all Americans were paying attention, since the first episode of the weekly Simpsons TV show aired and became an immediate hit. *Dances with Wolves*, along with star Kevin Costner, dominated the Oscars; and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle action toys were the hot item at Christmas. The year was 1990.

Here in Palo Alto, 1990 brought its own milestone. In September, our own Museum of American Heritage opened to the public in a storefront on Alma Street.

In case you aren't familiar with the history of the museum, here is a short version of what occurred prior to the public opening. In the 1960s, an accountant named Frank Livermore began collecting electrical and mechanical devices that he found interesting. With a keen eye for unique items, Frank soon amassed a large collection of early technology. After a friend gave him a sign proclaiming his collection to be the "Smithsonian West," he and lawyer friend Perry Moerdyke began seriously considering creating a real museum. The five years between the filing of nonprofit organization papers with the state in 1985, and the public opening in 1990, were filled with the logistics of finding a public location, cataloging the collection, recruiting the first museum board of directors, and establishing ongoing funding.

Over the next 30 years, MOAH continued to grow and evolve. Frank's original collection numbered in the hundreds of items, while the current collection boasts over 6,000 items. The museum moved from Alma Street to El Camino Real and then to our current location at the Williams House. The museum's collection moved from Frank's house through a series of three leased warehouses before residing in the current (museum-owned) warehouse.

Throughout the years, the museum has remained totally privately funded, receiving no governmental financial support. While the museum's financial picture has varied over the years, MOAH is still going strong thanks to you, your membership support, and your financial donations. We are pleased that quite a few members and friends from the early days on Alma Street are still active museum supporters today.

See *From Our President*, Page 3.

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Frank Livermore 1919-2000

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## From Our Executive Director

Allison Wong



### A Hidden Gem

It is hard to believe that almost 30 years have whizzed by and MOAH will soon be celebrating a milestone birthday in 2020. The success and longevity of our museum would not have

been possible without our supporters, members, volunteers and visitors.

Often when I am in the gallery, I hear local Palo Alto residents exclaim, "I've lived here my whole life and I never knew you were here until now!" We are consistently referred to as a hidden gem within the community. While we will gladly take that compliment, we want to continually expand our membership and visitor base.

We are always trying to think of ways to attract new audiences to our museum, and we hope that, as a friend of MOAH, you are willing to help. When you visit us next time, I highly encourage you to take some of our brochures, membership rack cards and flyers to share with others in our community who may not know about us and would appreciate what we do. Also, once you're done reading our newsletter, please recycle your copy by giving it to someone who may be interested in our museum.

For those who are technologically inclined, you can ask your friends and acquaintances to "like" us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/MOAHPA>) or have them follow us on Instagram (@moahpaloalto). They can then keep up to date with our latest activities and events.

### From Our President, continued from Page 2.

A lot has happened in those 30 years. MOAH has grown in size, stability and maturity. The Berlin wall is now a tourist attraction. The Internet and the World Wide Web are ubiquitous. And the Simpsons are still popular (OK, maybe not everything has matured and evolved).

Throughout the year of 2020, look for the Museum of American Heritage to honor its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Through special exhibits, events and lectures, we will pay tribute to the museum, its founders and supporters over the years.

## Volunteer Opportunities for 2019

MOAH is on the lookout for curious and active adult volunteers. We have a variety of jobs that can provide you with some fun and rewarding volunteer experiences while you meet and work with interesting people. There is also the possibility of task-based volunteering, allowing you to help us on your own schedule. For more information about volunteering at MOAH, please contact us at 650-321-1004 or [admin@moah.org](mailto:admin@moah.org).

### Gallery Assistants

Are you looking for a weekend volunteer project that requires only an occasional 2.5 to 4 hour commitment? Would you like to be part of MOAH's exciting exhibits and share your knowledge? We are looking for Gallery Assistants to take occasional shifts on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays either from 11:00AM to 1:30PM or from 1:30PM to 4:00PM. This is one area in which MOAH can really use your help!

### Garden Volunteers

How about participating in the restoration and maintenance of a historic garden, while getting some fresh air and exercise and meeting some interesting people? MOAH's Garden Team is looking for additional personnel to help with both heavy and light garden duties. No experience is needed.

### Education Instructors and Assistants

Have you ever thought about sharing your knowledge and talents with young people? MOAH offers weekend classes to youth aged 9+ in science and technology. We are always on the lookout for both instructors and assistants.

### Exhibits Team Members

Do you love to work with others on creating educational and entertaining displays and exhibits? Do you have a passion for history? How about being a part of MOAH's Exhibits Team? We mount several exhibits each year and are looking for team members to assist with all aspects of research, development, and installation.

### Publicity and Public Relations Team Members

Are you interested in communications and public relations? Do you wish more people knew about all of MOAH's great services? How about working with our Publicity Team to get the word out to our community?

### Special Events Volunteers

Do you love to get involved with special events, fundraisers, and parties? Do you like the excitement of working with a team to plan and execute themed functions? How about being a Special Events Volunteer for MOAH?

# Current Main Gallery Exhibit

## *The Happy Homemaker: History of Household Appliances*

Now through August 18, 2019

The Museum of American Heritage unveiled its newest exhibition, *The Happy Homemaker: History of Household Appliances*, in March, and it will be shown until August 18, 2019. Make sure to stop in before we close for exhibit switch-over!

Discover a variety of vintage household appliances that made life easier for the homemaker. This exhibition covers the evolution of stoves and kitchens, heat and the home, history of washing machines, and more. The goal of the exhibit is to spark appreciation for the labor-saving devices that took the hard work out of household chores.

The exhibition features a range of innovative devices, including stoves, washing machines, heaters, irons, waffle irons, toasters, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators and coffee pots. Artifacts range from the late 1800s to the 1950s.



## MOAH Supports Fire Victims



On November 8, 2018, a devastating fire swept through the area surrounding the town of Paradise in Butte County. Help and support for the victims of the Camp Fire was as rapid as it was varied. What we did not expect is that MOAH would be in a position to help out as well.

One of the unfortunate side stories to the tragic loss of lives and property was the impact to the livelihood of the Paradise area farriers.

Butte County has always been a very horse-friendly community. Unfortunately, most of the local blacksmith shops that provided the horse-shoeing and associated metal work for the equines were destroyed in the fire.

This left the workers without the tools they need for their

employment, which left the horses without the services they required in order to be returned to their homes.

A friend of MOAH who was familiar with this problem reached out to us and asked if we could help. And it was a fortunate coincidence that we had a surplus of blacksmith tools that had come to the museum through various donations over the years. In fact, we had so many that they had never been formerly accessioned into the museum collection. In the end, MOAH was happy to provide over two dozen hammers, tongs, long-handled pliers, and other metal working tools to help restock the blacksmith shops around the town of Paradise.

# Current Special Exhibit

## *Special Selection of the Baer Collection*

For over 30 years, Dave and Norma Baer spent their spare time rummaging through garage sales and flea markets, scouting for interesting and unusual items. Year after year, they accumulated artifacts to create an amazing and valuable collection.

After Dave's passing in 2015, the Baer family donated their marvelous collection to the Museum of American Heritage.

A tiny sliver of the Baers' collection is now on display in the back rooms at MOAH. Some of the artifacts that are showcased are garden tools, kitchen contraptions, oddities (including an underground leak detector and a broken arm and leg aligner) and plenty more!

This new exhibit highlights the dedication Dave and Norma had in collecting and shows the importance of seeking out those unusual items and giving them a special home. Come visit the Baers' collection and spark your own interest in collecting!

## Staff Spotlight: Michelle Overton

Meet our new Exhibits and Administrative Assistant, Michelle Overton!

Michelle joined MOAH in December 2018. Michelle earned a Master's degree in history, with a focus on modern European history and American history, from San Jose State University. The museum is lucky to have her on board as her interests in history and research come in handy on the job! Prior to joining the museum, Michelle interned at the New Museum in Los Gatos and gave educational tours to youth visiting the 49ers Museum.

Michelle does a little bit of everything at the museum — recruiting volunteers, processing donations, curating new exhibitions, working with the artifact collection in the warehouse, manning the gallery on Sundays and supporting special events. Recently she has started working with the MOAH collection at the warehouse. A few of her favorite artifacts include the Arco Wand, a whole house vacuum cleaner, and the Scopitone, an early music video jukebox.

Michelle prides herself on having been born and raised in Palo Alto. She enjoys working with the staff and volunteers. One of her favorite tasks is curating new exhibitions. She was initially interested in working at MOAH to gain more experience in the museum world. Ultimately she would like to leave a legacy for others to enjoy and discover the museum.

In her spare time, Michelle likes to travel, especially to historical places and monuments. She enjoys reading and spending time with her two dogs, and she is a sports enthusiast.

When you see Michelle in the gallery or at our events, feel free to introduce yourself! She would love to meet you.



# At the Lectern

Lead singer John Wooldridge, bass John Jones, baritone Ric King, and tenor Terry Moore constitute the **Metro Gnomes**, a barbershop quartet within the Palo Alto – Mountain View Chapter of SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America). On November 15, a standing-room-only audience braved the bad air quality caused by Northern California’s Camp Fire and flocked to MOAH to listen to the Metro Gnomes’ presentation of *Barbershop Harmony: From the 1830s to 2018*.



Following the quartet’s lively rendition of *It’s a Good Day*, Terry Moore provided an overview of the history of barbershop music. While the origin of the term “barbershop music” is rather muddy, Terry speculated that it probably derived from the fact that men sitting around barbershops, waiting for their haircuts, would pass the time by singing in harmony.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, minstrel and vaudeville shows usually included a quartet; most were all-male or mixed, but a few were all-female. Following Thomas Edison’s 1877 invention of the phonograph, every phonograph manufacturing company had a quartet on hand to make recordings. In the early days of recording, only about 50 copies could be made from a master, so there was a constant need to rerecord; this resulted in full employment for quartets! And in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when Lee DeForest invented the Triode, recording for radio really took off. The 1930s saw the development and growth of barbershop contests and societies, most of which were restricted in terms of gender and race. However, in 1939, The Mills Brothers, an African-American quartet, won a major contest in New York, and, in 1945, women established their own society, called Sweet Adelines.

Throughout the presentation, the Metro Gnomes included their own harmonic versions of popular barbershop tunes, including *Coney Island Baby*, *Up a Lazy River*, and *Sweet Adeline*.



Menlo Park native **Dave Newhouse**, Air Force veteran and San Jose State graduate, retired from the Oakland Tribune in 2011 after an award-winning career as a sportswriter and columnist. On February 7, he spoke to a MOAH audience about his thirteenth book, *The Incredible Slip Madigan: The Flamboyant Coach Who Modernized Football*.

Born in 1896 in Ottawa, Illinois, Edward Patrick “Slip” Madigan began his career in sports as the 106-pound football center at the University of Notre Dame. At a time when college football was making a comeback, Slip was hired by St. Mary’s College to be both head football coach and head basketball coach; he eventually became the school’s head baseball coach.

Within just a few years, Slip managed to build the St. Mary’s football team into a nationally recognized contender, beating such teams as USC, UCLA and Stanford on the west coast and Fordham in the east. Often referred to as “the Knute Rockne of the West,” Slip was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1974.

Dave gathered much of the material for his latest book from scrapbooks stored in Slip’s son Ed’s basement. He describes Slip as “a flamboyant coach like no other” who pioneered night football, was a shrewd businessman, and managed to form relationships with many celebrities.

Slip died in 1966 at the age of 69. Various accounts suggest that his spirit lives on and has been seen haunting the Madigan Gym (which he built in 1928) at St. Mary’s.

*Continued on the following page.*

## At the Lectern, continued from the previous page.

There are several theories as to how this state came to be called California. On April 11, **Jamis MacNiven**, founder and owner of Buck's of Woodside, kicked off his talk entitled *Why Silicon Valley?* with a history lesson on how the name California is derived from Calafia, queen of a mythical island populated by Amazon warriors sporting weapons of gold, as described in Garcia Rodriguez de Montalvo's novel *Las Sergas de Esplandián*, published in Seville in 1510. An expedition organized by Hernán Cortés that landed in Baja California in 1533 applied the name to the area, which they believed to be an island.

Interestingly, while no Amazon warriors have been found in California, the gold with which they fashioned their weapons did appear at Sutter's Mill on January 24, 1848, leading to the world's largest human migration since the Crusades. The effect of the Gold Rush was a "boom mentality" in this area that spread to such diverse enterprises as real estate, agriculture, and transportation.

Factors that led specifically to the establishment of Silicon Valley were Leland Stanford's desire to build strong linkage between business and the university he founded, the establishment of Moffett Field in Mountain View, and "a robust ability to tolerate failure."

Jamis concluded his talk with photographs of various business and other leaders at Buck's, the iconic Silicon Valley restaurant known for its fun atmosphere, quirky décor, and reputation as a place where dreams and ideas come true.



Having worked as a Food Editor for *Good Housekeeping Magazine*, ghostwriter for numerous cookbooks, and owner of a catering business, **Diane Rosland** calls the kitchen her domain. On May 9, Diane delivered a talk complementing our exhibit, *The Happy Homemaker*, focusing on the history of the kitchen and its appliances.

The first section of Diane's presentation, "Turn of the Century - Legendary Pioneers of the Domestic Science Movement," covered the contributions of three notable women. Catharine Beecher, a strong advocate of equal education for women, published "A Treatise on Domestic Economy for the Use of Young Ladies at Home and at School," a book about the importance of women's roles in society. Ellen Swallow Richards, the first woman to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, had a strong interest in sanitation, particularly air and water quality, and worked to elevate the field of home economics to a legitimate area of study. Lillian Moller Gilbreth focused on efficiency techniques for the American homemaker, developed important inventions for the kitchen, and originated the concept of "the kitchen triangle."

The individuals covered in the second section of Diane's presentation, "The Inventors," included Josephine Cochrane (dishwasher), James Sharp (iron furnace stove), Alan MacMasters (toaster), Charles Strite (pop-up toaster), Nathaniel Wales (electric refrigerator), Melitta Bentz (coffee filter), Ralph Collier (rotary hand mixer), Herbert Johnson (stand mixer), Stephen Poplawski (blender), Frederick Osius (Waring blender), Irving Nachumsohn (slow cooker) and Denis Papin, who invented the pressure cooker in 1679.

"The Evolution of the Kitchen," the third section of Diane's presentation, discussed prominent features of the kitchen over the past hundred or so years. In addition to the modernization of kitchen appliances, kitchens have evolved in terms of size, decor and efficiency. Regardless of change, however, kitchens still function as the gathering place and heart of the home.

## Music at the Museum, continued from front cover.

as he or she played a piano. The exact method of faithfully capturing the artist's sound was accomplished by a series of technical developments. Initially, an army of musical editors was employed to mark up the scores and use their instinct and judgment to create the effective dynamics. Many works by Rachmaninov, Richard Strauss, Arthur Rubenstein, and George Gershwin were created using this manual technique. The culmination of the technology was accomplished by the use of electrical sparks discharging on a roll of moving paper that measured the duration of the final eighth of an inch of hammer travel. The accuracy of this technique was measurable to a hundred-thousandth of a second! This development was named the Ampico spark chronograph and was noted in an illustrated article in the 1927 edition of *Scientific American*.



Charles Fuller Stoddard (1876-1958)

But that's not the end of the story of getting mechanical sound to faithfully follow the artist's technique. Two sets of perforated dynamic codes, one for treble and one for bass, have to be created. A virtual army of musical technicians was employed by Ampico to measure and transcribe that information on the spark chronograph rolls. These were then converted by means of tables and charts into preordained crescendo, decrescendo and intensity coding. Whew! Are you still with me? A recording of Johann Strauss's *Blue Danube*, played by artist Joseph Lhévinne, took over five weeks to produce and needed over 100,000 separate operations. The piece has 8,106 notes, each requiring thirteen or more operations to prepare.



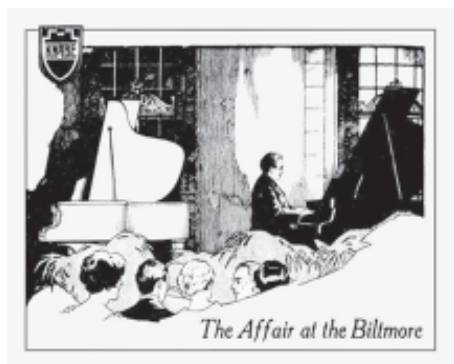
Finally, all this information about the dynamics of the recording was transferred to paper rolls, which had punched holes that reproduced the artist's technique.

Ampico Spark Chronograph



Ampico Master Perforator

The result of all this effort was an amazingly faithful reproduction of the original artist's sound. So realistic was this dynamic coding system that Ampico staged a public demonstration at the Hotel Biltmore in New York City on October 8, 1916. The artist, Leopold Godowsky, gave a carefully prepared recital, in which he alternated with the Ampico in the same musical repertoire. He was able to demonstrate to skeptics the absolute fidelity of the new instrument. The *New York Globe* summed up both the novelty and the success of the event:



"The Affair at the Biltmore" poster

*"The affair at the Biltmore held last Sunday would have been a scandal five years ago. For fancy, that great pianist Leopold Godowsky actually permitted a music roll record of his renditions to be heard on the Ampico immediately after he personally had performed them. Indeed, as remarkable as the experiment itself is the extraordinary success achieved by the almost human instrument."*

The American Piano Company scored a major publicity coup and had established Ampico as one of the major reproducing pianos of the era, though for copyright reasons it always described its instruments not as reproducing but as **reenacting** the artists who recorded for it. Through these techniques, artists had their music recorded and played back on many brands of grand pianos that Ampico used in its business. Oh, and what finally happened to Ampico? It was bought out, and the piano business

*Continued on the next page*



# Education Outreach

MOAH is pleased to collaborate with a variety of organizations in order to share our programs with a wider audience. Recently we have been working with the Menlo Park Library.



Photo courtesy of Menlo Park Library

Jim Wall brought our traveling hands-on science demonstrations to the Menlo Park Main Library's Science Night VIII, held in March. MOAH was among many exhibitors including Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, Palo Alto Junior Museum, Bay Area Herpetological Society, Felidae Conservation Fund – Bay Area Puma Project, GeoTots, Environmental Volunteers, MVCode, Tsquared Robotics and Science Made Fun. This free community event was made possible by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library.

Also in March, MOAH volunteer Art Adams gave a lecture based on his memoir,

*A Young Man Goes to War*, at the Menlo Park Main Library. He discussed his experience as a prisoner of war during World War II. His lecture complemented the traveling exhibition at the library, called *War Comes Home*, which ran from March to April 2019. The exhibition showcased veterans and their families adjusting to civilian life together and explored the separation and reunion of soldiers.



Photo courtesy of Menlo Park Library

## Music at the Museum, continued from the previous page

steadily declined following the Great Depression along with changing interests as radio and other media began to emerge. Ampico finally closed its doors in 1941.

As a member of MOAH, you may still hear this wonderful instrument play, using several rolls of music we have in our archives, either in a future museum exhibit or at our next Open Warehouse event.

## MOAH Welcomes Its New, Upgrading and Returning Members!

### New Members

#### *Individual*

Janet Benson  
Romola Georgia  
Mark Hasham  
Julia Jaroshenko  
Akemi Koda  
Joan Meyn  
Carlin Otto  
Linda Larson Parks  
Fran Rominger  
Kathleen Walkup  
Zion Young

### New Members, cont'd.

#### *Family*

Bobbie & Gale Fullerton  
Elizabeth Gish  
Phillip Gordon &  
Philippa Newfield  
Judy & Stanford Martin  
Jena Rauti  
Oscar & Margaret  
Rosenbloom  
Regina Saliba  
Donna & James Sheridan  
Dan Todd

### New Members, cont'd.

#### *Sustaining*

Lori Merritt  
Andrea B Smith

### Upgrading Members

#### *Sustaining*

Mary & Paul Carlson

### Returning Members

#### *Individual*

Robert Meltzer  
*Supporting*  
Leonard J Shustek

# MOAH thanks ...

## contributors to our 2018 Annual Appeal, which raised over \$19,000:

Jim Adams \* Ron & Robin Allen \* Betty Anderson \* Monty Anderson & Megan Bellue \* John & Marlene Arnold \* Derek Attwaters \* Allen Baum \* Dick & Liz Baumgartner \* William Beall \* Polly & Tom Bredt \* Stuart Brewster \* Char Bucholtz \* Beth Bunnenberg \* Mr. & Mrs. Buttrill \* Sylvia & Art Carroll \* Carolle Carter \* Craig Cilker \* Dick Clark \* John & Pat Davis \* Mary De Jong \* Rich & Pat Douglas \* Les Earnest \* Ernestphil Transport \* Don & Margaret Fidler \* Rita French \* Denise & Keith Gill \* Charlie & Roberta Gillis \* Mary & Clint Gilliland \* Barry Goldblatt \* Helen & James Goodwine \* Carol & Stu Hansen \* Trevor & Lori Heathorn \* Frances Hillier \* Gary & Jennifer Hubback \* Joe & Nancy Huber \* Barbara Hunter \* Ray Jadwin \* Bob & Nancy Jacobsen \* Sally Jervis \* Jack Jolly \* Barbara Lawson \* Daniel Lazare \* Peter Landsbergen \* Judith Lautmann \* Judy Leahy \* Dottie & Wayland Lee \* Joanna Liston \* Virginia & Jim Lyons \* David & Helen MacKenzie \* Jamis & Margaret MacNiven \* Nancy Mathews \* Sandra & Joseph Martignetti \* Margaret McKinnon \* Betty & Gordon Moore \* Margaret Morris \* John & Mary Morris \* Ronald & Anne Murphy \* Bev & Jim Nelson \* Delores Nelson \* Mr. & Mrs. Boyce Nute \* Dick Osgood \* Charlie & Kim Pack \* George Patterson \* Curtis Parisi \* Sandra & Scott Pearson \* Vinson & Marilyn Perry \* Girvin & Lesley Peters \* Marilyn Phillips \* Tom & Betty Plemons \* David & Bonnie Pollard \* Fran Rominger \* Nancy & Norm Rossen \* Elizabeth & Mark Schar \* Steve & Luana Staiger \* Jeff Risberg \* Wendy Sinton \* Maureen Sirhall & Dick Rogers \* Dave & Donnison Stoner \* Susan & Carl Thomsen \* Eileen & Jim Wall \* Phyllis Wedvick \* Anne Wilbur \* Curt Weil \* Mona Williamson \* Bruce Wilner \* Lowell & Jessica Wolfe \* Ken & Kathy Young \* George Zimmerman

## contributors to MOAH's exhibit *The Happy Homemaker: History of Household Appliances*:

Art Adams \* Dick Clark \* Mike Forster \* Charlie Gillis \* Bob Katzive \* Ken Kormanak \* Nick Kiya \* Michelle Overton \* Logan Patterson \* The Patterson Family \* Eileen & Jim Wall \* Allison Wong

## those who have made donations over the past six months (as of May 7, 2019):

AmazonSmile \* Wes Anderson \* Derek Attwaters \* Estate of Bob & Mary Jane Beck \* Benevity \* Beth Bunnenberg \* Kevin Coleman \* Charlie & Roberta Gillis \* Louis Caputo \* Connie Cavanaugh \* John & Pat Davis \* Deidre Denham \* Grace Green \* Maidenherren Fund \* Diana Mizer \* Barbara & Jim Newton \* Palo Alto Lions Charities \* Estate of George Patterson \* Repair Café \* Retirement Capital Strategies \* Eileen & Jim Wall \* Pamela Wong

## supporters of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Vintage Vehicle and Family Festival (as of May 2, 2019):

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John Davis \* Trevor & Lori Heathorn \* Jim & Bev Nelson \* Jim & Eileen Wall

# In Memoriam

## George N. Patterson

**October 24, 1942 - October 29, 2018**

George Patterson died at his home in Palo Alto on Monday, October 29, 2018. He was 76 years old. A fourth-generation Californian, George was the son of William Donald Patterson, Jr., and Dorothy Elizabeth Wilcox.

George's great-grandfather, George Washington Patterson, came to California from Indiana in search of gold in 1849 and shortly thereafter turned to farming. Today the Patterson house and land, Ardenwood, is an historic working farm operated by the East Bay Regional Park District in Fremont. George was also a descendent of Abner and Lucy Wilcox, missionary teachers, who settled on the island of Kauai in 1846.

George was acquainted with Frank Livermore, MOAH's founder, and became an ardent supporter of the museum in the early 1990s. A loyal volunteer, George enjoyed repairing items at the museum's warehouse. In addition, George was one of the first members of the MOAH Legacy Society.

George was also active with the Society of California Pioneers and a member of the California Historical Radio Society.

George is survived by his two brothers, Bill and Wil, two sisters, Grace Green and Eden Salomon, three nieces, and three nephews. A memorial service for George was held on March 10 at Ardenwood Park in Fremont. MOAH extends condolences to George's family and thanks them for requesting that memorial contributions in George's name be made to the museum..



### How to Join and Get MOAH for your Money!

Museum members receive this newsletter; attend lectures free of charge; receive a discount on workshops and special events; and are invited to special members-only receptions for each exhibit.

- Livermore Collector ..... \$ 2,500
- Patron ..... \$ 1,000
- Sponsoring ..... \$ 500
- Supporting ..... \$ 250
- Sustaining ..... \$ 100
- Family ..... \$ 50
- Individual Adult ..... \$ 35

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E-mail: **mail@moah.org**

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Remit to: **Museum of American Heritage, P. O. Box 1731, Palo Alto, CA 94302-1731**



P. O. Box 1731, Palo Alto, CA 94302-1731  
Phone: 650.321.1004  
Fax: 650.473.6950  
Website: [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org)  
E-mail: [mail@moah.org](mailto:mail@moah.org)  
Located at 351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto,  
between Bryant and Waverley Streets  
Hours: Friday through Sunday, 11 am–4 pm  
Admission: Free  
Donations welcomed  
Group tours available by appointment

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## MOAH EXHIBITS, EVENTS, CLASSES

**Exhibits: Friday - Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Group tours available at minimal fee)**

*The Happy Homemaker: History of Household Appliances*

In the Main Gallery, now through August 18, 2019

*Special Selection of the Baer Collection*

In the museum's back rooms

*A Century of Mechanical Toys*

In the Ehrlich Gallery

**Permanent Exhibits:** Kitchen; General Store; Dr. Williams' Office; Gardens; Print Shop;  
Marshall Mathews Garage; Ely Family Children's Room

### Events:

**Summer Concert Series: *Rive Gauche***

Thursday, August 8, 2019, 7:00 PM

MOAH Grounds

***Repair Café***

Sunday, October 27, 2019, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MOAH Grounds

***2020 Vintage Vehicles & Family Festival (VVFF)***

Saturday, May 2, 2020, 9:30 AM

MOAH Grounds and Homer Avenue

**For additional events and our latest class schedule, please go to [www.moah.org/calendar](http://www.moah.org/calendar).**