

HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

The Importance of Black History



Maxine Lewis was dedicated to improving the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable people in San Luis Obispo County, especially the aged. She was the founder of Grass Roots II in 1968 and a nurse at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center although she gave her time, money, and dedication to a great number of charity organizations in the area.

“Convalescent homes and geriatrics wards are places to die, not to live,” said Lewis. “I try to help people to stay at home as long as they are able. Sometimes all they need is a daily phone call to make sure they are all right.” Her feeling was summed up with “give them a flower while they live — not when they are dead.”

Black history is American history. Black history is San Luis Obispo history. If we are not making an effort to see our past from multiple angles, even the angles that might make us uncomfortable, then we are failing in our mission to learn from history.

Unfortunately we haven't always valued the stories and perspectives of our Black neighbors, and today the History Center's collection doesn't fully reflect the diversity of our county's past. This month we reaffirm our dedication to preserve *all* of our county's history, and to provide access to the past as a resource for future generations.



Family Day at the Dallidet

We are so excited to launch our 2023 open season at the Dallidet, and we want you to join us to make it happen! We have a day of family-friendly activities planned, so won't you join us?

Saturday, April 1st
11 am to 3 pm

Learn more or buy tickets [on our website!](#)

The San Luis Obispo Jewish Film & Learning Festival will take place March 9th through 12th. They have a number of excellent programs planned, check them out!

The History Center will be loaning portions of our exhibit L'dor V'dor for display at Cal Poly's Kennedy Library, along with other objects from the Hebrew Union College's Heller Museum-NYC. Learn about the history of the Jewish community of SLO!

Learn more [on their website.](#)





The History Center museum and research room will be closed starting on March 6th as we have new carpet installed. We are expecting the process to take about two weeks. Please [visit our website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Thomas Kessler
Executive Director



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