



CAMEL TRACKS

BENICIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT THE CAMEL BARN

Year 2013

2060 Camel Road • Benicia, CA 94510 • P:(707)745-5435 • F: (707)745-5869
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Oct./Nov./Dec..

“The mission of the Benicia Historical Museum is to educate the public about the City of Benicia and the military presence as it relates to the history of California.”

Revised and adopted 2012

A Note from the Board President

By Louis Alfeld



Greetings to Museum Members and Friends,

As the new President of the Board of Directors for the Benicia Historical Museum, I would like to thank all previous board members who have served this museum with their time and expertise. Also, I would like to thank all current members of the Board of Directors and the

volunteers and friends of the Museum for their continued support. It is my desire to do as well as those who have preceded me in this position.

One of the many goals of the Benicia Historical Museum is to serve the citizens of Benicia as a source of information about our city and its history, and the history of the Benicia Arsenal. There is much to know about our fine city and just as much to be proud of. Over the next several months, the Benicia Museum will attempt to recruit more volunteer docents and enhance the availability and usage of the Charles P. Stone Hall as a community rental facility.

As a reminder to all, the Benicia Historical Museum, in conjunction with Genesis House of Vallejo, sells Christmas Trees from our parking lot at the Camel Barns, open from November 29 – December 22, 10am to 7pm. This is a major fund raising event for both our Museum and the Genesis House. So please support us in our efforts to keep the Museum an active participant in the community.

Valero Fun and Fundraising

Our good friend and neighbor Valero hosted a very special morning awards ceremony October 30 at which they announced a total of 28 grant awards to children's charities. The charities are nominated by the refinery's employees; and the funds were raised through the 2013 Valero Texas Open and Benefit for Children Golf Classic held in San Antonio, Texas last April. Emceed by Director of Health, Safety and Environmental and Government Affairs Chris Howe, Vice President and General Manager John Hill, and Benicia Public Affairs and Community Relations Manager Sue Fisher-Jones, the presentation event followed a delicious buffet breakfast, and included time to talk to neighboring tables and community leaders and an opportunity to hear about each organization's work with children. As each award was announced, the winners came to the front for a "photo opportunity" ... that's me holding a check that is quite large by any definition! What an inspiring morning and a wonderful funding shot-in-the-arm for the BHM. Our sincere thanks to Valero for their support, and to our board members, docents, volunteers, and Friends for allowing us to continue to refine and enhance our exhibits and education programs.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Louis Alfeld, *President*
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 John Moran, *Treasurer*
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 John Halliday
 Larry Lauber
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Reginald Page
 Bill Scott
 Carol Scott

MUSEUM STAFF

Elizabeth d'Huart, *Executive Director*
 Tania Borostyan, *Office Manager*
 Charles Pregeant, *Complex Caretaker*

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Harry Wassmann, *Curator Emeritus*
 Beverly Phelan, *Curator*
 Roberta Garrett, *Registrar*
 Jim Garrett, *Multitask Volunteer*
 Bob Kvasnicka, *Registrar*
 Fred Paine, *Computer Consultant*
 Susan Sullivan, *Education Chair*
 Bonnie Weidel, *Arts and Trade Coordinator*

MUSEUM DOCENTS

Louis Alfeld
 Crystal Biccum
 Tania Borostyan
 Karen Burns
 Michael Caplin
 Cathy Christo
 Jim Lessenger
 Leonide McKay
 John Moran
 Lorraine Patten
 Bob Rozett
 Bill Scott
 Carol Scott
 Susan Sullivan
 Bill Venturelli
 Marina Vlnar

MUSEUM EXHIBIT HOURS

Wednesday through Sunday
 1:00pm to 4:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday
 9:00am to 2:00pm

ADMISSION:

Adult:	\$5.00
Student:	\$3.00
Senior:	\$3.00
Children 5 to 12:	\$2.00
Children under 5:	free
Members:	free
Military ID:	free

Message from the Executive Director

by Elizabeth d'Huart

At our September 2013 annual BHM membership meeting, I discussed everything the Museum does to fulfill its mission on-site and out in the local community. One of those attending said to me afterwards, "I've been a docent here for 20 years and never realized we did so much!" I think it is extremely important that you, dear reader and BHM friend, are able to understand what we are able to achieve together with your funding support and the considerable time and talents of our volunteers: board members, docents, tour-guides, event/task helpers. What follows is a "summary of a summary" which I hope will help you to realize the value of what you do and to take pride and pleasure in your accomplishments! Your generous gift of membership translates into many gifts to Benicia – and expresses perfectly the good will of the season. What follows is a celebratory list of the good work we are doing together – read and enjoy!

- with the City, maintains the interiors, grounds & garden & manages the day-to-day operations of the BHM exhibits, gift shop, archives, Visitors Center & office
- solicits, preserves, & maintains archives of artifacts, documents, photos: 21,000+ and growing
- maintains permanent exhibits; installs temporary exhibits; 2012-13: "Those Amazing Mizners"; "Cheers! Beer Brewing in Benicia"; "Freedom is a Hard Bought Thing"; "Camelot!"; "Nick Nourot"; "Passion and Repurposing"; "Off the Grid"; "Keep the Faith"; "Girls Scouts"; "The Way We Were"; etc.
- keeps the Museum doors open Wednesday – Sunday, 1 – 4 PM; other tours by appointment
- provides free entry to the public on the first Wednesday of every month; also to business pass-holders; and to all military personnel
- provides special, docent-led tours for companies, seniors, special needs, and school groups – school tours include 6 "hands-on" re-enactment activities for students (15,000+ students since 1987)
- sponsors lectures, exhibit opening receptions, & other cultural events; concerts - 2012-13 schedule: Webb dollhouse unveiling; Lincoln program; fashion columnist Christina Strawbridge; archivist Dr. Jim Lessenger; Keesa the refuge center camel; "How to Train your Camel" puppet show; "Gospel Melody Tone Singers"; architect Steve McKee Mizner presentation; Love Poetry contest awards; author Sharon McGriff-Payne; author Ginger Gardner; author Waights Taylor, Jr.; "Bluegrass & BBQ"; "Golden Bough"; Black Irish; "Men of Worth"; Christmas Tree lot; July 3 Torchlight parade; military lecturer Sgt. Major Seby; Maritime Professor Dr. Timothy Lynch, etc.
- works with City Parks and Recreation; City Economic Development & Tourism (Art Walk; Sunset; Farmers Market; committee representative); Benicia Arts & Culture Commission; Benicia Historical Society; Public Library; Sustainability Commission; Arts Benicia; Tula Sister City; Boy Scouts; Girls Scouts; Chamber of Commerce; Solano County Historical Archives; Main Street; Rotary Club; Historic Preservation; Genesis House; Blue Star Program; Maritime Academy; CA National Guard; Solano Community Foundation; the Jacoby Center for Public Service & Civic Leadership; Military Cemetery Commission; TV & film production companies; authors & genealogists; private and publicly traded companies & local businesses
- maintains and makes available BHM "Mission" & "Native American" cultural Traveling Trunks, which are turn-key history courses with artifact components for in-school use ... the Museum in a suitcase!
- maintains BHM website; uploads archival data including accession documents, photographs, & narratives

TOURS

Educational tours with hands-on activities for children



Arranged tours for adult, senior and family groups



RENTAL AREAS

Captain Charles P. Stone Hall



Spenger Memorial Garden



For information please visit our website

Curator's Corner

By Beverly Phelan



We have in our collection a painting of the Peabody Hospital painted by F. A. Buttman, a teacher of drawing and painting at the Mills Seminary from 1861 to 1865. Who was Peabody? I started researching and found that Dr. William Frederick Peabody founded the first hospital in California here in January of 1849, (located near West 2nd and H Streets), and was a provider for the ill and indigent during the last year of the Provisional Government and for several years after. Dr. Peabody had quite a record in Benicia: he was also the second mayor of Benicia, May 1851-52; he was instrumental in building the City Hall (the third State Capital); he served as one of the trustees of the first Presbyterian Church, 1850; was a member of the board of Trustees of the Young Ladies Seminary, 1852-54; a member of Benicia's Board of Education, 1852; and the City Physician from 1851 to at least 1856.

Dr. Peabody was born in Sandwich, New Hampshire on November 24, 1917. He was one of ten children of Samuel and Abigail Peabody. As a young man, he tried a naval career but found it not to his liking. Later he taught at Mt. Hope College in Baltimore, and simultaneously studied medicine at the University of Maryland. He graduated from the latter institution "with high honors" on March 12, 1846 and went into practice in Baltimore.

He came to Benicia during the Gold Rush, which is also when Command Headquarters was moving here. General Persifer Smith, Commander of the Pacific was investing in Benicia at the time, and an acquaintance friend, Samuel Gray (also a graduate of the University of Maryland) was moving to Benicia.

Peabody bought Lot 2, Block 29 for the site of his hospital. He bought it from a man who did not have a clear title and lawsuits ensued. After much legal wrangling, he finally won the suit.

In 1863, Dr. Peabody moved to Santa Cruz and went into practice. In 1875, he left Santa Cruz for San Francisco and joined the U. S. Army's Surgical Department, but continued his office hours on his own and gave time to free clinics for the poor.

When he died on January 26, 1890, he was Senior Warden of the Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco. What a wonderful character he was!

A movable feast ...

By Elizabeth d'Huart

Mayor Elizabeth Patterson and I were snapped in front of the BHM booth at the Clean Tech Expo which took place October 17, 18, and 19 at the Clock Tower. The second annual expo's theme this year was "Transportation" – hence our exhibit featuring a covered wagon and the painting by Wayne Kohler which depicts a Pony Express horse and rider; Matthew Turner ship; Union Pacific depot and train; Benicia ferry; etc. overlaid with our own super-imposed talk bubble coming from Dona Benicia's mouth detailing our grant from the Sustainability Commission/Valero Good Neighbor Fund which will be used to refine and enhance our exhibit lighting with state-of-the-art LED. It was a great meet-and-greet opportunity - Lou Alfeld and I were able to talk to visitors about the museum and learn about new clean tech technology. Thanks to the Clean Tech group for all of their hard work and who comped us our booth ... hard to believe that this is the same expo that started just last year in the Museum's Hall venue. Great work all around!



Director

Continue from page 2

- supplies photos and research/narratives to members of the public; collaborating with Library on Benicia phone app history tour (pending)
- publishes original research; contributor to local publications
- participates in professional museum organizations: CAM; AAM; etc.
- marketing & advertising; fundraising events; grant research; newsletter
- docent recruitment & training
- board member recruitment & development; intern mentoring

By fulfilling our mission, we represent and continue to make visible the historic importance and value of Benicia and her people. As David Thelan once said, "The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present" – thank you for helping us do so, and to do it well!

Camel Case Construction

We're very pleased and grateful that Brad Dake has very generously given us funding to build a bespoke, stand-alone display case to permanently house the "Camelot" collection his mother, Philly Dake, left to the Museum ... we are hoping that the construction by Dimensions Unlimited will be finished and installed before the end of the year, and that we may have a dedication ceremony in the Spring with Dake family members and perhaps bring back Keesa, the refuge center Bactrian camel, along with another performance of "How to Train Your Camel" from Benicia's own Caterpillar Puppets – watch this space!

Other Museum News

Bill Scott and Larry Lauber have been busy on painting prepping and priming ... Larry, Mike Caplin, Bob Rozett, Beverly Phelan and I hosted a tour of the SKAL group here recently – SKAL is an international tourist and hospitality organization. We also hosted the Bradbury and Bradbury management and employees here as a thank-you for donating some of their gorgeous wallpaper as part of the Mizner exhibit. October saw the tour-guides and hands-on folks busy with several school tours – a big thanks to Bill and Carol Scott, Larry Lauber, Bob Rozett, Lorraine Patten, Judy Furlong and Phyllis Malicki.

2013 Louise Martin Volunteer Award Winners



Beverly Phelan and Larry Lauber
at the Annual Membership Meeting—Sep. 22nd

Calendar of events

"THOSE AMAZING MIZNERS: BENICIA'S CELEBRATED CLAN"

Current exhibit through January 2014

Come learn about the achievements and pratfalls of this powerful local dynasty and iconic American family who inspired Stephen Sondheim to pen the musical "Road Show"

"OFF THE GRID"

Current Arts and Trades Exhibit

Master Knitter Giovanna Sensi-Isolani of Benicia's Fiber Frolics
Sculptural shapes produced by innovative yarn-work...
not your grannie's knitting!

"CHEERS! BEER BREWING IN BENICIA"

Current exhibit featuring
history and artifacts relating to the local beer brewing industry
in the early to mid 1900s

"CHRISTMAS TREE LOT"

4th Annual Christmas Tree Lot - Back by Popular demand!!
Joint fundraiser for BHM and Genesis House
Opens Friday, November 29, through December 22, 2013
BHM - Parking Lot

"BHM FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM - MEMBER HOLIDAY POTLUCK"

Sunday, December 8, 2013

BHM - Stone Hall
4:00pm (see enclosed flyer)

"MEN OF WORTH" IN CONCERT

Saturday, January 11, 2014

BHM - Stone Hall
8:00pm - Tickets \$20.00 - No host bar

"GOLDEN BOUGH" IN CONCERT

Saturday, February 15, 2014

BHM - Stone Hall
8:00pm - Tickets \$20.00 - No host bar

"LOVE POETRY CONTEST AWARDS"

with First Tuesday Library group

Sunday, February 16, 2014

BHM - Stone Hall
TBA

"BLACK IRISH BAND" IN CONCERT

Saturday, March 29, 2014

BHM - Stone Hall
8:00pm - Tickets \$20.00 - No host bar

CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Fresh Cut Christmas Trees!

4th Annual **Christmas Tree Lot** - Back by Popular demand!!

Open every day 10 am - 7 pm

From November 29 to December 22 or until trees run out!

BHM at the Camel Barns • 2060 Camel Rd., Benicia



Directions:

780 to 5th St. Exit, turn left onto
E. Military St., left onto Adams St.,
left onto Park Rd. Watch for signs!

See you there!

Need help finding us?

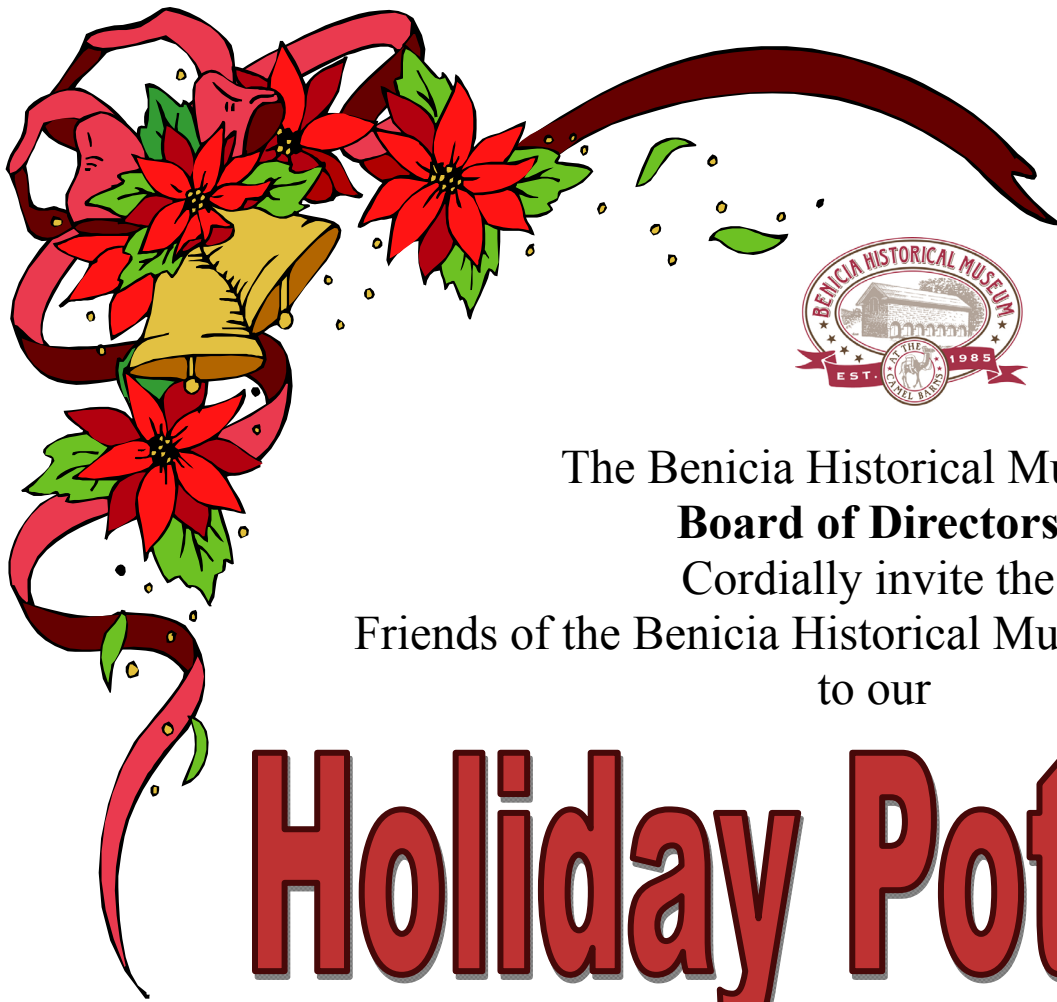
Call 707-745-5435

or 707-745-3397 Ext. 30

Joint Fundraiser for:

Benicia Historical Museum & Genesis House
707-745-5435 • www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org
707-552-3395 • www.genesis-house.com

Come Support your Local Non-profits!



The Benicia Historical Museum
Board of Directors
Cordially invite the
Friends of the Benicia Historical Museum - Members
to our

Holiday Potluck

**Mark your calendars and join us for a Festive
Food & Holiday Program**

Sunday December 8, 2013 - 4:00 PM
Charles P. Stone Hall
2024 Camel Road, Benicia

We will furnish the entree, rolls, dessert and bar.
We would like members whose last name begins with A-L to please
bring a hot dish of vegetables, potatoes or casseroles.
Names from M-Z please bring a cold dish of salad or fruit.

4:00 p.m. Social
5:00 p.m. Dinner

The Museum thanks you for your continued support
Please bring nonperishable food donation for CAC food bank.