



113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, CA 93109 • sbmm.org • 805 962-8404

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Education Department
(805) 962-8404 education@sbmm.org

ONLINE: THE HISTORY OF SANTA BARBARA’S WATERFRONT

A Zoom Webinar presentation by Neal Graffy, author of *Santa Barbara Then and Now* and *Street Names of Santa Barbara*

Where: Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara

When: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 7:00pm

Cost: Free, but registration is required

Registration Required: <https://sbmm.org/santa-barbara-events/>

Sponsored by: Marie L Morrisroe



Virtually locked by mountains at either end, Santa Barbara has long looked to the sea for food, trade, and supplies. Chumash *tomols*, Spanish supply ships, and Boston hide and tallow vessels provided for the community in their respective eras. In the 1870s, John Peck Stearns and his new wharf literally opened Santa Barbara’s front door and the world rushed in. West Beach with its bathhouses and waterfront plaza became Santa Barbara’s social playground and the magnificent Potter Hotel brought the elite - Who Came, Who Saw, Who Stayed – and contributed heavily to their adopted community. The story of all this and so much more will be revealed in *The History of the Santa Barbara Waterfront*.

Neal Graffy’s love for Santa Barbara’s history began at age 13 when he started doing odd jobs for Mrs. Leontine Phelan, a descendant of the founder of the Santa Barbara Presidio. Since giving his first slide-show talk on local history in 1989, he has given well over 300 presentations on 20 different topics! He has also written extensively for the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, *Santa Barbara Independent*, *Santa Barbara Magazine*, and numerous local museums and historical societies. Further, his expertise has been sought out by local, state, and national radio and TV. He has been featured in several documentaries including the Emmy Award winning *Impressions in Time*, appeared on Huell Howser’s *California Gold*, KCET TV’s *Life and Times* and on *This Old House*. “Delightfully unfettered by convention” pretty much sums up Neal Graffy’s approach to history. Whether it be in print, radio, television, documentary or live, his audiences always find his presentations to be entertaining, fun, and still educational.” (www.elbarbarena.com)

Neal has served as a Board Member of both the Historical Museum and the Mission Canyon Association, as well as a member and chairman of the Santa Barbara County Landmarks Commission, among many other organizations. In 2004, he founded the Santa Barbara History Consortium, a not-for-profit corporation, established for the specific purpose of providing local history to a wide audience through film and video production, publishing and oral presentations. He has authored numerous monographs for historical organizations, as well as articles in regional and national publications. Not surprisingly, his hobbies include collecting Santa Barbara memorabilia, postcards, and photographs, as well as playing guitar, driving an unrestored 1941 Packard 180 limousine, and searching for the perfect bacon burger.

~ ~ ~

Since 2000, the [Santa Barbara Maritime Museum](#) has featured many artifacts and stories to share the history of the Santa Barbara Channel with more than 40,000 visitors annually and provides year-round experiential maritime history and marine science education for local youth. Featuring the impressive *First-Order Fresnel Lighthouse Lens* from Point Conception, SBMM's current exhibits explore *the History of Oil in Santa Barbara Channel & Chumash Use of Asphaltum*, the *Honda Disaster*, and *Wives and Daughters: Keepers of the Light*.

SBMM is located at the historic Santa Barbara Harbor at 113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Visit sbmm.org or call (805) 962-8404 for details.

RS 8/24/2020