

History of Chautauqua



Tents on 16th Street, c. 1880

In August 1874, the original Chautauqua Institution was founded in western New York State. The summer festivities included Sunday school teacher-training classes, musical entertainment, lecturers, and recreation. In 1878, the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, a four-year course of required readings in various subjects, was created. This was often the only opportunity for higher education in the days before colleges reached areas outside of large population centers.

In 1879, the first Pacific Coast assembly was held in Pacific Grove. The P.G. Retreat Association was established in 1875 by a group of Methodist ministers meeting in San Francisco. They selected the site currently occupied by Jewell Park for their camp meeting ground.



Chautauqua Museum, c. 1900

In 1881, the Pacific Improvement Company (predecessor of the Pebble Beach Company) provided the large wooden hall – now known as Chautauqua Hall – that served a variety of uses, including a CLSC classroom. It's now a National Registered Landmark. In 1883, the P.I. Co. donated a small octagonal building to hold the growing collection of specimens and books. In 1932, a permanent museum building was built at the same site. The museum also contained a library, which evolved into the P.G. Public Library housed in the Carnegie library building (1908) we still enjoy today.



Carnegie Library, c. 1908

As the 20th century dawned, Chautauqua continued in P.G. But attendance dwindled, and in 1905 members of the Pacific Chautauqua Alumni Association, with the help of the P.G. Board of Trade, launched the first Feast of Lanterns to celebrate the close of the assembly. The first Feast of Lanterns in Pacific Grove was held at Lovers Point on July 22, 1905 and was a huge success. The event continues to this day.

The P.G. Chautauqua declined in the early 20th century. The advent of radio and movies, coupled with increasing opportunities for more conventional college education, marked the end of the Chautauqua here. Perhaps it is no coincidence that in 1926 the last Chautauqua was held in P.G. and the Grove Theatre opened on Lighthouse Avenue.

In July 1989, Pagroviens celebrated the renovation of Chautauqua Hall and the centennial of the incorporation of the City of Pacific Grove by holding the first P.G. Chautauqua event in 72 years, a celebration symbolizing the dedication, spirit, and intelligence of those who founded our home town.

And now in 2010, cultural institutions born in the early days of our history are joining with newer cultural organizations to once again revive the Chautauqua – providing popular education combined with entertainment in the form of lectures, concerts, and plays. Welcome to Pacific Grove Chautauqua Days!

Pacific Grove CHAUTAUQUA DAYS Venues



1 Chautauqua Hall
16th Street & Central Avenue

2 Elmarie Dyhe
Open Space
16th & 17th streets
(next to Chautauqua Hall)

3 Pacific Grove
Chamber of Commerce
Forest & Central avenues

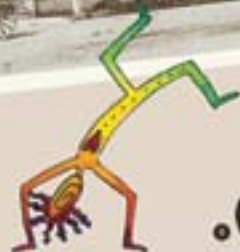
4 Pacific Grove Museum
of Natural History
Forest & Central avenues

5 Jewell Park
Forest & Central avenues

6 Pacific Grove
Public Library
550 Central Avenue

7 Pacific Grove
Art Center
568 Lighthouse Avenue

8 Robert Down School
485 Pine Avenue



Pacific Grove CHAUTAUQUA DAYS

Schedule

Friday, October 1, 2010

Pacific Grove Art Center 7 Monterey County Artists Open Studio Tour exhibit

12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. Free
A Group Show by Resident Studio Artists of the PG Art Center; a Retrospective Show of Sculpture by John Random, a Monterey sculptor who created an exciting variety of work, primarily from found objects; and an exhibit of entries to the Historic Home Tour Art Exhibit. (831) 375-2208 or pgart@mbay.net for info.

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History 4 Opening reception for Glow: Living Lights exhibit

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. \$10 (free for Museum members)
This innovative exhibit explores how and why organisms create their own light. Enjoy food, drink, and live music in a gorgeous glowing setting. (831) 648-5716 for info.



Pacific Grove Businesses First Friday PG

Until 8:00 p.m. Free
A grass-roots effort to reintroduce residents and visitors to the merchants and businesses of Pacific Grove. Participants stay open an extra two or three hours, and some offer snacks, create a venue for musicians & artists, or offer freebies, & games. Look for the green flags throughout the city. firstfridaypg@gmail.com for info.

Chautauqua Hall 1 Freestyle Dance Jam

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. \$10 adults / \$5 teens / kids free with adult
Get your groove on & allow yourself to drop in to who you are on the dance floor, with music mastery by DJ Theo - mixing the soulful, the beats, the melodies, and the magic. A fun community dance for healthy lifestyles. Presented by Donna Linda. freelovefun@hotmail.com for info.



Saturday, October 2, 2010

Pacific Grove Art Center 7 Figure drawing with model

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \$10 model fee
Open draw, drop-ins welcome. (831) 375-2208 or pgart@mbay.net for info.

Robert Down School & Parade Route 8 Annual Butterfly Parade and Bazaar

10:30 a.m. (Parade) Free
A Pacific Grove tradition since 1939, kindergarten children dress as Monarchs and march through town (starting at Pine Avenue in front of Robert Down School, down Fountain Ave., left on Lighthouse Ave. and circling back to the school) to welcome the returning insects. Older elementary school kids also join in and welcome the returning butterflies to their winter home. The parade is immediately followed by a Butterfly Bazaar behind Robert Down School that features a carnival and food booths. Sponsored by the PGUSD. (831) 373-3304 for info.



Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History 4 Glow: Living Lights exhibit

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free
Journey through the Museum's dark and mysterious gallery to explore how nature makes light and the science behind bioluminescence. The exhibit is hosted by the Museum from October 2 through January 2, 2011. (831) 648-5716 for info.

Chautauqua Hall 1 Top 10 Things to Know about the Pt. Pinos Lighthouse lecture

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free
By lighthouse historian Jerry McCaffery. The author of *Lighthouse: Point Pinos* will discuss the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the West Coast.

Pacific Grove Public Library 6 Big Bad Bruce puppet show

2:00 p.m. Free
A puppet show (for children ages 3 and up) by Images in Motion in the Children's Room. Presented by the Friends of the Library. (831) 648-5760 for info.

Chautauqua Hall 1 Who Glows Below: The Diversity of Marine Bioluminescence, an illustrated lecture

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. \$5 (free for Museum members)
What is bioluminescence? It is the main source of light for most of Earth's habitable volume - the deep ocean. View spectacular images and learn about this phenomenon from Dr. Steven Haddock, a scientist with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and an adjunct professor at UC Santa Cruz. Sponsored by the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. (831) 648-5716 for info.

Pacific Grove Public Library 6 Fortune's Way, or Notes on Art for Catholics (and Others)

7:00 p.m. \$15 (includes tea)
A play by Pacific Grove playwright, author, and gallery owner Steve Hauk, portrays the brilliantly talented Euphemia "Effie" Charlton Fortune. In mid-life, she turned to liturgical art and founded the Monterey Guild, whose first commission was at St. Angela's Church. This fundraiser for the PGPL features Teresa del Piero as Fortune, John Brady as Bishop Edwin O'Hara, and is staged by Conrad Selvig. (831) 648-5760 for info.

Sunday, October 3, 2010

Throughout Pacific Grove 41st Annual Historic Home Tour

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$20.00
Locations specified on self-guided tour map
A showcase of Pacific Grove's historic properties and private homes. Volunteer docents guide you through each property, providing historical background. Follow a self-guided map given with ticket purchase to locations at your own pace. Sponsored by the Heritage Society, Art Center, and Chamber of Commerce. (831) 373-3304 for info & tickets.

Chautauqua Hall 1 7th Annual Artists in Chautauqua

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Free
This event transforms one of PG's most historic structures into a venue showcasing over two dozen artists and craftspeople. Held in conjunction with the Historic Home Tour, this event also features live entertainment, refreshments, silent auction, and raffle. Sponsored by the Heritage Society. (831) 643-9900 for info.



Elmarie Dyke Open Space 2 Heritage Houses for the Birds contest & auction

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free
Next to Chautauqua Hall
Children, local artists, craftspeople, and contractors from the community build and donate beautiful birdhouses to benefit the Heritage Society. Over two dozen of these unique creations will be on display and sold in a silent auction. Prizes are awarded to builders in several categories. Vote for your favorite and bid to take one home with you. (831) 643-9900 for info.

Downtown Pacific Grove Historic Walking Tour

11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. Free
Walk eight historic city blocks with trained docents. Participation is limited to 25 per tour. Sign up at Chamber of Commerce. (831) 373-3304 for info.

Jewell Park 5 Music & Family Picnic in the Park

12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. Free
Come and enjoy live musical entertainment while picnicking and relaxing on the grass at Jewell Park, the site of the original open-air Assembly and Chautauqua - located between the Museum and Library. This event is courtesy of the Pacific Grove Cultural Arts Committee. firstfridaypg@gmail.com for info.

Pacific Grove Public Library 6 Silent Art Auction to Benefit PGPL

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free
Celebrate the Library's 104th anniversary and bid on art donated by the Pacific Grove Heritage Society. Art work will be displayed at the Library for a month prior to auction. Presented by the Pacific Grove Heritage Society. (831) 648-5760 for info.