“A Sense of Place” Exhibition

Opening Reception Wednesday, January 23 @5:30 pm

Our Museum’s first juried art exhibition, “A Sense of Place,” will be the lead exhibition for 2019. It will feature scenic artwork depicting northern Sonoma County, created by talented local artists, past and present.

Last month we invited local artists to submit some of their work to be included in the exhibition and we were delighted by the wonderful response!

Respected local artists Vesna Bresnikar and Dana Hawley will be acting as jurors along with Executive Director/Curator Holly Hoods. While the deadline for submissions has passed, the jury will be meeting at the end of December to determine which artworks will be featured, so as we go to press, we do not yet know which artists will be selected.

(continued on page 4)
Thanks to Our Outgoing Board Members

by Holly Hoods,
Executive Director/Curator

The Museum Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers elected by the Museum membership who serve two-year terms, to a maximum of four consecutive terms. These honorable people do this because they appreciate the Museum’s mission, believe in community volunteerism and are generous in sharing their time and talents with us. Our Board members become my close colleagues, advisors and friends as we share stewardship of our organization. I am genuinely sorry when their terms in office end.

This year Ann Howard and Lockie Gillies reach the end of their terms in January. Ken Spadoni is also stepping down at this time. Exceptional Board members are hard to lose, but fortunately all three of these wonderful individuals will continue to stay engaged as active volunteers and supportive Museum members.

Ann has been our beloved HMVA coordinator for eight years, but she’s also been involved with every aspect of the Museum: fundraising, events, gallery receptions, research, exhibitions, collections and publications.

Lockie has overseen the Museum’s technology needs for over a decade, keeping our network healthy and saving us so much money. He has also pitched in to boost our fundraising events and help us connect with new friends and businesses.

Ken has served for four years, lending his expertise as vice-president and to special fundraising events. He has been a trusted advisor to me, as well.

Our heartfelt thanks to Ann, Lockie and Ken from all of us: the staff, Board of Directors and members of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society. They have been invaluable.

We look forward to adding two new Board members to our team in 2019.

President’s Corner

by Ronnie Devitt,
Board President

In this my last column as your president, I cannot adequately express the privilege it has been to be your president. First, I must thank the Board members and presidents who came before me for establishing the foundation. The Board members I’ve served with have been terrific. Working with Holly and Jane’s professionalism and humor has been a treat. And the volunteers — the Museum has the most dedicated, hard-working group of volunteers I have ever encountered.

All of us working together have made the Museum better each year. Finances are improving. We are doing more community outreach and hosting more events. The collections are expanding and are more organized than ever in the Kennedy storage facility. Our membership has increased. The Museum Gallery and research room have been spiffed up. The Business Partnership program has been established. Publicity has increased. The new website and social media are reaching people outside our Museum’s walls.

Sadly, three of our valuable directors will be stepping down. Lockie Gillies and Ann Howard have each termed out for continuous service on the Board and Ken Spadoni is leaving after four years. Each has contributed so much and will be missed, but the good news is that they will continue as active volunteers.

My last remaining job as president is to pass the baton at our Annual Membership Meeting (see page 5 for more details) on January 17. During the business portion of the evening, members will vote for new officers, directors and next year’s nominating committee.

Thanks to Cemetery Restoration Donors

Doris & Vernon Evans
in honor of Valerie Pedersen’s birthday

Contributions in Memory of:

Joel Wright from Kay & Ted Robinson
Vivienne & Joe Rochioli

Don Kirkpatrick & Sue Mitchell
from Arlene & Ron Kron

Contributions in Memory of:

Joel Wright from Darla & Dave Budworth
Nancy Davis
Pat McCracken
Janet & Ed Pisenti
Cheryl & Ron Pourroy

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A Brief (Impossible!) History of HMVA  
Excerpted, updated from May 2010  
by Ann Howard, Coordinator  

December 2018 is the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Healdsburg Museum Volunteer Association (HMVA). Hundreds of volunteers have shared their talents to help attain the status that the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society has reached today.

In December 1993, Betsy Bippart invited about 25 ladies and a gentleman for a Christmas luncheon at her home. Darla Budworth recalled “how beautiful her home was decorated and how each table was set with Limoges plates, sterling silver and Waterford crystal. We all brought side dishes and she provided the rest. Betsy then asked us to come into her family room because she had something to discuss with us. Wondering as we gathered there, she explained her idea to form a volunteer group at the Museum. She called it ‘HMVA,’ the Healdsburg Museum Volunteer Association. (It had already been approved by the Board on December 15.) We all agreed, and she said she would get it started.”

Darla added, “That was 16 years ago, but I remember some of the ladies who were there that day, about 20 of us.”

Bob Rawlins remembered everyone’s name! Judy Babin, Rhea Bain, Nancy Bauer, Susan Bierwirth, Betsy Bippart, Darla Budworth, Ginny Canfield, Carol Clark, Catherine Curtis, Shirley Davis, Mary Jean Elze, Alice Grove, Nancy Gunnerson, June Jones, Mae Malone, Jeri Myers, Fern Naber, Elizabeth Neal, Norma Passarino, Bob Rawlins, Peggy Rawlins, Betty Reukema, June Smith, Eleanor Zak, Doreene Zanzi, and Curator Claire Ritner. (Names with * were still active volunteers in 2010!)

The Museum, not quite four years in its new home in the former Carnegie Library, was on the brink of closing. Betsy and the first members of HMVA recognized that the HM&HS Board of Directors needed organized assistance to manage the Museum’s operations when funding from outside sources vanished.

Claire Ritner was the Museum curator at the time, and June Smith became the editor of the newsletter, first sent only to the volunteers. In the first issue in Betsy’s Notes from the Margin, she wrote, “Let’s HMVA!” (Catherine remembered that they tried to come up with a different name, but couldn’t.)

Charlotte Anderson wrote a heartfelt and detailed tribute to Betsy in the March 2007 issue of The Review. Betsy was responsible for many “firsts” raising a lot of money, including crafts sold in the Gift Shop, the Barn Sale, the Autumn Fest Silent Auction in conjunction with “101 Bottles of Wine” (honoring Highway 101), a grand success as a fundraiser now known as the Instant Wine Cellar raffle.

Bob Rawlins collaborated with Betsy to create the first “Handbook for Volunteers” which has since been updated many times. He also compiled “The Roster” which is still updated annually.


The number of volunteer receptionists has grown with many serving on special committees as needs arose. Our receptionists are the backbone of the Museum’s operation. The receptionist reads the gallery for opening, meets and greets visitors, answers questions, handles gift shop sales and shuts down the Gallery at closing time.

HMVA members help recruit volunteers as reception staff and other functions; maintain the list of volunteers; conduct training of receptionists and assist the Staff and Board as necessary with respect to exhibits and events. A HMVA committee operates the Museum Gift Shop. The Coordinator is a member of the Board of Directors.

HMVA volunteers are invited to attend the monthly meeting held the first Wednesday of the month in the Museum’s Research Room. To quote Betsy in 1994, “if you know what we’re ‘up to,’ you can spread the word to your friends, and they will want to join us and spend their time and/or money like we do. We need ideas for spending time and making money, and we really need your help!”

Thank you, HMVA volunteers, for all that you do for the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society.
HM&HS Annual Membership Meeting - January 17, 2019 by Ann Howard

It’s almost time to gather and hear about what has been accomplished in 2018 and the exciting plans for the next twelve months. The evening is always festive with good food and fellowship. All members, prospective members and guests are welcome. Please join us.

We will meet at the Krug Center on Grove Street, just south of the Dry Creek Inn. The room is warm and cozy. Parking is available adjacent to the Center or along Grove Street.

The doors will open at 5:30 pm for the social hour and to receive potluck dishes.

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<tr>
<td>Last Names M to Z     - Salad or Cold Dish</td>
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<td>Everyone             - Serving utensil for your dish</td>
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Dinner will be at 6:30 pm. We do not have access to a kitchen, so wrap your hot dishes well. Be sure to bring a serving utensil for your hot dish, cold dish or salad. It is easy to take your dishes home to wash.

Place settings of plate and eating utensils will be provided along with wine glasses.

Bread, wine, dessert and coffee/tea will be provided, but anyone who wishes to bring a bottle of wine or a special dessert to share is free to do so.

We will have a raffle again this year with one ticket $5, five tickets for $20.

Following the dinner, we will elect board officers and directors and a nominating committee for 2019, hear reports from the Board President and Executive Director/Curator and learn which homes and/or buildings the Historic Preservation Committee has chosen to honor.

We need volunteer help in three areas:

- decorate the tables at 1:00 pm in the afternoon;
- help at the buffet table with serving;
- help with the clean-up at the end of the meeting.

Please contact me at (707) 473-7903 or alhoward@alhoward.org if you would like to help.

We look forward to seeing you there!

“A Sense of Place” … (cont’d from page 1)

In addition to the works submitted by local artists, historical artwork from both the Museum’s collection and private collections will be on display. Some of these pieces have never been publicly exhibited.

Our traditional members’ reception on Wednesday, January 23 at 5:30 pm will also include the participating artists. This event will give everyone a chance to enjoy the exhibition together.

We will also arrange several events to further engage with the artistic community over the coming months until the exhibition closes on May 5. One of the events we have planned is a plein air painting workshop with Dana Hawley in the mustard-blooming vineyards of Healdsburg in February. The final date for this event will be determined shortly.

In Memory of Charles H. Turner by Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator

We were recently honored to receive a generous donation in memory of Charles H. (“Chuck”) Turner of Windsor, who passed away in 2017. Chuck was a longtime supporter of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society dating back to the late 1980s when fundraising efforts were made to renovate, retrofit and repurpose the former Carnegie Library to serve as our Museum. He is one of the distinguished Museum friends named on the building’s dedication plaque.

Chuck continued to value our Museum as we developed and grew over the past 30 years. We are grateful for the respect of the Turner family and appreciate their legacy donation in memory of Charles H. Turner.
Judy and Steve Everett along with Bentley posing with just a few of their Santas on display at the Museum.

“A Season for Santas” Closing January 6

The Museum has hosted many happy visitors in our gallery since “A Season for Santas” opened the day after Thanksgiving. This year’s Christmas-themed exhibition features Judy and Steve Everett’s impressive collection of nearly 2,000 Santa Clauses, amassed over many years of fond friendships and holiday parties in San Francisco and Healdsburg. We are so grateful that this year the Everetts generously shared their Santa collection and invited the entire community to the party. So many colorful Santas, you can’t help but smile.

In addition to the nearly overwhelming collection of Santas, our visitors love Wayne Padd’s popular O-scale Lionel model train and carnival town. They marvel at our 1901 scale model of the Plaza, built by Jon Lacaillade and decked out for Christmas by Maggie Bates. Our littlest visitors have enjoyed the kids’ play area and an interactive “First Day of Christmas” discovery game, in a former library card catalog created by Stan Becker.

The exhibition closes January 6.

New Exhibition — “Mervyn Silberstein: A Photographic Legacy”

Mervyn Silberstein, Healdsburg’s celebrated early 20th century photographer, is the subject of our new ground floor exhibition. Our Museum collection which boasts 640 priceless photos taken by Silberstein from approximately 1904-1910 has frequently incorporated some of Silberstein’s photos in other Museum exhibitions to provide context.

This exhibition, however, concentrates on Silberstein’s earliest photographic efforts. While attending Healdsburg High School, Silberstein discovered what would become his lifelong passion for photography. He bought his first camera from his father’s store and playfully embellished many of his photos with cartoons and captions. By the time Silberstein graduated in 1903, the self-proclaimed “camera fiend” was already a working cartoonist and writer for the local newspaper. His youthful creativity and talent bloomed.

Mervyn Silberstein, c.1905

For a few years, Silberstein ran his own retail establishment in Healdsburg. He would eventually move to San Francisco where he became a successful commercial photographer and graphic artist.

On display are examples of his early years as a budding photographer and developing creative artist. In addition to some of his prize-winning shots and personal scrapbooks, there are several of Silberstein’s cameras and photographic accessories.

This exhibition was curated through the combined effort of Pamela Vana-Paxhia, Jane Bonham and Stan Becker.

Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members
Margery & Ross Egge
Judy & Stephen Everett
Peter & Kelly Hartlaub
Toni Hartlaub & Pat Kam
Susan & Gerry Lazzareschi
Donna Riley
Douglas Williams