

43rd ANNUAL MISSIONS AND PRESIDIOS CONFERENCE

Presented by California Missions Foundation

“250th Anniversary of San Francisco: Ohlone Indians, Franciscans, Soldiers and Sailors”

Mission San Francisco de Asís
San Francisco, California
April 17-18, 2026

FRIDAY CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

6:00 pm

Roote Mak-Ruwwa Makkin Honneene * In Our Home We Remain

Presenter: Vincent Medina

The East Bay Ohlone people have never left their home because of the tenacity and determination of their forebears, who are the heroes of their contemporary community. The Ohlone Indian Tribe, established in 1971 by elders from the Verona Band of Alameda County, has consistently shown resilience and steadfastness in maintaining their Indian identity. Vincent Medina, President of the Ohlone Indian Tribe, will tell narrative of the unbreakable continuity of his people, and discuss successful, ongoing efforts to strengthen their traditional culture into the present day.

About the Presenter: Vincent Medina is President of the Ohlone Indian Tribe, is an East Bay Ohlone man born and raised within his ancestral homeland, halkin (hall-keen), which encompasses the heart of the East Bay. Founder of the cultural institution mak-'amham and the internationally acclaimed Cafe Ohlone, and leader of the unprecedented 'ottoy (oh-toy) Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley, Vincent has consistently dedicated his life to the continuity of his beautiful and enduring East Bay Ohlone culture. Vincent is a speaker and the teacher of Chochenyo, the Indigenous language of the East Bay.

SATURDAY CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

8:30 am

The Pacheco Family: From Sonora to the San Francisco Bay

Presenter: Damian Bacich Damian.bacich@sjsu.edu

This paper examines the rise of the Pacheco family, tracing their origins in Sonora and their ascent in Alta California society. Part of a broad network of families in Sonora and Sinaloa, the Pachecos played key roles in military and civil administration and served at the presidios of Pitic,

Janos and Terrenate. The family's Alta California narrative begins with Juan Salvio Pacheco and his immediate family, recruited for the 1775–76 Anza expedition. Juan Salvio died shortly after arrival in Alta California, but his sons, including soldier Miguel Pacheco, capitalized on their military service and legacy with Anza to secure their place in the nascent civil society. Miguel's posting to the Presidio of San Francisco and his marriage to Juana Sánchez, one of the first children baptized at Mission Dolores, helped found a large kinship network in the San Francisco Bay region that would expand both its southern and eastern shores.

About the Presenter: Damian Bacich, Ph.D. is a professor of Spanish and Ibero-American Studies and Graduate Program Coordinator in the Department of World Languages and Literatures at San José State University.

8:50 am

Ohlone Life at the Asistencia de San Pedro y San Pablo, an Early Outpost of Mission San Francisco

Presenters: Lee Panich, Jelmer Eerkens, Christopher Canzonieri, Christopher Zimmer
lpanich@scu.edu, canz1970@gmail.com, jweerkens@ucdavis.edu, cdzimmer93@gmail.com

This paper examines the health, diet, social connections, and medicinal practices of Ohlone people associated with Mission San Francisco in the late 18th century. The study focuses on the analysis of 15 Ohlone individuals buried at the Asistencia de San Pedro y San Pablo, in present-day Pacifica, who were disturbed during construction activities. With support of the state appointed Most Likely Descendants, scientific studies were conducted to learn more about their lives. By comparing these findings with historical records, it has even been possible to identify several of the individuals by name and reconstruct their life histories. Overall, the reveals continuity in some traditional Ohlone behaviors as well as new practices influenced by the Spanish. Together, this work offers unique insights into the experiences of Native communities during early colonization on California's Pacific coast.

About the Presenter: Lee M. Panich is a Fay Boyle Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Santa Clara University. Jelmer Eerkens is at University of California Davis. Christopher Canzonieri is an Archaeological and Historical Consultant. Christopher Zimmer is a member of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista.

Contributors: Jelmer Eerkens, Christopher Canzonieri, Christopher Zimmer

9:10 am

San Pedro y San Pablo Today – Sanchez Adobe

Presenter: Sandra Hirzel

Today this former outpost of Mission Dolores is a vibrant interpretive site with markers for the original structure, and the adjacent Sanchez Adobe which was added during the Rancho period.

The opportunities to visit the site, as well as its condition and interpretive use today will be explained.

About the Presenter: Sandra Hirzel is a San Francisco native. She has been a docent at the Sanchez Adobe for 40 years.

9:25 am

Under the Crown: Imperial Authority and Indigenous Agency at Mission San Francisco, 1776

Presenter: Madeleine Wester madeleine.wester98@gmail.com

This paper explores how concepts of authority and kingship were understood at the founding of San Francisco in 1776 by Spanish officials, sailors, Franciscan missionaries, and the Ohlone peoples. It argues that monarchy provided a shared framework of authority that made interaction possible across profoundly different cultural and social worlds. The paper situates this encounter within the longer intellectual and legal legacy of the 1537 papal bull, *Sublimis Deus*, in which the Catholic Church affirmed the full humanity and moral agency of Indigenous peoples, and examines how these principles were subsequently expressed through the Franciscan Padres as well as Spanish royal law in Alta California.

About the Presenter: Madeleine Wester is an independent scholar in philosophy and Catholic theology with a BA in Philosophy from Carnegie Mellon University, working on writing projects related to political theology, monarchy, and early California mission history.

9:45 am

Pictures at an Expedition: Reconstructing the Dress and Equipment of the Anza Party 1775 - 1776.

Presenter: DAVID RICKMAN davidwickman@gmail.com

For over a century, artists have shown us how they believed the Anza Expedition looked on their journey to California. They have given us soldiers armed like 16th century conquistadors, and Anza dressed as a 17th century cavalier. Spanish men of the party have worn the broad-brimmed sombreros of Pancho Villa's time, while Native American members are clad in the white cotton pajamas mistakenly assigned to mission neophytes. But how did these people and their gear really appear? We can never know the exact answer to that question. But from 1993 – 2004, I did my best to come as close as I could to reconstructing the actual dress and equipment of that expedition, resulting in fourteen paintings for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. This paper is based on the research I did for that artwork and on some that I have done since. My presentation will describe and document the dress and equipment of officers (including Anza), soldiers, their wives and children, muleteers, vaqueros, servants, and other civilians. It will include eyewitness images from New Spain and descriptions from period documents and accounts.

About the Presenter: David W. Rickman is a renowned illustrator and historian.

10:05 am BREAK

10:20 am

MAPPING THE NORTHERN END OF THE CAMINO REAL

Presenter: Peter Meyerof p.meyershof@comcast.net

The path of the Camino Real connecting the 21 missions in California has long been a topic of interest. The portion of the trail north of San Francisco which linked Mission San Rafael and Mission San Francisco Solano in Sonoma has been less studied. Some of the trail can be inferred from diaries, diseños, or even from small areas of physical evidence that have survived. Yet the last portion of the trail, as it crossed or circumvented the ridge of the Sonoma Mountains that separate the Petaluma Valley from the Sonoma Valley has remained a point of dispute. There is evidence from an 1847 survey and from testimony in a land claim deposition that shed light on the last portion of this trail as it entered the Sonoma Valley.

About the Presenter: Peter G. Meyerhof, PhD. Is a historian affiliated with the Sonoma Valley Historical Society

10:40 am

NEW SPAIN'S SYMPATHY FOR NEW ENGLAND, 1779-1783

Presenter: Marie Duggan mduggan@keene.edu

The American Revolution and the Spanish Pacific from Manila to California in 1776, the American Revolution broke out, and by 1779, Spain declared itself an ally of the Thirteen Colonies, and therefore at war with Britain until 1784. In California, missions donated to the war effort. In Manila, 6,000 soldiers prepared to defend Spain's Philippines from possible British attack. In addition, Carlos III decreed that trade between Asia and the Americas would be encouraged. His thought was that if inexpensive Asian goods flooded ports in New Spain, it would undermine British contraband trade on the Caribbean side of New Spain, and thereby financially defeat the enemy. There were nine voyages by the San Blas navy between Manila and California and San Blas, in part to escort the two voyages by Manila galleons Manila -Monterey-Cabo San Lucas -Acapulco between 1779 and 1784. As J.M. Mancini has recently reminded us, Father Benito Cambon of San Francisco got on a ship in San Francisco that would sail to San Blas and then on to Manila where he bought Chinese bowls that still serve as fonts embedded into walls at the mission. He returned in 1782, getting off the ship in San Diego, which cannon made in Manila were also destined, and then traveled overland to San Francisco. Adele Ogden in 1941 wrote that Spain got into the otter trade in 1786, San Blas navy mariners were already unofficially engaged in the trade in 1779, which blossomed during this period

of wide-open trade in the Pacific during the American Revolutionary War. In a sense, the American Revolution brought California closer to Asia.

About the Presenter: Marie Duggan is a Professor of Business Management at Keene State College

11:00 am ANZA250: A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

THE ANZA-RIVERA RELATIONSHIP REEXAMINED

Presenter: Eric Plunkett ericplunkett84@gmail.com

Anza's second expedition in transporting colonists from Tubac across the desert to California for the founding of the Presidio of San Francisco in 1776 marked a change in the region's historical trajectory. Relatively little attention has been paid to Anza's failed relationship with upper California's military commander, Fernando Rivera y Moncada. After arriving at Mission San Gabriel from Tubac, Anza agreed to accompany and support Rivera in his efforts to restore calm in San Diego following the Kumeyaay (Tipai) Revolt of 1775. In the ensuing months, Anza became increasingly frustrated by Rivera's reticence for him to continue with the founding of San Francisco. Their relationship deteriorated to the point that the two refused to speak face-to-face with one another, resorting instead to sending angry and sometimes petulant letters back and forth through couriers during their travels, even when they found themselves staying at the same mission. One dimension of historical analysis examines how competing factions in northern New Spain were vying for calm of potential trade opportunities at the ports in California, recently highlighted in Marie Duggan's article in the recent Boletín. This analysis can be combined with the research of John Wills in his 2015 biography of Fernando Rivera y Moncada, *The Forgotten Governor*, Donald Garate's 2006 publication of Anza and Rivera's letters in *Antepasados*, and Harry Crosby's research for his 1994 *Antigua California* to see Anza and Rivera's relationship in a new light. Their respective origins in Sonora and Compostela reveal divergent economic networks and interests which will be examined to achieve a better understanding of why their relationship may have been so contentious. The resulting analysis suggests that the popular distinction between the ambitions of missionaries and the military in achieving their respective visions for the colonization of California is too narrow, prompting a reexamination of the impact of regional factions on important men in the military who shaped California's development.

About the Presenter: Eric Plunkett is an educator in the Placentia Yorba-Linda Unified School District. A native of Placentia, he graduated with a degree in history from California State University Fullerton in 2008. He has published several articles and co-authored the book, *The Portolá Expedition in Orange County 1769-2019*, with the late historian, Phil Brigandi. He has also written two other books, *St. Junípero Serra and the Founders of Mission San Juan Capistrano* (2022) and *The Saga of Orange County's "Pirates" - the Sacking of Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1818* (2026).

11:20 am

THE JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA TRAIL AND EL CAMINO DE CALIFORNIA

Presenters: Wayne Donaldson, Gilbert Correa, and David Bolton

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is a nationally designated historic trail in the United States with multiple official designations. A bi-national effort is underway to gain similar recognition for El Camino de California which parallels much of the Anza Trail from San Gabriel north to San Francisco Bay. This discussion examines the significance of both trails and explores similarities and differences. Both trails provide cooperative interpretation and heritage tourism efforts in both the U.S. and Mexico.

About the Anza Trail: The Anza Trail was established by the U.S. Congress in 1990; the Anza Trail is part of the U.S. National Trails System and is administered by the National Parks Service (NPS). The trail commemorates the 1775–1776 expedition led by Juan Bautista de Anza from Sonora (New Spain/Mexico) to Alta California, culminating in the founding of the Presidio and Mission of San Francisco. This designation recognizes its significance in the Spanish colonization and settlement of California and in the broader story of the American West. While officially designated only by the United States as a National Historic Trail, the Anza Trail is widely considered binational in character. The trail originally started in Sonora, went down to Culiacan, Sinaloa, and then back up through Sonora before crossing over to Alta California to reach San Gabriel, and continuing north to San Francisco. The Anza trail is recognized as a key corridor of the 1776 Anza colonizing route, tying directly into the founding era of Alta California and the mission-presidio system.

About El Camino de California: The Camino begins in Baja California Sur and travels north to Sonoma. The Camino helped to lay the groundwork for the establishment of the Missions, Presidios, and Pueblos in both Baja and Alta California. The Anza Trail later brought families to help populate the Pueblos.

12 Noon Lunch – No Host

1:00 pm SPECIAL MIDDAY PRESENTATION

Francisco Garcés, the Missionary-Explorer

Presenter: Jeremy Beer

Abstract: The Anza Expeditions of 1774 and 1775–76 would likely have never occurred were it not for the intrepid Francisco Garcés, a Franciscan friar who was posted to Mission San Xavier del Bac, in today's southern Arizona, in 1768. In this talk, Jeremy Beer, author of *Beyond the Devil's Road: Francisco Garcés and the Spanish Encounter with the American Southwest*, will

explain who Garcés was, why he embarked on his famous entradas, and what, in the end, he accomplished. Beer will highlight in particular Garcés's dealings with various native groups and the Alta California missions, including his connections to Frs. Serra and Lasuén.

About the Presenter" Jeremy Beer is an independent biographer and historian whose work has appeared in *First Things*, *Commonweal*, the *Washington Post*, and many other outlets. His book *Beyond the Devil's Road: Francisco Garcés and the Spanish Encounter with the American Southwest* was published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 2024. He also introduced and annotated a new edition of Agnes Repplier's *Junípero Serra: Pioneer, Missionary, Saint*, published by Cluny Press in 2020. Jeremy lives in Phoenix.

2:00 pm

Exhibition Strategies for Rethinking Colonial Histories

Presenters: Lauren Baines and Ciara Ennis lbaines@scu.edu / CEnnis@scu.edu

Santa Clara University (SCU) stands today on the ancestral land of the Ohlone and Muwekma Ohlone people, as well as the site of Mission Santa Clara de Asis, regarded as the sister mission to Mission Dolores. Mission Santa Clara celebrates its own 250th anniversary in 2027.

Since the early 1980s, the de Saisset Museum at SCU has presented exhibitions and programs that uplift Native heritage and address Alta California mission history. This presentation focuses on the confluence and impact of specific exhibitions and programs in fall 2025 that enabled transhistorical conversations, incorporating knowledge from Ohlone culture bearers, contemporary artists, subject matter experts, and archival materials to address the process of colonization, its impact on Native communities, and the later romanticizing of the mission period.

Specifically, *Monica Rodriguez: Californiana* provided expanded perspectives on the Alta California mission system, a topic explored in the Museum's ongoing permanent exhibition *California Stories from Thámien to Santa Clara*. Combined with two new initiatives -- *Flat Files of Curiosity* and Faculty Lunch Time Conversations -- as well as Ohlone partners' knowledge on Native plants, *Californiana* generated opportunities for conversations on hidden and erased narratives of the mission system's impact from multiple disciplinary lenses with varied audiences.

About the Presenters: Lauren Baines is Assistant Director and Ciara Ennis, PhD, is Director & Chief Curator, at the de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University.

2:20 pm BREAK

2:40 pm

Understanding The Art of The California Missions Through Conservation and Collaboration

Presenter: Helena Hazelton

Helena@sanluisrey.org

The art of the California Missions—sculpture, paintings, and devotional objects—has long been interpreted primarily through historical and anthropological narratives, while the artistic intentions and histories behind these objects remains comparatively understudied. Although an impressive foundational works exists in the research of Norman Neuerberg and other scholars, a deeper exploration of the mission's objects, collections, and visual culture is still much needed in our field.

This presentation will explore how recent conservation efforts at Mission San Luis Rey have opened new paths for understanding mission art in a different light. It will also highlight the importance of collaboration—with both institutions and local communities—to deepen our knowledge of the mission's art and material culture, and to ensure its proper safekeeping, organization, and preservation.

About the Presenter: Helena Hazleton is an Art Historian & Museum Director at Mission San Luis Rey

3:00 pm

El Presidio de San Diego: Excavating Southern California's Lost City

Presenter: Richard L. Carrico rcarrico@sdsu.edu

Think you know the early history of Spanish settlement in San Diego? Know where the first mission in San Diego was located? Were Kumeyaay prisoners executed at the San Diego Presidio? What the heck did those early Spanish colonists eat? Through many never-seen-before images Richard will walk us through the mid-1700s up to 1845 and literally uncover lost stories and histories.

Founded in 1769, the ruins of upper California's first mission and fort lie buried beneath the landscaped grassy hills in Presidio Park. Carrico will delve into the men, women, and children who lived, and sometimes died at the presidio. We will learn the fascinating story of the historic ruins and its people. Carrico also wishes to ensure that the story of the local Kumeyaay and other Native people at the presidio is front and center.

Carrico's extensive research on the presidio and its people included materials from Spanish archives housed in Mexico City and Berkeley, Kumeyaay oral tradition, and nearly a decade of archaeological excavation at the site. Two seasons which Professor Carrico himself directed.

About the Presenter: Richard L. Carrico is with the Department of American Indian Studies, San Diego State University

3:20 pm

The Convento Library at Mission San Carlos Borromeo

Presenter: William Whobrey william.whobrey9@gmail.com

This presentation is a follow-up on my article in this year's *Boletín* on the Carmel Mission Library and will include important research and findings since the article's publication. A multi-year cataloging effort has uncovered significant new information on the establishment, dissolution, and rebirth of California's first library. The talk will begin by discussing the basic statistics of the nearly 600-volume collection but will quickly move to more interesting findings in individual volumes, to include those with inscriptions by Serra, books that have moved from mission to mission, and certain potential research topics across multiple academic subjects. Finally, the talk will present a call to other missions to collaborate on a greater project of consolidating all catalogs and knowledge of these early collections of books in Alta California.

About the Presenter: William Whobrey is retired from Yale University.

3:20 pm

4:00-5:30 pm Social and Networking

END OF DAY TWO

SUNDAY TOUR

SAN PEDRO Y SAN PABLO HISTORIC SITE

1000 Linda Mar Blvd

Pacifica, California

Two tours will be offered by Sandra Hirzel of the original site of San Pedro y San Pablo which was a rancho or outpost of Mission Dolores, providing many products for the mission. Later the site became home to the Sanchez Adobe during the post-mission Rancho Period.

10 am Tour led by Sandra Hirzel

11 am Tour led by Sandra Hirzel

CONCLUSION OF THE 43RD ANNUAL CMF CONFERENCE