Langhart Honorees Barry and Kaye Stallard

Will Be Recognized at Annual Event at Castelli Ranch

by Holly Hoods

Save the date and mark your calendars for Saturday, June 4 to attend our Museum’s most unique Langhart event ever! The prestigious Langhart award, named for Museum founder and tireless volunteer Edwin Langhart, recognizes outstanding volunteer service to our Museum. This year our award will be presented to longtime supporters Barry and Kaye Stallard.

The Stallards have an impressive record of dedicated volunteerism, including Barry’s many years as The Review editor and his current service as Assistant Treasurer on our Board of Directors. Kaye not only works as a receptionist in our Museum gallery and behind the scenes on event and mailing committees, but is also our leading receptionist recruiter and trainer.

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### Calendar

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<td>1   HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am Museum Research Center</td>
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<td>1   May Day Festival, Noon to 4:00 pm, Geyserville (see page 5 for details)</td>
<td>4   Langhart Dinner, Castelli Ranch (see page 1 for details)</td>
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<td>4   HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am, Museum Research Center</td>
<td>12  Healdsburg Antiques and Arts Fair, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Plaza</td>
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<td>4   Family History Essay Award Winners’ Reception, 5:00 pm, Museum Gallery (see page 6 for details)</td>
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<td>17  Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Museum Research Center</td>
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History Matters by Holly Hoods, Executive Director/Curator

Longtime Museum volunteer and my dear friend Barbara Baxter was proud to have partnered with the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) to achieve conservation of the forested land on her large ranch off Rockpile Road above Lake Sonoma. At the request of her grandson, Tyler Gleason, I have been helping filmmakers Steve and Ann Dunsky of the US Forest Service. They are producing a video about the FLP acreage within the historic Baxter ranch. According to the FLP program description, their videos illustrate the “scientific, historical, economic and strategic attributes of FLP projects and the program’s landscape level approach to forest conservation.” My goal is to help the videographers highlight this remarkable lady and illustrate her passion for the land and its history.

Holly and Barbara at her ranch, 2007

Over the years I borrowed and scanned lots of Barbara’s photos, took many walks on the ranch with her and recorded an oral history interview with her and her late ex-husband, Tom Baxter. I have shared this material with the Dunksys and will meet them when they come up to the ranch to film. Personally and professionally, my life was immeasurably enriched by my friendship with Barbara. It is an honor to help provide historic context for her legacy.

We recently had the opportunity to welcome a young lady as a new volunteer. Tori Bufano, an independent study student, was lacking only 14 hours of community service hours to graduate from Healdsburg High School. Challenged by the demands of a job and other distractions, Tori had not completed the necessary requirements in time to graduate with her class.

Soon-to-be high school graduate Tori Bufano

Encouraged by her mother of the importance of achieving this milestone, Tori approached the Museum to complete her hours. She was warmly welcomed by Lauren Carriere, our Nelson and Jane Weller graduate student intern from Sonoma State University. Lauren took Tori under her wing as an assistant to record tombstone information in the cemetery. Lauren’s kindness was rewarded with dedicated enthusiasm and excellent, focused work from Tori. As she completed her hours, Tori won our hearts as she told us she would be the first person in her family to earn a high school diploma. I told her that she was clearly smart and talented and that she might even think about another diploma. She beamed and said, “Maybe I could even go for one more diploma after that…like Lauren!” We couldn’t be prouder.

HMVA News by Ann Howard, HMVA Coordinator

On March 22, twenty-four of our forty-one receptionists were treated to an ice cream social in the Museum Gallery hosted by the staff and me. Local award-winning Thrifty vanilla was purchased at Rite Aid Drug Store as suggested by Margaret Dean and Pat McCracken. Maggie Bates created the colorful invitation of an ice cream cone; Whitney Hopkins and Cathy Anderson scooped; and each of us had all the prerequisite toppings from which to choose. We were able to recreate our own wonderful, gooey-sweet sundae-favorites by memory from long ago at our local soda fountains.

As each receptionist introduced themselves, I asked when they started volunteering at the desk. The span ranged from just two months to 1981 when Norma Passarino began at the Museum’s first
location down the street. Norma also brought a 1982 one page roster with her name on it!

Catherine Curtis remembered working with Museum founder Ed Langhart.

Our longtime member and original docent Darla Budworth helped with the fundraising effort in the 1980s to restore the old library and was seated at the receptionists’ desk to greet the first visitors when the new Healdsburg Museum doors opened in 1990.

On May 1 while the AAUW hosts the Healdsburg Homes Tour, I will be displaying frames of old photographs at the 40th anniversary of the revived May Day Festival in the Hoffman Picnic Grounds north of Geyserville from noon to 4:00 pm.

To Dream the (Seemingly) Impossible Dream… by Jane Bonham, Office Manager

To watch that dream become a reality is nothing short of awesome. Having accessible, climate-controlled storage in a single site for the Museum collection was an elusive goal for many years. Those of you who have followed the newsletter stories for the past couple of months know that the time is now, the lease is in hand and the facility is nearly ready to receive the first of many truckloads of artifacts.

For those who are new to the tale, a summary: a storage unit almost twice the size of our current storage spaces combined has been found, insulated and is being equipped with a heating and air conditioning system. At the same time, a task force of organized thinkers and number crunchers was hard at work learning the dimensions of our varied collection in order to make informed choices for the new shelving and other storage containers that are needed to populate this gorgeous interior. Team members include the staff and volunteers Jim Brush, Stan Becker, Carol Peterson, Ann Howard and Jim and Meredith Dreisback.

As a member of that hearty team, let me pause here to share my opinion that success is in the details! Certainly the choice of shelving is relatively straightforward; still there are many decisions to be made. Some items require Museum-tailored solutions. For example, the many quilts and rugs in the collection are wound on large rolls at the Museum in a built-in cabinet. In the storage solutions marketplace, similar rolls may be found in drawers, on cantilevered racks, in shallow cabinets with the rolls at the outer edge, or in deeper cabinets with the rolls tucked back away from the edge (our favorite option). Art pieces may stand, traditionally, each to its own cubby; but the modern option is wire mesh built on free-standing frames or simply attached to the wall (our choice). What an education!

SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE12, 2016
ANTIQUES AND ARTS FAIR
HEALDSBURG PLAZA
9am to 4 pm

Society for CA Archivists Conference by Holly Hoods

Thanks to Ann and Edson Howard for sponsoring my attendance of the Society of California Archivists annual general meeting, which was held in April in Santa Rosa. An estimated group of 300 professionals who work in libraries, historical societies and archives gathered to network, attend presentations, meetings and workshops.

I enjoyed meeting colleagues from all over the state and hearing about their challenges and efforts to provide better preservation of and access to their archives. People were excited to learn of our recent efforts to digitize Healdsburg’s historic newspapers.

Since we are currently reorganizing our Museum collections storage facilities, I relished the opportunity to take Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library manager Katherine Rinehart’s tour of the archives of the Charles Shultz Museum, the Special Collections department of the Schulz Library at Sonoma State University and the institutional archives of Santa Rosa Junior College. We are striving to set up our Museum’s new collections facility using the best practices for stewardship, so it was gratifying to see that we are definitely headed in the right direction.

Thanks to Our Latest Annual Appeal Donors

James K Baskin of Phelps-Baskin Investment Group, Inc.
John & Mary Crockenberg
David & Carla Ramey of Ramey Wine Cellars
Lois Tolles, Esq.
With No Place to Call Home

This month our Museum is honored to be a participating sponsor of an inspiring multimedia art exhibit, “With No Place to Call Home: Perspectives on Homelessness.” It will be presented by North Sonoma County Services (NSCS) at the Paul Mahder Gallery. With No Place to Call Home: Perspectives on Homelessness speaks to the experiences and suffering of Healdsburg’s homeless population.

Seen through the creative expressions of a mural, a documentary film, paintings, drawings, poetry and ceramics by students from six Healdsburg schools, this ensemble hopes not only to give a voice to the homeless, but to transform public attitudes and perceptions and inspire compassionate action. The exhibit reveals the impact of homelessness and how being homeless compromises a person’s dignity and health. It challenges all of us to imagine the hopelessness, indignity and desperation of homelessness.

The exhibit will be in place May 14 to 26 at the Paul Mahder Gallery, 222 Healdsburg Ave. An opening reception will also be held there on May 14, 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm. In addition Healdsburg High School student Marcus Cano’s documentary film will be screened on May 20 and 21 at 7:30 pm. Admission is free.

NSCS is a nonprofit that exists to help people struggling with homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless to rebuild their lives and become integrated, contributing members of our community. For additional information, please check www.NorthSonomaCountyServices.com or call 707-433-6161.

We encourage you to attend this moving and thought-provoking exhibit.

Oak Mound Cemetery Project Update

by Jim Dreisback

The Oak Mound Cemetery restoration is moving ahead. We have had lots of activity as I attempt to keep several plates spinning at once!

This photo represents the kick-off of our fountain restoration efforts! Scott Cavallo of the Welding Shop is dismantling the fountain so he can start the needed repairs and have it refinished. Our thanks to Scott and to Joe Lickey of Denny’s Electric for his talents and crane truck which made the process possible.

We just finished another cleanup day with 23 workers whose labor was loaned by the farming community; removed another 160+ yards of duff and debris. Thanks to the following companies: Clendenen Vineyard Management, Grace Vineyard Management, Hopkins Vineyards, Petersen Land Management, Redwood Empire Vineyard Management, Robert Young Vineyards, Rochioli...
Vineyards, Syar Family Vineyards, and Tri-Valley Vineyard Management. Big Johns Market supplied lunch for the workers and The Ratto Group donated the debris boxes. I also want to thank my volunteers that day: Tim Tesconi and Meredith Dreisback.

The Kiwanis Club and Healdsburg High School Key Club were on site April 23 to work on the maintenance of the sections they have adopted.

Work also continues on the cemetery map that will be placed in the newly constructed kiosk. When complete, it will be located at the entrance to the cemetery, making it easy for visitors to locate the gravesites they are looking for. Thank you to Kay Robinson and Fran Schierenbeck for all their efforts in getting this project underway.

Be sure to take a few minutes to visit the Oak Mound Cemetery and see firsthand all that has been accomplished to date.

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**Thanks to Our Latest Cemetery Restoration Project Donors**

Lawrence & Carmen Kilcullen
Marie Butler & Richard Pellegrini
George Wright

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**Geyerville’s May Day Festival**

*by Ann Howard*

The first May Day picnic was held in Geyerville in 1921 in the Bosworth/Hoffman Grove north of town for all of the grammar school children in the area, including upper Dry Creek Valley. Several thousand people attended.

In 1925, the event was used to raise money to build the first fire truck in Geyerville. The Model A chassis was purchased in about 1931 and the fire truck was built at Augustus Lampson & Sons Garage by a team of local men. That fire truck would later help to save the town’s business district in the dreadful fire of October, 1935.

In 1930, Josephine Brignole, age 14, was crowned Queen of the May Day Festival. The queen and her court travelled to San Francisco to visit San Francisco Mayor James Rolph who presented her with a huge bouquet of roses in every color. Healdsburg area businesses were closed to allow their owners and patrons to attend.

Floats were built for the parade in Geyerville. Children, dressed in costumes, danced and wrapped ribbons around the Maypole.

With the advent of the Depression and World War II, there were no May Day celebrations after 1931 until the tradition was revived in 1976. Joe Janusenski of Geyerville shaped a copper crown for the May Queen. Lee Hepper, age 14, was crowned queen by 81-year-old Obed Bosworth who attended the first May Day picnics in the 1920s.

The May Day Festival has always been an opportunity for this small community to gather and celebrate. In the late 1970s and early 1980s firefighters had water fights, sprayed the crowd and raised money for new equipment. Cake walks, quilt raffles and pony rides took place. Grape box derby cars rattled down Chianti Road from Hoffman Grove.

In 2002, the original May pole from the 1920s was located, given a fresh coat of white paint and has since served as the center post for the May Pole Dance at the Hoffman Picnic Grounds.

Today children from Geyerville Elementary School dance in and out around the pole, weaving the long pastel ribbons. A climbing wall, egg races, music, Ballet Folklorico dance performances, a Kiwanis Rib Cook-Off, ethnic food and local wines and beer are enjoyed. As always, all proceeds go to benefit local organizations.

Come and join the fun on Sunday, May 1, from noon to 4:00 pm at the Hoffman Picnic Grounds north on Geyerville Avenue near the railroad tracks.

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**Thanks to Our Latest Donors**

Jan Goodrich
Ann & Edson Howard
**Family History Essay Challenge**  
*by Phyllis Chiosso Liu*

The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is pleased to announce this year’s winning essays from our local 2nd to 8th grade historians. These young writers met the challenge by interviewing relatives to discover an interesting event in their family history and writing an essay about it.

We received almost 200 entries from various local schools. A committee of retired educators (Carol Adams, Carol Peterson and me) and Museum staff (Holly and Whitney) read each one and scored them using a rubric based on the California writing standards. The winning essays were selected from the top scores. There are 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention places for each of the three age categories. The winning writers will receive a beautiful certificate designed by our own Maggie Bates, along with a cash prize from $10 to $25.

We will host the young writers at a reception on Wednesday, May 4 at 5:00 pm when the awards will be presented and the winners will have an opportunity to read their essays out loud.

Their essays will also be on display at the Museum for a few weeks for the enjoyment of friends, family and visitors.

**2016 Family History Essay Award Winners**

**2nd / 3rd Grades**
1st Hugo Traverso  
2nd Ross Fitzpatrick  
3rd Morgan Puckett  
HM Sadie MacVicar, Spenser Jacobs

**4th / 5th Grades**
1st Jacob Hammer  
2nd Gracie Trenam  
3rd Victoria Gartner  
HM Jake Danoff, Alexandra Moore

**6th – 8th Grades**
1st Lucas Olney  
2nd Erin O’Mara  
3rd Bradley Hulbert  
HM Anton Stetson

**Contributions in Memory of:**

*Josephine Davis* - from Jack & Doreen Zanzi  
*Edward Kozel, Sr.* - from Jack & Doreen Zanzi  
*Shirley Kirkpatrick* - from Jack & Doreen Zanzi  
*Jean Campbell* - from Jack & Doreen Zanzi  
*Peggy Haley Ziganti* - from Jack & Doreen Zanzi

**Contributions in Memory of:**

*Ruby Wasson* - from Peggy Decker  
*Alma Buchignani* - from Richard & Bonnie Pitkin  
*Inez Ferrari* - from Joe & Vivienne Rochioli  
*Bob & Geoffrey Rawlins* for the Endowment Fund - from Peggy Rawlins

**Langhart Honorees… (cont’d from page 1)**

We are very excited that this year’s event will be hosted by the Steve and Glenda Castelli family at the spectacular Castelli Ranch on Grapevine Lane off Eastside Road. The Castellis have the most incredible collections stored in an array of dedicated garages and outbuildings. One building houses more than thirty collectible vehicles, a restored travel trailer and a race car that Steve has raced all over the United States. The “petroleum” building displays vintage vehicles, gas pumps, oil cans and signs from when gas was 20 cents per gallon. Inside the Castelli home is a treasure trove of neon signs, a soda fountain, antique toys, bikes, pedal cars, artwork, vintage quilts, dolls and one-room schoolhouse mementos.

We will offer special guided tours of the Castelli collections for two hours before the evening event. The dinner menu will feature a sumptuous repast of locally produced meats, cheeses and fresh produce with homemade fruit cobbler for dessert. Delicious Sonoma County wines from the Museum’s cellar will be served.

Tickets for the dinner and event are $80 per person. Event invitations will be mailed shortly. Special guest invitations will be sent to Museum volunteers who worked 50 hours or more in 2015. Attendance will be limited to 200 people.

Please plan to join us for an unforgettable event.

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**Welcome Our Newest HM&HS Members**

Valary Johannsen Bloom  
Maya DeRosa  
Greg & Lorri Herrick  
Nicolie Roscoe Loustau  
Kristina Motchar  
Katherine Rinehart  
Priscilla Schlag
History Rediscovered

I love hearing from people who discover the Museum’s online photo collection for the first time and are enthusiastic about our historic resources. It’s fun to engage with people and discover their ties to Healdsburg’s history.

I recently received a photo order from Rand LeBaron in Fairfield, CA for a 1930s photo of LeBaron Creamery. At the time it was located on the Plaza at the northwest corner of Center and Powell (now Plaza) Streets in the former bank building. The creamery was owned by Rand’s great-grandfather, Henry “Hank” LeBaron.

Rand LeBaron wrote:

*I cannot fully explain my feelings when I came across these wonderful pictures of a time that I have only heard of through stories. It was beyond excitement. My grandfather Jim LeBaron just recently passed which is the reason for my research. I was floored to also see photographs of both him and his father (not to mention his cousins, aunts, uncles etc.). I would like to put together a photo album to share with the rest of the LeBaron family. Thank you so much for making this available to the public.*

According to the Healdsburg Enterprise, after extensive remodeling, the LeBaron Creamery, a “modern dairy and ice cream plant” opened in May of 1932. Butter, milk, cream, cottage cheese, eggs, ice cream and buttermilk were sold there. The latest dairy equipment was installed, including two pasteurizers, milk and cream aerators, butter churns, automatic milk bottler, cheese vat and viscolizer. The *Sotoyome Scimitar* reported in 1936 that the LeBaron Creamery moved to West Street (now Healdsburg Avenue) where it shared a building with the Cummings auto and refrigerator sales. In 1940, Hank LeBaron sold the creamery to George Kramer.

In my email exchange with Rand LeBaron, I mentioned that my grandparents bought our family farm from James LeBaron in 1953. It turned out that James LeBaron was the brother of Rand’s great-grandfather Hank LeBaron who owned the LeBaron Creamery. I love all the connections made at the Museum. It’s great to help others discover their family’s history while also discovering my own.
Our Sincere Appreciation to Our Generous Sponsors

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