Oak Mound Cemetery Fountain Dedication and Cemetery Restoration Celebration

Thursday, October 5

by Jim Dreisback, Project Manager

The time has finally come to officially unveil the refurbished 1876 fountain at the Oak Mound Cemetery, 601 Piper Street. Mark your calendar and join us at the dedication ceremony on Thursday, October 5.

Activities will begin at 4:00 pm, with ample time before the ceremony to explore the cemetery and take in burial sites of some of Healdsburg’s most prominent families. The Heald, Fitch and Matheson sites are just a short walk from the central fountain. The actual dedication will take place at 5:30 pm.

This special occasion will allow us to recognize and formally thank many volunteers and financial supporters who made the fountain a showpiece of the cemetery once again.

There is no charge to attend this event and refreshments will be served. RSVP to the Museum (431-3325) if you plan to attend. Please carpool if you can, since parking is limited.

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<th>Calendar</th>
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<td>HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am</td>
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<td>Museum Research Center</td>
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<td>Oak Mound Cemetery Fountain Dedication,</td>
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<td>Board Meeting, 5:30 pm</td>
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<td>New Exhibition Opens</td>
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History Matters  
by Holly Hoods,  
Executive Director/Curator

In addition to the October 5 cemetery restoration celebration, we have more good news to report: Eagle Scout Gary Munsell worked with our Board Vice President Eric Ziedrich to obtain and install three metal benches in the cemetery. One bench is near the entrance; the other two are in shady spots near the fountain. They are a wonderful addition to the peaceful park-like setting of Healdsburg’s historic graveyard. Thanks to Gary and the Healdsburg scouts for undertaking this beneficial Eagle Scout project.

We are thrilled to announce that the Fred and June MacMurray Foundation has awarded the Museum a $10,000 grant to design a new, contemporary Museum website using Squarespace. Fred MacMurray’s connection to Healdsburg dates back to his purchase of the Westside Road “Twin Valley Ranch” in 1941. It became his family’s home and retreat from Hollywood until his death in 1991. Through the Fred and June MacMurray Foundation, the MacMurrays’ legacy of philanthropy lives on in their hometown Museum today. We are so grateful for the continued support of their Foundation. I look forward to working with my co-workers and consultant Colby Devitt on our new website.

Thanks to Master Gardener Pam Vana-Paxhia for her excellent efforts to beautify and maintain the Museum garden and front planters. They look especially lovely this summer. The highest compliment came when we were recently approached by a local bride-to-be about the possibility of hosting her wedding in the Museum garden. Our long-term lease with the City does not permit this type of use, but the request was flattering nonetheless.

President’s Corner  
by Ronnie Devitt,  
Board President

As a follow-up to last month’s column about fundraising efforts, I can now give you some results. The two Antiques & Arts Fairs netted a total of $7,445. Both events were literally scorcher and space rental income for the August Fair was about half that of the June fair. Since the popular perception is that August is usually hotter than June, these were not surprising results.

The Business Partners initiative got off to a great start with local businesses stepping up to the plate with over $11,000 in Museum contributions to date. We appreciate the generosity of our business supporters. My thanks to Board Vice President Eric Ziedrich for his efforts on this project.

Do you know how you can save money for the Museum? You can opt out of receiving a mailed copy of The Review and receive your copy electronically on one of your internet enabled devices. An email blast goes out on the day a new edition is posted on the Museum’s website to give a heads up to those receiving the newsletter electronically. A couple of clicks will take you to the newsletter. All those great photos will be seen in color and you will get the news before the mailed copies arrive. I love these perks. If enough members do this, we could save a good deal in printing and mailing expenses.

Are you getting email blasts from the Museum announcing upcoming events, important dates, and calls for volunteering opportunities? If not, we may not have your correct email address or in the case of some longtime members, we may not even have an email address on file for you. If you haven’t received an email announcement from us in the last month, please send an email to info@healdsburgmuseum.org. If your name is not readily apparent from the email, be sure to include it. Rest assured that we never sell, rent or share our email lists with any other entity, but we want to keep you informed.

Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members

Andrea Micheli and Family
HMVA News  
by Stan Becker, HMVA Co-chair

It has been a busy summer for our volunteers. A large number of them were busy helping out with Instant Wine Cellar raffle. The History Lives dinner also required many hands to set up the dining room, the silent auction, the reception area and to serve wine. Thanks to all who helped out to make this annual event such a success.

We still need help with the ongoing Thursday inventory work at Kennedy. Please contact the Museum if you would like to join our group. It is interesting work.

Attendance at our monthly HMVA meetings has been falling off. It has been suggested we make the meeting more of a social event. Please let Ann and me know your thoughts.

My co-chair, Ann Howard, is home recuperating from heart surgery. She reports that she is doing fine. Our entire Museum family wishes her a complete and speedy recovery.

IWC Wrap Up  
by Stan Becker, IWC Chair

This year’s Instant Wine Cellar (IWC) fundraiser was a great success. We raised $11,085 from raffle ticket sales.

All of the 2017 prize winners are Healdsburg residents, so the town is flowing in wine. The Grand Prize winner is Catherine Curtis whose 101 bottles of premium Sonoma County wine is valued at $4,760. The second prize of 60 bottles worth $2,520 went to Elise Bulger and the third prize, 48 bottles valued at $1,850, was won by Maria Fattibene.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that made it happen: the follow up callers, the wine picker uppers and, most importantly, our remarkable administrator, Kay Robinson.

Longtime Museum supporter Catherine Curtis was the winner of 101 bottles of wine in the 2017 IWC raffle.

Thanks to Our Latest Donors

Dominic and Leona Tarantino
James Wellington

Join Us Next Year!  
by Jane Bonham, Office Manager

In this issue, we celebrate the success of another celebration of our history, our historical Museum and the community that, in so many ways, has lent its support to assisting us in the execution of our mission.

We owe thanks to the many businesses that donated goods and services to the evening’s cornucopia of auction offerings. With appreciation and congratulations, we launched our many successful auction bidders off to partake in a myriad of enjoyments: from a night in the City to sailing on the Bay; culinary delights offered by generous local restaurants and wineries; and such creative adventures as personalized tours exploring our town’s history.

The cast of characters who enriched the evening included this year’s honorees, Jim and Meredith Dreisback, their families and friends, our many business sponsors, along with our auctioneer and an energetic crew. All this resulted from the efforts of the stalwart, unsung many volunteers who worked alongside the Museum staff. They planned, designed, printed and mailed; selected, collected and artfully displayed; anticipated, ordered and adjusted to change; filled in at the last moment or steadily managed what presented itself to be managed. It takes a committed community, a team of helpers, some truly talented folks, a bit of Museum Magic and voila!

Sound like fun? Watch these pages for the next call for volunteers to begin again!

Thanks to Our Latest Donors

Jane Beeson Smith
History Lives Pioneer Award Event 2017  
*by Holly Hoods*

Museum supporters, friends and family of Jim and Meredith (Leoni) Dreisback enjoyed a festive evening at the History Lives dinner and Instant Wine Cellar raffle drawing on Saturday, September 9, at the Villa Chanticleer.

Our Board President Ronnie Devitt warmly welcomed the guests on behalf of HM&HS.

Past President Jim Brush introduced Stan Becker, Chair of the Instant Wine Cellar raffle, and they drew the winning tickets. The first prize winner, Catherine Curtis, was actually in attendance. Congratulations to Catherine, Elise Bulger and Maria Fattibene.

The centerpiece of the evening was our tribute to the Dreisbacks, honoring their historic roots in the area and community involvement, including their outstanding support of the Museum. Meredith’s great-great grandparents, Elihu and Mary Meredith, settled on their homestead on Westside Road in 1857, the year that Healdsburg was founded. Jim’s ancestor, Henry Dreisback, homesteaded in the Cloverdale area in the 1880s. Colorful posters depicting their local family history, made by Assistant Curator Whitney Hopkins, were also on display.

My speech was followed by gracious thanks and humorous, heartfelt stories from Jim and Meredith. The crowd included extended family and friends of the Dreisbacks who cheered loudly and proudly.

The high spirits continued throughout the evening as talented auctioneer Eric Ziedrich tempted bidders to greater heights of Museum support, egged on by spotters, Ted Calvert and Ralph Tingle. The Live Auction raised $18,575 for the Museum.

The first hour of the event included an appealing Silent Auction and Wine Pull that raised nearly $7,000. These items were beautifully displayed by Pam Vana-Paxhia and Maryl Lindahl. Volunteers Candy Yandell and Penny Ottmer from Summit State Bank assisted with the auction transactions. SSU graduate students Lauren Carriere, Erica Thompson and Ashleigh Sims pitched in to help as well.

Event Co-chair Jim Brush worked with talented local chefs to create a delicious three-course, family-style dinner. Dustin Valette’s chilled farro, heirloom tomato, pesto aioli and burrata salad was the perfect start to the meal. It was followed by a splendid second course, Costata di Manzo Brasato, braised short ribs with creamy polenta and red wine demi, prepared by Shari Sarabi of Baci Café and Wine Bar. Decadent desserts from Downtown Bakery wowed the dining crowd. Our charming wine stewards, Lockie Gillies and Maria Pisenti, took good care of thirsty diners throughout the meal.

Our guests were impressed by the courteous and professional service provided by students from the Windsor High School Vineyard Academy Culinary Program who staffed our event. They were guided by two experienced staff from Baci, Marco and Afa.

Jeanne and Phil Hartlaub, Stan Becker, Rick Tang and Vickie Norris set up the dining room. Susanne Bach created a beautiful cheese table.

Rick Tang’s photos captured the evening’s highlights.

The Museum Board and staff extend their gratitude and appreciation to everyone who helped make our big night such a success.

**With Gratitude from the Dreisbacks**

Jim and Meredith Dreisback sent the following acknowledgement:

What an amazing evening! All of your ideas, hard work, energy and enthusiasm turned September 9th into an “evening to remember” for us. We were very honored to receive the Pioneer Award.

So many people from our working days were there, our Museum friends, neighbors, cousins; some we hadn’t seen for a very long time.

And what about all the community friends of the Museum who so generously supported the Museum with the auction bids? It has been a while since we have been to a live auction; what fun to see the back and forth bidding, all for the benefit of the Museum. We loved it.

Whitney, the photo boards were fantastic...thank you. Jane, thank you for all your work to organize the table seating and handle the reservations. Lauren, you and your friends did a bang-up job helping Pam with the auctions...thank you.

Holly, you did it again...a spot-on introduction. We asked you to introduce us because we knew you would do it with humor and heart. Thank you so much.

The evening was very special to us, especially sharing it with so many wonderful people.

To all of you and all the many volunteers, thank you again.

Meredith and Jim
Our sincere appreciation for everyone’s generous donations.

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Villagio Dental - Wash & Brush Up Salon - Xtravagance Boutique - Eric and Janet Ziedrich
Tributes

The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is grateful for the following memorial and honorary gifts received between December 1, 2016 and September 15, 2017:

In Memory of

Charles Baranzini Jr
Norma Passarino

Helendale Barrett
Mike & Judy Belli

Barbara Baxter
Nancy Cook

Donald Blumenthal
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Erica Frediani
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In Honor of

Phil & Jeanne Leal Hartlaub
Kathleen Karmendy
Lucille Walsh

Jon Lacaillade & Pam Vana-Paxhia
Maryl & Wayne Lindahl
“Doe” Doris Clark recently reached out to the Museum offering to send us an old suitcase of family photographs from the Luce family and their descendants (Coffman, Hiatt and Cummings families). We were very excited to receive the suitcase of photographs – some dating back to the mid-19th century. According to Doe, she was the 5th family member since 1983 to have the suitcase in her possession. Doe was sent the suitcase from Barbara Cummings Bergstrand. Prior to Barbara, the photos had been in the possession of Allan Hiatt, Willis Hiatt and Doris Hiatt.

Barbara Bergstrand is the great-granddaughter of Jirah and Mary (Cottle) Luce. Her grandmother was the sixth child of Jirah and Mary, and the only one of their children born in California.

According to Barbara, Jirah Luce first went out to California and then sent for his family later. The family moved to California in 1858 from Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts. Family lore was that Mary Cottle Luce and her daughter Mary Dunham Luce were the only women on the ship for six months on the trip around the Horn.

The Luce family first settled near Petaluma, and later in Healdsburg. Generations of Luce descendants lived in Healdsburg, including Barbara, who grew up on Tucker Street.

Check out our Facebook page for all the latest Museum news, including even more photos of the 2017 History Lives Pioneer Award Event!

It was Jirah Luce, Jr. who married Roderick Matheson’s daughter, Nina, and operated Oak Mound Cemetery.

The Healdsburg Museum is very pleased to add these significant photographs to our collection. The earliest portrait is this pre-photography, painted portrait of Jirah Luce as a boy. He was born in 1818. The family estimates the portrait was made circa 1830.
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