



San Francisco Westerners International Signals for February 2016

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 23 2016, at 5:30 PM** for a presentation by Paul Totah who serves as director of communications at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco, where he taught English for 25 years. After working as a reporter and editor for several newspapers, he earned his master's degree in English at San Francisco State University. He is the author of *The San Francisco Fair: Treasure Island 1939–1940 (1989)* (Scottwall Associates) and *Spiritus Magis: 150 Years of St. Ignatius College Preparatory (2005)*. He has served as editor of his school's alumni magazine, *Genesis*, since 1987, and has had his poetry and prose printed in such journals as *Isotope*, *Mission Magazine*, *Company Magazine*, *Catholic San Francisco* and Santa Clara University's alumni magazine. He and his wife, Kathryn, live in Pacifica and are the parents of Michael and Lauren, both graduates of St. Ignatius College Preparatory.

He will speak about the history of the Jesuits in California, beginning with Fr. Eusebio Kino and, much later with the arrival of Jesuits from Oregon following the discovery of gold. He will show how the history of the Society of Jesus reflects the many stereotypes associated with the Golden State, from grizzled prospectors, flower-adorned hippies, Steve Jobs holding an iPod, a Napa Valley effete sipping wine, a platinum blonde movie star in a convertible, and a gang member slowing down for a drive-by shooting. The almost 400 Jesuits in the California Province have a strange connection with each of these iconic figures. But the history of the Society of Jesus goes much deeper and the order has served to unite the various immigrant communities who came west seeking a new beginning.

**Location: L'Oliver French Restaurant
465 Davis Court, San Francisco**

The restaurant provides us with a private room, fine dining and an attentive staff. A no-host full bar is available. L'Oliver is located between Jackson and Washington Streets. Parking is available in the area. We gather at 5:30 and dinner seating begins at 6:15 P.M. A three course selection is available and costs \$38.00. Please send checks and dinner reservations by February 19, 2016 to: Judy Van Austen, KOC, 1789 Northwood Court, Oakland, CA 94611

Current Posse:

Sheriff: Robert Chandler, PhD
Trail Boss: [Ask how you can help us here!](#)
Registrar of Marks & Brands: [We also need help here!](#)
Keeper of the Chips: Judy Van Austen (510-339-1298)
International Rep: Gerhard Brostrom (510-524-5984)
Marshall: Bob Lawhon (415-519-3972)
Inkslinger: Tom McLaughlin (415-931-1598)
Inkslingers Emeritus: Richard F. Olson; Mary Lou Lyon, HM
Book Reviewer: Richard H. Dillon, HM ([Dillon on Books](#))

Events of interest:

San Francisco Museum and Historical Society presents:

From Sand Dunes to Storefronts: The Enduring Allure of Union Square
Glenn D. Koch

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 - 7:30 PM
Milton Marks Auditorium
455 Golden Gate Avenue

From its earliest days as a sandy wasteland to its position today as the beating heart at the center of downtown San Francisco, Union Square has seen it all. Deeded to the citizens of San Francisco as a public square by Mayor John White Geary, Union Square's 165-year history has been nothing if not lively. It has served as a drill ground, a site for fiery speeches by the Rev. Thomas Starr King, as the home to several of the Mechanics' Institute's Fairs, as a stately neighborhood strolling ground, as roof to an underground garage, and as a place of public celebration. It has seen structures come and structures go. It's been dug out, filled in, covered over, and face-lifted, and through all of that, it remains as popular as ever. Its surrounding neighbors have included homes, private clubs, churches, restaurants, china shops, department stores, and hotels. Come with us on a journey through time as we discover the hidden stories behind the history of Union Square.

Glenn Koch is the author of *San Francisco Golden Age Postcards* from Windgate Press and is currently writing a history of San Francisco's Union Square. Glenn previously presented an SFMHS monthly program on The Zone at the PPIE

Another event:

The Society of California Pioneers has just opened a new exhibition, ***What's The Rush***, on January 27, 2016 at Pioneer Hall at the Presidio. The exhibition will feature rarely seen artifacts from the Society's archives amassed and maintained since 1850. Included in the exhibition highlights are: John Sutter's diary; daguerreotypes and paintings; mining tools and firearms; maps of California before and after 1850; toys of pioneer children; and relics of everyday life on the trail and in the gold fields.