

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO CELEBRATE MEXICAN MOTHER'S DAY WITH FREE FAMILY EVENT FEATURING ARTS, CRAFTS, STORYTELLING, FOOD, MUSIC AND MORE

- ***Mexican Mother's Day, celebrated every May 10th, is a holiday filled with colorful celebrations where sons and daughters honor their mothers; California Historical Society honors San Francisco's Founding Mother, Juana Briones, as part of ongoing exhibition***
- ***Fun, family activities include arts, crafts, jewelry making, sing-a-longs and storytelling; Mariachi band to welcome families and Mexican treats to be served as part of free event for mothers and their children***

San Francisco (April 29, 2014) – Mothers and their children are invited to participate in a fun, educational day filled with history, culture, arts, crafts, food and music, as the California Historical Society opens its doors for a **free event** in celebration of Mexican Mothers Day and San Francisco's Founding Mother, Juana Briones.

In Mexico, Mothers Day is celebrated on a fixed day, May 10th, every year. Throughout the day, in colorful fashion, children honor their mothers and thank them for their love and hard work. In Mexico, churches organize special masses, playing "Las Mañanitas" and distribute 'tamales' and 'atole', the traditional early-morning meal to all local mothers. It is also a tradition for families to gift flowers and cards with young children making hand-made gifts for their mothers.

The California Historical Society will create that same atmosphere of cultural celebration as part of the special day honoring Mexican mothers. The event will take place with its current exhibition, *Juana Briones y Su California: Pionera, Fundadora, Curandera*, serving as an important backdrop. The exhibition celebrates the legacy of Juana Briones, who is considered the Founding Mother of San Francisco and one of the most significant Latina pioneers, entrepreneurs, and landowners in early California. Briones lived in California when it was part of Spain, Mexico and the United States.

The Mexican Mothers Day celebration will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the California Historical Society, located at 678 Mission Street in San Francisco. The event is free to mothers, their children and family members.

Mothers will be welcomed with a mariachi band playing traditional Mexican songs, including "Las Mañanitas." The day will start with the serving of Mexican treats and cupcakes from La Luna Cupcakes, followed by special activities for children and their mothers, including:

- **Arts and Crafts:** Several arts and crafts stations will be set up where children can make colorful bracelets, necklaces, drawings and crepe flower bouquets for their mothers and to take home as gifts. Children will also be able to make special plaques for their mothers.
- **Storytelling:** Olga Loya, a nationally recognized bilingual Latina storyteller, in the dress and spirit of Juana Briones, telling stories and tales of California's past.
- **Sing-A-Longs:** Local pre-school teacher Mike Santillan, will perform songs and do sing-a-longs with children and families.
- **History Lessons:** In addition to the exhibition space being open for viewing, the National Park Service will provide a history lessons on Juana Briones' mother's life on the Anza Trail from Mexico to the San Francisco Bay area.

The Mexican Mothers Day celebration is an extension of the California Historical Society's popular series, "History for Half Pints," that focuses on bringing history alive for kids ages 3-11. Partners for the activities include the Mexican Museum, the National Park Service and La Luna Cupcakes.

"We are thrilled to bring the wonderful celebration of Mexican Mothers Day to the California Historical Society," said executive director Dr. Anthea Hartig. "It is a fitting venue to pay tribute to all mothers, particularly Juana Briones, considered San Francisco's Founding Mother, and who we honor and respect as part of our ongoing exhibition."

For more information about the Mexican Mothers Day celebration, the current exhibition and other events taking place at the California Historical Society visit californiahistoricalsociety.org.

About the California Historical Society: The California Historical Society is a 142-year-old, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California's richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. We hold one of the top research collections on California history, which includes over 35,000 volumes of books and pamphlets, more than 4,000 manuscript collections, and about 500,000 photographs documenting California's social, cultural, economic, and political history and development, including some of the most cherished and valuable documents and images of California's past. Learn more at californiahistoricalsociety.org.

About the Exhibition: "Juana Briones y Su California: Pionera, Fundadora, Curandera," focuses on the life and times of Juana Briones (1802–1889)—pioneer, founder, healer—possibly San Francisco's first resident (when it was Yerba Buena) and one of the most important women in California in the mid-to-late 1800s. Her challenges and accomplishments are told in an engaging narrative and through paintings, maps, documents, and artifacts. The exhibit also traces the decades-long effort at the close of the twentieth century to oppose the destruction of the Juana Briones home site in Santa Clara County, demolished in 2011.

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