The Museum has so much to see and enjoy right now!

Our feature exhibition, “She Persisted,” is on the western side of the main gallery. This exhibition highlights notable local women, including winery owner Isabelle Simi, tennis player Hazel Hotchkiss and nurse Nercilla Harlan, along with women’s organizations, including Alexander Valley Ladies Aid and the Dry Creek Neighbors Club. Their colorful lives and significant achievements in the 19th and early 20th centuries helped shape the character of our community. Stories of their persistence, despite obstacles, are compelling and relevant today. The exhibition includes historic artifacts, narratives and photographs, plus an extensive display of local historic artwork by women. It will only be on display through April 15, so don’t miss it!

On the eastern side of our main gallery, we have an exhibition of early Healdsburg history. It includes examples of local Native American Pomo basketry, along with photos of prominent Pomo (cont’d on page 5)

### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
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<th>March, 2018</th>
<th>April, 2018</th>
<th>Healdsburg Museum</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center</td>
<td>4 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center</td>
<td>221 Matheson Street Healdsburg, CA 95448</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Board Meeting, 5:30 pm Museum Research Center</td>
<td>16-2 Museum Closed for New Exhibition Installation</td>
<td>707 431 3325</td>
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<tr>
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<td>17 Board Meeting, 5:30 pm Museum Research Center</td>
<td>Fax 707 473 4471</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.healdsburgmuseum.org">www.healdsburgmuseum.org</a></td>
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<td>Museum Hours:</td>
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History Matters  

by Holly Hoods,
Executive Director/Curator

The pioneer Norton family lives on at the Museum! Colorful pioneer attorney Colonel Lewis A. Norton, who served as our City’s first mayor in 1867 and helped resolve the local “Squatter Wars” land disputes of the 1850s, has left a valuable, multi-faceted legacy.

We were recently honored with a visit from Diane Machado and Diane Norton Loomis, accompanied by their dear friends and longtime Museum supporters, Bruce and Liz Anderson of Alexander Valley. Ms. Machado and Ms. Loomis are the ex-wife and sister respectively of Col. Norton’s namesake, Lewis A. Norton of Santa Rosa, who passed away in April 2017.

Col. Norton’s namesake had wanted our Museum to have the historic Norton family Bible and framed certificate from the Society of California Pioneers, two items that he prized. We happily accepted these wonderful donations.

The day after their visit, I placed the framed certificate in our pioneer history display, above the bust of Col. Norton and next to his Plains rifle from the 1850s to ‘60s. It looks great!

In February, Museum Board Assistant Treasurer Jon Eisenberg and I had a very pleasant lunch with Nader Azarnia, the new trustee of the Norton trust. The trust was originally established in 1987 by Norton descendant Welwyn Dallam and his wife Barbara to provide ongoing maintenance of the Norton graves in Oak Mound Cemetery and to provide an annual financial boost to the Museum and the Healdsburg Boys and Girls Club.

It was wonderful to meet Nader, learn more about the interests of the Dallams and clarify our mutual understanding of the trust. The Dallams established the Museum’s portion of the trust to be utilized “for the improvement and enhancement of the Museum; for the historical and preservation projects that the Museum sponsors or for the creation of new projects or programs that promote awareness of and preservation of the history of northern Sonoma County, especially Healdsburg.”

We appreciate Nader’s faithful fulfilment of his friend’s historic legacy and look forward to furthering the Museum’s mission with the help of the Norton Trust.

President’s Corner  

by Ronnie Devitt,  
Board President

Did you know that Memorial contributions to the Museum dramatically increased in 2017? Although only $2,500 had been budgeted from memorials, these donations totaled over $6,000. This is such an easy way to benefit the Museum while remembering friends and relatives.

Another way of preserving local history and supporting the Museum is to provide for your own memorial gift in your estate planning.

The two primary funds for HM&HS are the Operating Fund and the Endowment Fund. The Operating Fund covers payroll, rent, printing, and all other business expenses. Proceeds from the annual appeal, profit from fundraisers, and most donations go into the Operating Fund. As reported in this column last month, our Operating Fund expenses exceeded our income in 2017.

An important source of income for the Operating Fund is the earnings from the Endowment Fund. In 2017, the Endowment earnings contributed $40,000 to the Operating Fund. Given the need to supply day-to-day operations, we have not been promoting donations to the Endowment Fund over donations to the Operating Fund. However, we want to see the endowment continue to increase and generate more income for the Operating Fund. Making the Museum’s Endowment Fund one of the beneficiaries of your estate is a wonderful way to help make this happen.

The Endowment Fund was established in 1994 from a $30,000 bequest. Over the years it has grown. At the end of 2017, it was $1,085,000. It is conservatively managed by David R. Jones of Edward Jones, Healdsburg. Withdrawals are limited to only a portion of the income generated by the Fund. This is what makes bequests and legacy gifts so attractive. Your gift lasts and grows.

I hope you will consider including the HM&HS Endowment Fund in your estate planning.

Follow Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society on Facebook and Instagram
HMVA News by Ann Howard, HMVA Chair

As part of our new ongoing receptionist training effort, Holly and Whitney hosted a special behind-the-scenes orientation of our latest exhibition, “She Persisted.” Eighteen volunteers attended. Holly shared many interesting details in the lives of the notable women highlighted in the display. Whitney discussed the Future Farmers of America exhibition downstairs. Thank you, Holly, for the refreshments.

Longtime Museum volunteer Janet Pisenti has added a monthly receptionist shift to her Museum activities. A most welcome addition!

Annual History Essay Challenge by Phyllis Chiosso Liu

We are inviting all 2nd through 8th grade students in Windsor, Healdsburg, and Geyserville to participate in our annual History Essay Challenge. The Challenge is designed for students to write about an event or an experience in their family’s past by interviewing a grandparent or other older relative. This is a chance for them to bridge the generations and get to know more about life in “the olden days.”

Our local schools have received information about the Challenge; however, not all of them will participate. If you know a young person who enjoys writing and is curious about their family history, let them know about this opportunity.

Essays will be read by a committee of retired educators and Museum staff. Winners will be awarded cash prizes and certificates at a special ceremony at the Museum.

Stop by the Museum to obtain an information packet. Entries are due on April 6. If you have questions or need additional information, contact me at phcliu@gmail.com.

Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Katherine Birdsong
Diane Meyers & James Resnick
Rosa Mitchell
Eric Norrbom
Linda P. O’Brien
Gayle Sullivan
Duane & Diana Tandeske
William Wagy

Give the Gift of Membership by Jeanne Leal Hartlaub, Membership Chair

We have been focusing more of our attention on increasing our active membership ranks. In the past year, we have seen an increase from 440 to 554 members. While that growth is gratifying, we still have a long way to go.

We encourage you to consider gift memberships for your family and friends. As a reminder of the various membership levels and corresponding benefits, please refer to page 6 of this issue.

Remember, your membership keeps the Museum free for everyone.
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At Long Last

Great news! The last group of local historic newspapers are now available on the California Digital Newspaper Collection (www.cdnc.ucr.edu). The complete list of Sonoma County newspapers is:

- Geyserville Gazette (1899-1918)
- Geyserville Press (1940-1964)
- Healdsburg Enterprise (1878-1929)
- Healdsburg Tribune, Enterprise and Scimitar (1888-1990)
- Healdsburg Tribune (1919-1937)
- Press Democrat (1883-1916)
- Russian River Flag (1865-1886)
- Sonoma Democrat (1857-1886)
- Sotoyome Scimitar (1902-1944)

Now you too can research a name or an event any time from the comfort of your own computer!

Collections Corner

We continue to review and catalog materials in our collections storage facility.

One interesting box that we re-discovered in this process was a collection of writing and clippings from Julius Myron Alexander, much of which was published historically in the local newspapers. Volunteer Meredith Dreisback has been cataloging these materials.

Alexander, born in Alexander Valley in 1857, the year Healdsburg was founded, is often described as Healdsburg’s first poet laureate. He cherished his home and its history all his life and served as the head booster of Healdsburg’s Chamber of Commerce for many years. He loved to write poetry about his life and current events. This writing was part of a larger collection gathered by Alexander and exemplifies the sometimes circuitous route that collections take before arriving at the Museum.

On July 25, 1929, the Healdsburg Enterprise ran a story on Alexander’s donation of his collection of historical artifacts, photographs and writing to the American Legion Sotoyome Post. This served as the beginning for a museum there. It was an eclectic assortment. Items ranged from a seven-foot-long duck gun, a ball and chain used to shackle prisoners and a brass cannon used by the Russian River Rifles, a Civil War militia.

Special cabinets had been built in one of the rooms of the Legion clubhouse on Center Street in anticipation of the gift. The artifacts were installed so that the public could enjoy looking at them.

In 1956, the Center Street American Legion Hall was demolished. Without a place to preserve and display the historic materials, the Legion signed an agreement in November 1961 to loan the Julius Myron Alexander Collection to the Healdsburg City Archives run by City Clerk Ed Langhart. A new Healdsburg city hall had recently been completed, which included an Archives Room specifically devoted to the preservation and display of items of historic significance to Healdsburg.

The materials in the City Archives including the Julius Myron Alexander Collection became the nucleus of the Museum’s collection.

Now Playing…

(continue from page 1)

basket makers Elsie Allen, Kathleen Smith and Lucy Smith. It also features photos and artifacts associated with pioneer Healdsburg settlers, including Henry and Josefa Fitch, Cyrus and Rufina Alexander, Harmon Heald and Col. Lewis Norton. This section will remain on display throughout 2018.

Downstairs in the Matheson Luce Gallery, our exhibition highlights the history of agricultural education and Future Farmers of America (FFA) at Healdsburg High School. Healdsburg’s Future Farmers Country Fair, held annually in May, was founded by Healdsburg FFA students and their advisor in 1950. This exhibition will be on display throughout 2018.

We look forward to seeing you at the Museum!

by Whitney Hopkins, Assistant Curator

Contributions in Memory of:

Betty Miller from Barry & Kaye Stallard
Linda Plass-Wittke from Sally Jo Smith
Liz & Bruce Johnson
Andrea Bliss Carroll from Marcia Teuschler
Bob & June Jones from Candace Danhausen

Contributions in Memory of:

Nancy Bostrom Jones from Joyce Peters
John Guilfoy from Norm & Peachie Dunlavy
Ulla Blair from Hugo & Barbara Bauer
Pasqualinia (Pat) Theresa Black from Albert & Norma Giordano

Contributions in Memory of:
**Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society Board of Directors**
Ronnie Devitt (President), Jim Brush (Past President), Eric Ziedrich (Vice-President), Phyllis Chiosso Liu (Recording Secretary), Mark Decker (Treasurer), Jon Eisenberg (Assistant Treasurer), Jerry Eddinger, Rawleigh Fjeld, Lockie Gillies, Ann Howard, Jeanne Leal-Hartlaub, Carol Peterson, Kay Robinson, Ken Spadoni (Directors)

**The mission of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is to record the history of the Healdsburg area through the collection and preservation of historical materials; to actively foster the appreciation of local history of the Healdsburg area through educational programs, activities and historical research; and to provide finances for, and to support, operate and manage the Healdsburg Museum. Edwin Langhart, Founder.**

**Membership Levels and Benefits:**
- Friend: $30  Family (2 or more): $50
  - Free genealogy, property and historical research by appointment
  - Russian River Recorder quarterly journal and The Review newsletter
  - Members’ only Museum exhibition opening receptions
  - 10% discount in Museum gift shop

**Contributing: $100**
- All benefits listed above
- Free admission at almost 900-member museums of North American Reciprocal Museum Association

**Supporting: $250**
- All benefits listed above
- Recognition posted in Museum, posted in a Museum publication and on Museum website

**Sustaining Member: $500**
- All benefits listed above
- Voucher redeemable at Museum gift shop

**Benefactor: $1000**
- All benefits listed above
- Sponsor recognition for one Museum exhibition
- Tickets for two and recognition at Museum’s Annual Pioneer Awards Dinner
- Invitation to private tour of one Museum exhibition

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