



CAMEL TRACKS

BENICIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT THE CAMEL BARNs

Volume 18. Issue 1

 Spring 2018

A letter from Elizabeth d'Huart, Executive Director

IMPORTANT ACTION ITEM!

You may have been alerted through any number of ways (Benicia Herald, Benicia City website, Benicia City Council, Benicia Town Hall, offices of the Mayor and City Manager, etc.) that the **City of Benicia** has recently rolled out their adoption of a city-wide fiscal management program: “**Priority Based Budgeting**” (PBB). This is both a policy and a process which allows the city staff to determine what matters most to its residents in order to allocate appropriate funding.

In order to discuss and determine these priorities, the City is providing a number of ways for residents to express personal and organizational desires and expectations. I purposely include the word “organizational” since the City currently funds a number of Benicia nonprofit programs, of which we are one.

THE MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR HELP to continue its work – I am asking you to take the time and trouble to let the City know that you wish to preserve and promote Benicia’s history by allocating **City funding to our Museum** to expand the collection, add new images and documents to our free-access online archives, install new permanent exhibits and temporary exhibits, provide tours, Traveling Trunks, and educational programs for our students and visitors, respond to research and photo requests, and promote heritage tourism through our website, displays, and events. It is up to all of us to embrace our heritage and to build community connectivity and identity by preserving our past for our children and their children.

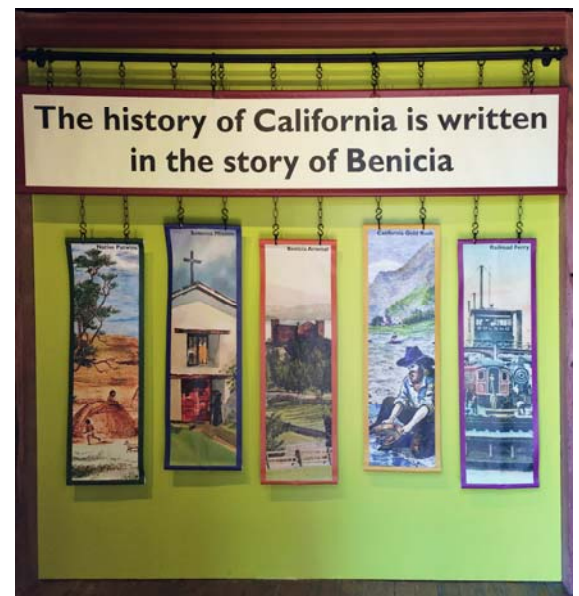
If you think that the future of this Museum is guaranteed, think again – museums all over the country are being taken apart, scattering the history of entire cities and dismantling irreplaceable collections. The City has some hard choices to make - please take the **survey** provided by the City and attend the **meetings** listed below.

THE HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA IS WRITTEN IN THE STORY OF BENICIA – PROTECT IT!

What you can do:

- ◆ Take the PBB survey (deadline is March 30th) found online at website “Benicia Town Hall”. Under section 5 “Maintain and Enhance a High Quality of Life” tick the “**agree**” box next to the statement: “Preserves, protects and restores its natural and historic resources to ensure their ongoing use and appreciation by residents and visitors alike”. (You do not need to be a Benicia resident to participate)
- ◆ Participate in the Community Workshop 1 on Wednesday, March 14, 11 AM – 12:30 PM at the Benicia Senior Center
- ◆ Participate in the Community Workshop 2 on Wednesday, March 21, 6 PM – 8 PM at the Mathew Turner Elementary School
- ◆ Speak up at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 24 at the City Council Chambers
- ◆ Attend the City Boards and Commission meetings where PBB is being outlined to members (see the City of Benicia website for March City of Benicia Boards and Commissions Meeting schedules)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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email: info@beniciahistoricalmuseum.org ♦ website: www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org
Like us on Facebook: Benicia Historical Museum at the Camel Barns



GIFT SHOP GOODIES!

For those of you who haven't been to the Museum Gift Shop lately, you are in for a delightful surprise! Thanks to the efforts of our new Museum Board member and current Gift Shop Manager, Deb Machado, the shop has been reorganized, revamped, "fluffed" (retail technical term!) and



Cutting boards and magnetic frames

stocked with fabulous items you can only find here. Aided by Committee members Sarah Rozett and Penny Snell, Deb has transformed the shop into a warm and welcoming space with seasonal decorations that change with the holiday calendar. The unique Benicia-centric objects she has commissioned are flying off the shelves and are in response to our shopping residents and visitors who want quality gifts

that reference our beloved City. Deb is the owner of "Romancing the Home" on First Street, and brings several decades of successful retail experience to her volunteer Museum position. The ceramic tile coaster sets, trivets, and glass cutting board feature images of Granizo tile artworks. Also available are magnetic picture frames in several sizes with interchangeable inserts featuring photographs by Joe Bergman (@joessnappenings), and decorative signs ready for hanging and admiring! Take home the perfect present for yourself, friend or family member and take advantage of your **Museum membership** to receive a **10% discount** on all gift shop items. We look forward to serving you!



Repurposed barn wood sign



Granizo coasters — 4-piece set

On February 18th, the Museum once again hosted the **Benicia Public Library/First Tuesday Poets Love Poetry Contest Awards**, for which we display a tribute exhibit commemorating the tragic love story between Conception Arguello and Nikolai Rezanov. Celebrated by the Museum since 2003, this historical drama has supplied literary inspiration for many, including an ever-expanding pool of contest entries, attracting poets from all over the Bay area and beyond.



This year's winner was Cathy Dana, Alameda's Poet Laureate. Congratulations to Ms. Dana and all the entrants!

February 13th found the **Benicia Rotary Club** dining in the upstairs temporary exhibit area currently featuring the "Drop by Drop..." exhibit coming down in May. Sandoval's catered this café-style repast which allowed for a warm and welcoming environment for the meeting, ending in a tour of our newly installed education units upstairs and a discussion on upcoming exhibit changes. If your organization or business would like to do the same, give us a call to see if we can put something in the diary – we thoroughly enjoyed the day and the opportunity to mix and mingle with Benicia Rotarians while discussing what we do and how we do it!





SPRING CELTIC CONCERT SERIES 2018

If you embrace the notion that music can convey emotion in a way that mere language cannot, you may also understand how an audience can be made to feel the pain of leaving a country and family behind, the anxiety and exhilaration of a long sea voyage, the excitement of exploring the new frontier of the old west, and the highs and lows of hard labor and the riches it can bring. The stories of the immigrants who came to America from Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales and those who travelled from other parts of the U.S. to stake their claim in California comprise the musical vocabulary of these Celtic groups who continue to delight a loyal audience with well-known tunes and original material.

The **BLACK IRISH BAND** kicked off our 2018 Celtic Concert series this past February 24th, filling the Hall with the combined harmonics of Patrick Karnahan (singer and composer, banjo, melodeon, mandolin, guitar, concertina), Steve McArthur (accordion, guitar, vocals), James Nelson (vocals, banjo, guitar) and Stan Emmons (guitar, vocals). This was a real “knees-up” evening with the audience adding their own accompaniment of clapping, whistling, and foot-stamping!



The Black Irish Band perform in Stone Hall

GOLDEN BOUGH – Saturday, March 24



March finds another fan and family favorite, **GOLDEN BOUGH**, performing here on the 24th, providing more of the same genre but finding different material that is shaped by the sound of the fiddle, harp, guitar and the thrilling combination of Margie Butler, Kathy Sierra, and Paul Espinoza vocalizing in poignant harmony. Their energetic renditions of iconic Celtic standbys inspire the audience to sing along to their toe-tapping ballads with a few pop music surprises!

MEN OF WORTH – Saturday, April 21

Lastly, Donnie Macdonald and James Keigher return to the Museum on April 21 with their marvelously engaging program of personal anecdotes combined with accomplished playing and performing. They bring another dimension to their repertoire, perhaps because they are from Scotland and Ireland, respectively, and return frequently to “the olde country”, bringing back new tales and new tunes accompanied by accordion, banjo, mandolin and drums. We are so happy to welcome them back to the Hall after a short touring absence!



CONCERT TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW! Don't miss these great groups! Tickets for **GOLDEN BOUGH** and **MEN OF WORTH** are \$25 and are available through our website at www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org, Museum office (9 AM-2 PM, Tues. – Fri.), Bookshop Benicia (Mon. - Sat. 10 AM – 7 PM, Sun. 11 AM – 5 PM), or the Museum Gift Shop (Wed. – Sun., 1 – 4 PM). Tickets still available on the night can be purchased at 7 PM, and Hall doors open at 7 PM for open seating for an 8 PM performance time. No-host bar of beer, wine, water, soft drinks and snacks; Museum exhibits and Gift Shop open during intermission. *See you soon!*

GOLDEN BOUGH in Concert

- ◆ Saturday, March 24th, 2018
- ◆ 8:00 PM, doors open at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Tickets \$25
- ◆ No-host bar

MEN OF WORTH in Concert

- ◆ Saturday, April 21st, 2018
- ◆ 8:00 PM, doors open at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Tickets \$25
- ◆ No-host bar

Family Art Day — “Drop by Drop”

- ◆ Saturday, April 29th, 2018
- ◆ 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- ◆ Hosted by the Museum and Arts Benicia
- ◆ Children and their families invited — explore your creativity with hands-on projects inspired by the “Drop by Drop” exhibition
- ◆ Free admission



Calendar of Events





Curator's Corner

by Beverly Phelan



These past three months have been so exciting for our archival department! Members of the community have been very generous in their donations to our museum. We have received the following items over the past several weeks:

A photo of former resident Gus Kyriazi donated by Linda Kyriazi • Four mid-century maps of Benicia donated by Jack Bell • Framed collar fichu worn by Dona Benicia with photo, donated by Judi Potter • US Army glasses, Korean War vintage donated by Marlene Dean • 22 boxes of documents and photos relating to Benicia history donated by the estate of Harry Wassmann • Decorative plate commemorating the 100th anniversary of California statehood donated by Dan Schiada • Two vases from the D. N. Hastings home for Gladys Wold donated through Christy Wold • Two pairs of ladies' shoes circa 1900, two shoe trees circa 1900, ladies camisole, silk fichu, embroidered dress late 1920s-30s, three early 19th century Chinese jackets and accompanying two pairs trousers, early 19th century lady's suit with long skirt, two china pitchers, one china chamber pot and one large bowl donated by Heather McLaughlin.



California Centennial Commemorative Plate

All of our donations are accessioned into the collection with the help of our registrars Bob Kvasnicka and Roberta Garrett and our Valero Student Intern. Once accessioned, photos of our donations are uploaded to our Online Archival Collection, accessible from the landing page of our website at www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org. We invite you to explore this wonderful resource and to consider donating items of historical interest to our collection.

BENICIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Robert Rozett, *President*
- Mike Caplin, *Vice President*
- Reginald Page, *Secretary*
- Sam Chohan, *Treasurer*
- Louis Alfeld
- Dee Case
- Larry Lauber
- Deb Machado
- Elizabeth Murphy

MUSEUM STAFF

- Elizabeth d'Huart, Executive Director
- Maureen Williams, Office Manager
- Katelynn Burmark, Special Projects
- Steve Courtial, Complex Caretaker

VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Beverly Phelan, Curator
- Roberta Garrett, Registrar
- Bob Kvasnicka, Registrar
- Fred Paine, Computer Consultant
- Susan Sullivan, Education Chair
- Deb Machado, Gift Shop

and

- Louis Alfeld
- Hannah Baldwin
- Mike Caplin
- Sam Chohan
- Cathy Christo
- Jim Lessenger
- Elizabeth Murphy
- Reg Page
- Lorraine Patten
- Bob Rozett
- Rick Stierwalt
- Susan Sullivan
- Bill Venturelli

MUSEUM EXHIBIT HOURS

Wednesday through Sunday
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Call or visit our website for
Holiday Hours/Museum closures

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Call or visit our website for
Holiday Hours/Office closures

ADMISSION:

- Adult: \$5.00
- Student: \$3.00
- Senior: \$3.00
- Children 5 to 12: \$2.00
- Children under 5: free
- Members: free
- Military with ID: free
- Free first Wednesday of every month



From the Desk of BHM President Robert Rozett

We have just had an extremely successful concert given by The BLACK IRISH BAND which was well-attended – everyone had a great time! This month on the 24th, GOLDEN BOUGH will be performing in their own unique Celtic style – please join us for another fun evening of superb entertainment. In April, Men of Worth will conclude our Spring concert series on the 21st with their interesting mix of songs and stories – don't miss this "must see" event.

March has brought us an abundance of tours including a group of 50 seniors from Davis who shared with us their comments and compliments about the very good learning experience they enjoyed during their tour. Our upcoming March school tours are primarily home school groups from Concord and Benicia with another city school class from Hercules. Students, parents and teachers tour the museum exhibits, our Powder Magazine, and participate in hands-on activities which allow them to experience a fun and informative experience outside the classroom. Providing these tours to residents and surrounding communities is an important part of our programming and mission.