



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Galligan
President

Jim Trimble
Vice President

Cathy Forbes
Secretary

Kellie McCormick
Asst. Secretary

Doris Laux
Treasurer

Lisa Argue
Asst. Treasurer

Glenn Boatman

Daniel Dempsey

John Halliday

Toni Haughey

Larry Lauber

James Lessenger, Ph.D.

Timothy G. Lynch, Ph.D.

Mary Marino

Louise Martin

MUSEUM STAFF

Ann Hansen
Executive Director

Tania Borostyan
Office Manager

Charles Pregeant
Complex Caretaker

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Harry Wassmann
Curator Emeritus

Beverly Phelan
Curator

Kellie McCormick
Collections manager

Louise Martin
Assistant Registrar
Volunteer Coordinator

Roberta Garrett
Assistant Registrar

Jim Garrett
Multitask Volunteer

Mary Marino
Spokesperson/ Education chair

Lorraine Patten
Museum Educator

Toni Haughey
Gift shop manager

Marie Earp
Docent Coordinator

Rhonda Hicks
Concert Coordinator

The mission of the Benicia Historical Museum is to engage the community in the evolving history of Benicia and the Arsenal and their influence in the development of our country.

The Museum complex is the center where history is seen, enjoyed and preserved. Through exhibits, events and educational programs we enlighten the public about the history of this unique city.

Revised and adopted 2006

Office Transformation



When the Kiwanis told us that the members along with the Key Club wanted to give us a day of service to work on whatever project we wanted done, Tania and Ann knew just what they would like it to be. About two and a half years ago they had high hopes of putting some color on the walls of the office. They had gone so far as to get paint chips to consider what they would like to do. You might guess what happened.

Kiwanis and museum member, Nancy Zakar, really did not know what she was getting into when she began organizing the paint party. She was wise to enlist the help of Dawson Urban, owner of Hire My Husband. Where else could she get expert advice without it costing a fortune? Ann turned the details to be negotiated over to Tania who did a superb job of cooperation and organization. When the day came, files, shelves and storage were emptied for moving. We utilized the back



The Museum Welcomes our New Members

- ♦
- Judith Anderson
- ♦
- Victoria Brown
- ♦
- Barbara Cetco
- ♦
- Gina Eleccion
- ♦
- Damon Golubics
- ♦
- Thomas Hamilton
- ♦
- Carol K. Hebert
- ♦
- Barbro & Frank Juni
- ♦
- Carol Jean Kissane
- ♦
- Erick Martinez
- ♦
- Elmer Nelson
- ♦
- Barbara A. Proctor
- ♦
- Allan D. Shore
- ♦
- Lee Wilder Snider
- ♦
- Miranda Viechec
- ♦
- Sam Winstead
- ♦
- Jackie Winstead

Supporting

- ♦
- Louse Costa
- ♦
- Timothy G. Lynch
- ♦
- Lynne Martinez

Doña Benicia

- ♦
- Thomas C. Benet
- ♦

From the Director



Often I sit back and analyze our progress here at the museum. I am usually very amazed at what happens from one time to another. I ponder on the massive effort necessary to keep things going. Four pre-Civil War buildings need a lot of TLC to keep them functioning and enjoyable for public use. Just the rental of the hall and

garden presents challenges.

Last month the Board took a day to focus on our efforts. The retreat in which they took part was moderated by Michael Sorice. It is wonderful that we can shed all inhibitions and have healthy exchanges and discussions. During the day, the Board determined that a new effort must be made to refocus on the goals that were formulated in our Five Year Plan of three years ago. There was certainly progress made on the goals of the plan but it was acknowledged that there were deviations that were not necessarily anticipated and took our eyes off the goals. Procedures were set up to improve our adherence to reaching our goals.

It seems it was pure coincidence but we had visitors from two states who came specifically to see our museum

on the same day. They had found information on the internet that led them to us. One was a couple from Missoula, Montana who were accompanied by their son who lives in Sacramento. Knowing that I have relatives in Missoula, I was called to greet them. Missoula isn't a huge city but it was interesting to find that these people actually knew my relatives there. Then right after that, a couple from Portland, Oregon appeared. They, too, had found us on the internet. Can you imagine how exciting it will be when Heritage Travel launches its site?

I again hosted my birthday party here at Stone Hall. Someone asked how long you will have to endure my birthday parties. Well, Folks, I am 81 now and we are hoping I can do at least another four or five years here. I have not finished my work here yet but think I can manage it in that time. I am grateful to all those who came to wish me well and bring me new memberships. As usual Kasma Kelley did a stupendous job of decorating and Louise Martin and Mary Marino helped to organize – thanks to my good friends – we had a good time. Christi at the Herald did a very nice article – I receive lots of kindness from many fronts. Thank you all.. I suggest you put April 8th party on your calendars for 2010 as we will be here.

Watch for information on our *Mirth and Music* series which begins on May 2nd as well as the Garden Concert series which is being produced by Rhonda Lucile Hicks.

Curator's Corner

The month of May is California Museums Month. This is a time set aside each year to celebrate our state's local museums that collect, preserve and exhibit the history of California. Each city has its own unique story to tell through its exhibits and programs.



The Benicia Historical Museum is one of those museums that began its journey almost 24 years ago. We have had many subjects covered in our exhibits through the years that reflect the history of our unique city and its influence. Our rotating exhibits currently are the 90th Anniversary of the End of WWI, an exhibit commemorating Woman's Month in March and building plans for the two Camel Barns and the Engine House. We recently put on display the binnacle from the Galilee brigantine built by Matthew Turner.

Our Exhibit Committee member Larry Lauber has been working on the audio for the Flags exhibit area. Museum docent Kimball Goodman offered to narrate the audio for this project. Please come and listen to the story of the 20 flags that flew over California.

We are currently planning the Patwin exhibit. Our designer Toxey/McMillan and the Exhibit Committee are working on a Patwin hut and mural for this exhibit. This exhibit will be a permanent display on the Patwins who lived in our area.

A museum could not exist without donations. Our most recent donations have been a cathedral radio and homemade radio from Harry Wassmann and military goggles, camera, helmets and masks from Cindy Messina. I will attempt to inform our members of recent donations in future articles. If you haven't visited the Museum in awhile, come by and view the history of our wonderful city. The state's museums are there to preserve the history of California and can be enjoyed people from all over the country and beyond.

Office

Continue from page 1

patio for storing chairs, etc. since no rain was expected. The prep day arrived, the office was closed early and the crews went into action.

Blinds were taken down, windows and trim taped, drop cloths placed and paint and brushes came out in force. It was amazing to see the harmonious progress as it unfolded for the next day and a half. Shifts changed and Key Clubbers who had all their required hours in came back to work again. In between, cabinets in the kitchen and the hall kitchen were cleaned, scrubbed and age-old stored “we might need it some day” items were scrutinized and designated for save, dump or contribute. Everyone paused occasionally for water, Kentucky Fried Chicken, or snacks only to go back at it in a determination to reach the goal of a spruced up office. Ann sat on the side lines wishing she could help and marveling at what “God has wrought” through love and charity.

We thank especially:

Kaile Akiyama	Allison Kensiski
Tania Borostyan	Louise Martin
Alex Church	Danielle Nahal
Trish and Greg Elwell	Beverly Phelan
Ericka Fedornak	Erik Quiroz
Melissa Fedornak	Kaitlyn Thatcher
Alyssa Hannafin	Dawson Urban
Courtney Harris	Dave Watson
Kasma Kelley	Nancy and Barry Zakar

You did a superb job and we will think of you often as we luxuriate in our new atmosphere.

BRICKS OF HISTORY

We often make the mistake of thinking of history being only the past. In fact, we make history with everything we do. That is one reason we want to get things right when we do them. Our engraved bricks are no exception. Those of you who bought bricks trusted us to make a beautiful memorial in the Spenger Garden. We let you down. We are very sorry for the disappointment you experienced when you first viewed them. We too were disappointed and frankly embarrassed by the work that had been done. We offer all of you our very sincere apology and invite you back to the garden to view the finished job which we believe has been very professionally executed. It reflects the same perfection that is evident in the rest of the garden. It is what you and we had a right to expect from the start. We continue to work on cleaning them so that the engraving will stand out more prominently. We are very grateful to Rick Calhoun, museum member, of Martinez for the work he did to rectify the situation and make us proud of our presentation. We are sure you will be pleased.

NOT A HIDDEN GARDEN

Each year the League of Women Voters sponsors a garden tour around the city. Gardens are scrutinized and considered for the tour. It was thrilling for us here at the museum to have the League choose to include the Spenger Memorial Garden on the tour. We are proud of the garden and its contribution to the community. We could never keep it to ourselves and were happy to show it off. It was the only formal garden on the tour.

It was a beautiful day as the sun rose over the museum building on Sunday morning, April 26, when Board members were on hand to greet guests as they came to enjoy the fruits of our labor. They were offered tee shirts



commemorating Celebration Days at the Museum. The tee shirts designed by local artist, Gay Roche, show the fountain and have been used for promotion of the garden since the dedication last September.

In addition to the garden tour, guests were given free admission to the museum and offered a tour of the Powder Magazine and the Industrial Exhibit. Beverly Phelan and Jim Lessenger were on hand for the tours. Other volunteers were: Larry Lauber, Mary Marino, Kellie McCormick, Louise Martin and Ann Hansen. Guests who came repeatedly commented, “It’s beautiful but I never knew it was here”. We assured them that they were not too far behind as it is less than a year since it was dedicated. It is no longer a hidden garden for them.

Once again, the museum’s gift to the community was well received.

Mirth & Music at the barns

Four Northern California stand-up comics replace the canceled Cathy Ladman in a May 2, 8 p.m. show.

Johnny Steele of Berkeley, Derrick Leonard of Vallejo, Jim Farrell of Sacramento, and Sammy Obeid of Fremont will perform in the first of three monthly shows. Guitarist and songwriter Saul Kaye opens the show.

The four comedians, however, were thrilled to step forward, including Steele, winner of the 1992 San Francisco International Stand-Up Comedy Competition. Obeid won first place in the 2008 Rooster T. Feathers Comedy Competition in Sunnyvale and second place in the Wild 94.9 Best Comic Standing Competition. He is a UC-Berkeley graduate. Farrell is a Sacramento born and based comic and comedy writer who has come full circle. After cutting his teeth at the Sacramento area open mics and comedy clubs, he landed a writing gig in Los Angeles. After just a year into comedy Jim got a call to write for several TV programs, including “The Tonight Show With Jay Leno and “Comic Strip Live.”

GIFT SHOP NEWS



It is two years since the Board activated the Gift Shop committee. During that time there has been much discussion on the function of the gift shop. Pros and Cons were volleyed back and forth until a

direction could be decided on.

Toni Haughey has taken over the management of the gift shop. She succeeded Phyllis Malicki for whom the project had been a labor of love for many years. We are grateful to Phyllis for her many contributions and her endless hours in promoting the museum.

The gift shop has taken on a new look. The committee has tried to go back to the more historic marketing displays and tools of promotion. While there is definitely an emphasis on books in keeping with our mission of educating the public, we have not forgotten the camels and other items that are closely aligned with our legacy. To add to the authenticity of what is being done, a replica of the old Von Pfister counter has come out of storage and is now part of the display. Jim and Roberta Garrett are working on building book shelves to accommodate the inventory. It is definitely a work in progress. We will keep you posted – better still stop in and check out our wares.

10 GUN SALUTE Rick Calhoun

When a problem arises we look around to find a solution. We are not always as fortunate as we were when we approached Rick Calhoun to assess our needs in order to improve the brick job in the garden. Rick, very generously, abandoned his business and spent his time and expertise to make us proud. Thanks, Rick, for your hard work. You are deserving of our salute.



ON THE SINGLES SIDE:

First, are you single, retired and would like to have breakfast out with other singles? Then, come to the Benicia Grill on 10 June 2009 at 9:30 a.m. We will be meeting every second Wednesday of the month throughout the summer for breakfast. And if that is not enough, we plan to have a T.G.I.F. Singles Night at the Museum once a month this summer starting on 19 June 2009.

The 19 June T.G.I.F. will be held from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. with a Croquet match in the Garden area before the T.G.I.F. at 3:00 p.m. The COST will be a \$5 Donation and a Side Dish or Desert to Share. Drinks, hot dogs and music will be provided. In addition, we will provide a tour of the Museum Powder Magazine building at around 7:00 p.m.

If you plan to come, please RSVP to Larry at 707.745.5662 or email LLauber@sonic.net.

Calendar of events

MIRTH & MUSIC AT THE BARNES

Comedians: Johnny Steele, Derrick Leonard, Jim Farrell and Sammy Obeid
Opening act: singer/songwriter Saul Kaye
 Saturday, May 2, 2009
 Stone Hall @ 8:00pm

MIRTH & MUSIC AT THE BARNES

Comedian: Don Friesen
Opening act: Saxophonist Andrew Beal
 Saturday, June 6, 2009
 Stone Hall @ 8:00pm

MIRTH & MUSIC AT THE BARNES

Comedian: Rocky Laporte
Opening act: Amber Estrada
 Thursday, July 16, 2009
 Stone Hall @ 8:00pm

Garden Concert Series starts on June 27
 Please visit our website for details and tickets sale.

