Free Plein Air Painting Afternoon in Healdsburg

Sunday, March 3, 2019 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Come paint the mustard! Bring your own easels, chair and art supplies and we will provide a scenic rural setting, complete with views of Fitch Mountain, vineyards, redwoods, old barns and agricultural equipment, railroad tracks and a Victorian farmhouse. We will also supply water, snacks and bathroom facilities. Street parking will be available.

The event will be held at 237 Grant Avenue (not Street), Healdsburg.

The rain date is Sunday, March 10.

Hosted by Healdsburg Museum Executive Director/Curator Holly Hoods, this outreach event for “A Sense of Place” Art Exhibition is partially funded through a generous grant from the Healdsburg Tourism Improvement District (HTID).

For more information, contact the Museum 431-3325 or info@healdsburgmuseum.org

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<th>Calendar</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March, 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Free Plein Air Painting Afternoon, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm, see cover article</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Museum Research Center</td>
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</tbody>
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Healdsburg Museum
221 Matheson Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
707 431 3325
Fax 707 473 4471
www.healdsburgmuseum.org
info@healdsburgmuseum.org

Museum Hours:
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday – Sunday
History Matters

by Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator

The Museum’s current art exhibition, “A Sense of Place,” continues to attract many enthusiastic visitors. Did you know that most of the contemporary artworks on display are for sale? We have already sold paintings by Dana Hawley, Kathy Birdsong and Phyllis Calvin Thomas. The Museum receives a 30% commission on the sold artwork. Be sure to visit us with an eye to possibly acquiring some beautiful local art.

In this issue you will find a great article by our new Healdsburg High School Intern Roan Affronti, a junior. Roan has been volunteering at the Museum for several weeks. He has impressed the many volunteers with whom he has interacted and I hope he will continue volunteering at the Museum after his internship is complete.

Vocational experience is so important. We have participated in the Healdsburg High School Internship Program for the past five years. This program is a wonderful opportunity for high school juniors to explore a potential future career in a real-world work setting. Interns come to their job site two days a week for three weeks and then give a presentation about their internship at the high school. Each student brings unique interests and talents, so I try to give each one an overview of what we do at the Museum and an opportunity to focus on one project matched to their interests.

For the past three and one-half years, Museum visitors have appreciated being assisted by our student intern, Lauren Carriere. A native of Scotts Valley, CA, Lauren moved to Sonoma County to attend the graduate program in Cultural Resources Management at Sonoma State University.

During her tenure, Lauren has learned varied aspects of museum curation, including exhibition preparation, research, educational outreach, collections management, publications, fundraising, promotion and event support.

We are proud to announce that Lauren has completed her MA program and is now a graduate of SSU with a Master’s degree in Cultural Resources Management. Congratulations, Lauren!

President’s Corner

by Eric Ziedrich, Board President

A few years ago, I was quite involved in a Santa Rosa trade association that had been experiencing a steadily declining membership. While this association had paid staff, it depended on volunteers to accomplish and fulfill its annual goals and objectives. While lamenting the difficulty in recruiting new blood, a board member suggested that I read the book, The End of Membership as We Know It. The book suggests that associations have to change the way they operate and what they deliver to their membership or risk becoming irrelevant and obsolete. I found it to be a sad commentary on our societal changes.

A few years ago, I was recruited to join the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society Board. As a new Board member, the most surprising and gratifying realization was that this book had no relevance at the Museum. Unlike many organizations in other areas, our Museum’s membership continues to grow and expand. Even more impressive is the number of unbelievably dedicated volunteers who make HM&HS the fantastic organization that it is.

I just received the Museum’s 2019 Volunteer Roster in today’s mail. The roster is four pages long with 88 individuals listed. I find it rewarding and invigorating to be involved in a civic organization that is so strongly supported by our community. These 88 volunteers devote countless hours every month with absolutely no expectation for anything in return. They do it out of a love and commitment for the town that we call home.

So, as I begin my term as President of the Healdsburg Museum & Historic Society, I’ll start with a loud “THANK YOU” to all of you who make this such a special organization. Thankfully, membership isn’t dying in Healdsburg!
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Volunteer News  

by Ronnie Devitt,  
Volunteer Coordinator

It’s been a very exciting first month in my new job as volunteer coordinator. We have three new volunteers who will be trained by Ed Flesch to be Receptionist Ambassadors: Kate Desmond, Pat Lenz and Alexis Rosa. All three have agreed to help the Museum in other ways as well. Kate Desmond, a Healdsburg resident with long experience in the wine industry and considerable computer skills, will assist in sending out Constant Contact email blasts and help with our Instant Wine Cellar fundraiser. Pat Lenz, a nationally and internationally well-known sculptor, who has branched into computer-generated art, will lend her graphic design skills to our print and digital communications. Alexis Rosa, whose family has longtime ties to Healdsburg, said that she would help wherever we need her and immediately agreed to pitch in on one of the less desirable jobs—“spring cleaning” at the Sunsweet storage facility. Please welcome them to the Healdsburg Museum Volunteer Association (HMVA).

Are you interested in volunteering for the first time or finding a new type of volunteer experience? There are dozens of jobs available. Some require a little training and a regular time commitment of once or twice a month. Being a receptionist and working on the collections fall into this category. Exhibition installations occur only three times a year. Research is ongoing. Cleaning and random maintenance chores are “one offs.”

I am finding that it is more useful to discuss the opportunities individually so that volunteer skills can be matched where needed rather than simply listing them. If you’d like to discuss what you may do, shoot me an email (vdevitt@comcast.net) so we can get together for coffee. I’ll buy, as I am frankly trying to woo you.

Don’t forget to check the weekly email blasts for “Volunteer Help Needed ASAP” notices.

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Al Cadd Book Release Party

The book release party for Al Cadd turned out to be a great celebration with good friends. Despite the stormy night, we had more than 80 people in attendance. Al read several short excerpts from his recently published book, Rambling On, and was warmly introduced by his editor, Shonnie Brown.

Thanks to Bill Myers of White Oak Winery for hosting the party at their beautiful property. White Oak hospitality team members Hannah and Joe poured their delicious red blend and a chardonnay. The food, prepared by Alexander Valley Ladies Aid and underwritten by longtime Cadd friend, Sonne Eldridge, was outstanding. Thanks to Scott and Mark Decker for filming and sound engineering the evening.

It was a wonderful evening of local history, friendship and family. We were so glad to have been part of it.

---

Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Betsy Connolly
Kathleen & Don Fiero
Sally & Ron Grassi
Karen Holmes
Stan Jaffe
Mary Thorpe

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Thanks to Our Latest Donor  
Dry Creek Neighbors Club
Mervyn Silberstein: Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man

by Roan Affronti

The work of Healdsburg’s celebrated early 20th century photographer, Mervyn Silberstein, is frequently included in our exhibitions. Our current ground floor exhibition concentrates on Silberstein’s high school years when he discovered what became a lifelong passion for photography. Our new intern Roan Affronti took an opportunity to examine Silberstein’s diary and compare Mervyn’s life to his own. -H. Hoods

Mervyn David Silberstein was a fascinating person in Healdsburg’s history. A photographer, athlete, cartoonist and writer, his many talents shine throughout his works.

The most interesting Silberstein material (in my opinion) is his high school diary chronicling his last month at Healdsburg High School in 1903. As a current junior at Healdsburg High, I find this diary especially interesting. Being able to study Silberstein’s high school experiences and relate them to my own is what brings history to life and makes it enjoyable to study. As I read his diary entries, the parallels between my adolescent life and Silberstein’s become quite apparent. He chronicles his trivial day-to-day experiences with classes, teachers, friends and other occurrences at school. Even though these events may seem mundane, Silberstein eloquently illustrates what a young adult’s day-to-day life was like at the time.

Silberstein was very faithful in making daily journal entries. He records exact times of waking up, going to school and other day-to-day activities. My favorite parts are when he recounts his experiences with his classmates and friends. For example, he tells of a time when his group was together and began doing a “waltz” where his two friends spun each other around violently. He describes the laughter and joviality of his mates as well as the eventual result of his friend falling over in a dizzy mess and being dog piled on by the others in the group. As a modern teenager, this event made me realize that teens really have not changed all that much in one hundred years. Granted, our lives in the modern world are different from Silberstein’s, but the core tenets of young adulthood remain consistent. We still mess around with each other like Silberstein and his friends did, even though we are separated by more than one hundred years.

Silberstein had a quick wit and a stinging sense of humor that is shown throughout his diary. My favorite example is some of the nicknames he came up with for his instructors. Silberstein decided that one teacher was so old he “was the first animal feeder on Noah’s Ark,” while another one was nicknamed “Bull” for his bull-like appearance and nature. Caricatures of these instructors accompany their descriptions in the diary. This improves the humor and illustrates Silberstein’s true feelings about these teachers. The similarities between Silberstein and the modern teenager are, again, present. I do not know a single teenager (myself included) who has not made fun of, or caricatured an instructor. (To any teacher reading this, I apologize.) While society has certainly moved far from Silberstein’s time, there are still quite a few similarities that we share with the people of one hundred years ago.

The Healdsburg Museum has done a fantastic job preserving a number of Mervyn Silberstein’s works. Silberstein went on to become a renowned photographer and designer, but I still feel more connected to the younger man that he was, all because of reading his diary. Preservation of historical artifacts is becoming more and more important in our world as we move into the future. Even a small thing like a diary of one month in a person’s life can be invaluable to the people of tomorrow. Without artifacts such as diaries, photographs and other items, these stories could be lost and forgotten. Luckily, our community has a museum to house these artifacts and talented people who can interpret and research them. Silberstein’s story is just one of many that our small town has to offer. I hope these stories will continue to be told, in order to educate the people of today and remember the people of the past.
Remembering Mary Brandt

Our cherished friend and Museum supporter, Mary Patricia Wattles Brandt, passed away on December 25, 2018. A lifelong Healdsburg resident, she will always be remembered as the respected matriarch of the Brandt family. Mary was a founding member of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society in 1976 and an active community supporter.

The daughter of S.L. and Chalmers Wattles, Mary was born in 1925. She attended Healdsburg schools and graduated from Healdsburg High School in 1942. Mary attended college at San Jose State and married F.M. “Milt” Brandt in 1944. She became vice president of Brandt Insurance when Milt founded the business in 1962.

She was a cherished wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and a friend to many. She will be fondly remembered.

**Contributions in Memory of Mary Brandt**

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Mary Brandt, 2007
Kudos to Stan Jaffe who just restored and repaired our 1880s Single-Weight Regulator Clock from the Peña/Phillips Adobe in Dry Creek Valley. Still standing today on Dry Creek Road, this 1840s residence is the oldest surviving building in northern Sonoma County. The antique clock was not in working condition when it was donated to our Museum years ago, but we appreciated its history and displayed it anyway.

Thanks to Stan for generously stepping up with his expertise and offering to restore it. He got it running and installed just in time for our most recent Museum exhibition opening. It is now on display with two paintings of the Peña/Phillips Adobe: one by Rosinda Holmes and one by Patricia Phillips Schmidt.

Given the extraordinary job that Stan was able to do, I asked him to share some details of this wonderful restoration.

Here's a little story about how this clock's path and mine intersected:

Back in September 2018 my wife Laurie and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. She arranged for a night at the Madrona Manor and a day in downtown Healdsburg. One of the planned activities was a trip to the Healdsburg Museum. Since we were the only visitors present, we had the full attention of the Museum host. We enjoyed the different displays of historic Healdsburg, but what caught my eye was the clock. It was a single weight Regulator style European clock by M. Wlasek, one I was not familiar with. It was not running and I inquired if that was because it had not been wound or if it was not able to run. The attendant said I should contact Holly and gave me her business card.

I emailed Holly and offered to restore the clock as a donation to the museum. It would be the one hundredth clock that I have restored, which also includes the Santa Rosa Courthouse Square E. Howard tower clock in the Empire Building. I gave Holly a brief summary of my qualifications to restore this historic artifact and convinced her that I was not some crackpot who wanted to go at it with a hammer and crowbar.

In mid-November, Museum Intern Lauren Carriere delivered the clock to my shop, where I completely disassembled it and assessed what work was necessary beyond a thorough cleaning. There was a bent pivot on one of the arbors that needed straightening. The pivots are about twenty thousandths of an inch in diameter, so bending them can often lead to their snapping off if extreme care is not exercised. Fortunately, I was able to restore it to its original condition without this occurring. The top cornice was partially falling off, so I reattached that and straightened it out. There were some pieces that needed to be replaced. The hook to latch the door was missing. The clock did not have wall stabilizers which are critical to keep the case parallel to the wall. The connection to the weight was a piece of copper wire that I replaced with something more suitable. And finally, I purchased a key to wind it since there was none. A thorough cleaning of the case with a coat of wax brought back the original luster without hiding the over one hundred years of history this clock has experienced.

The hands need to have the correct amount of tension. There needs to be enough friction so that the movement will drive them without slipping, yet not so tight that it is difficult to adjust the time manually when necessary (which can result in a bent minute hand). I had to replace the original tension washer with a custom fabricated one to accomplish this.

Once it was finally running, I made fine adjustments daily to the pendulum length until the clock was keeping time accurately. The pendulum has a very short span of travel and moves fairly slowly, so it has a rather hypnotic effect. Come to the Museum and see if you agree!
New Home for an Old House!

Talented woodworker Jon Lacaillade outdid himself on last year’s “Architectural Heritage” exhibition, creating scale models of several notable local buildings that exemplified Healdsburg’s major historic architectural styles. One building that Jon meticulously constructed was the Dennes House at 328 Grant Street, which has been owned since 2011 by David and Camille Jones. In 2005, the Museum recognized then-owner Gina Riner for exceptional preservation of the building.

Built by contractor George F. Day in 1913, this residence is one of the finest examples of Craftsman architecture in town. The exterior of the house is distinguished by a full-width recessed front porch under the main gable and tapered columns atop clinker brick pedestals. The interior featured characteristic Craftsman details, such as built-in bookcases, cabinets, firewood boxes and a window seat. Modern amenities in 1913 included a cooler in the kitchen, a pie safe, a chute to the basement and a pass-through between the kitchen and dining room. R.R. “Pat” and Bess Dennes resided there for 60 years.

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Beulah McCaffrey from Judy & Mike Belli
Phyllis & Jim Pedroncelli
Beth & Bob Salisbury
Norma Passarino
Barbara Faye Smith
Vivienne & Joe Rochioli
Wanda Scalione
Jack McMasters from Becky & Phil Bebber

Contributions in Memory of:
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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.

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