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Rengstorff House in January, February and March, 2012: "Turn Your Cheek: Silhouettes and the Victorian Era" Exhibition

December 12, 2011 – As part of a seasonal exhibitions schedule to increase public awareness of the historic Rengstorff House, a "Turn Your Cheek: Silhouettes and the Victorian Era" cultural arts display will be on view at 3070 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Mountain View during the historic home facility's public tour hours of Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., January 8 – March 28, 2012.

In addition to viewing of the exhibit alongside historic home tours, Mountain View's Shoreline Division will host an opening reception featuring docent and historian Jennifer Roger on Thursday, January 12 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the general public. Come to learn the "how-to" basics of creating your own silhouette at home, and hear a lecture on the history of silhouettes beginning at 7:00 p.m.

"Turn Your Cheek: Silhouettes and the Victorian Era" is a display of antique and vintage silhouette designs, complemented by modern silhouette interpretations created in partnership with the Art4Schools program of the Community School of Music and Arts, and individual members of the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (GBACG), a local organization made up of people who share an interest in recreational costuming.

"It is a pleasure to partner with the City of Mountain View to provide opportunities for students to display their work," said Art4Schools Program Coordinator Cal Cullen. "In this special project associated with the 'Turn Your Cheek' exhibit, our fifth grade students were able to practice their understanding of positive and negative space in art."

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“For those GBACG members who have never had their own silhouette created, this is a fun and unusual way to step back in time and to create portraits that we will be able to share with our friends, family – and the local community,” said GBACG President Deborah Borlase.

“Although derived from the name Étienne de Silhouette in the late 18th century,” said Jennifer Roger, “silhouette images attained great popularity in the early 19th century as a form of portraiture art, and continued into the 20th century, beyond the invention of the camera. Silhouettes have also rebounded in the late 21st century as a craft and means of capturing the likeness of a beloved individual or object.”

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: For those members of the media interested in sending photographers, members of the Friends of ‘R’ House alongside Shoreline at Mountain Views volunteers will be hosting an event on Thursday, December 14 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to trace and cut silhouettes created in partnership with GBACG. Those silhouettes created in December will be on display as part of the exhibit beginning in January.

For further information about Rengstorff House, its exhibitions or all that Shoreline at Mountain View has to offer, please call (650) 903-6392. The Rengstorff House, Mountain View's oldest home, is one of the finest examples of Victorian Italianate architecture on the West Coast.

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