HM&HS Annual Membership Meeting
January 15, 2015
by Ann Howard

It’s time again to gather and hear about what has been accomplished in the past year 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 to receive potluck dishes by the serving crew. The social hour begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. We do not have access to a kitchen, so wrap your hot dishes well. Be sure to include a serving utensil for your hot dish or salad.

Please bring your own “place setting” of plate and eating utensils. We will provide wine glasses.

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

We will have our 5th Annual Brown Bag Raffle: 1 ticket $5, 5 tickets for $20. If you have interesting items to contribute, you may bring them in advance to the Museum or to the event. Please let me know beforehand what you will be donating.

Following dinner we will elect our new officers and directors for 2015-2016 term, learn which buildings the Historic Homes Committee has chosen to honor and hear reports from our Board President and Curator.

We need assistance in three areas: 1) decorate the tables at 1:00 pm; 2) help at the buffet table with serving; and 3) help with clean-up at the end of the meeting. Please call or email me (473-9803, alhoward@alhoward.org) to let me know how you would like to help.

We look forward to seeing you there!

POT LUCK ASSIGNMENTS
Last Names A to L - Hot Dish or Casserole
Last Names M to Z - Salad or Cold Dish
Everyone - Serving utensil for your dish and your own place setting of plate and eating utensils.

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History Matters  
**by Holly Hoods, Curator**

After a tremendous opening despite the rain, our “All Aboard for Toyland” exhibit has continued to draw many visitors to the Museum. We have enjoyed hosting many local families and visiting tourists, as well as elementary school classes, a Cub Scout troop and several senior living communities from throughout Sonoma County. One highlight for everyone has been the O scale Lionel model train that runs on a track around an elaborate miniature village, complete with replica of the Healdsburg Railroad depot and old Roma Winery. Wayne Padd, who set up and loaned the model railroad and train, has even been on hand to graciously answer questions and run the train for the fascinated Museum guests. A more contemporary model train, donated by Bob Rawlins, is on hand for (supervised) kids to operate themselves. On the west side of the gallery, the “If the Plaza Could Speak…” exhibit has been extended through the rest of this exhibit period. We plan to keep the 1886 replica Plaza created for the Museum by talented volunteers Jon Lacaillade and Maggie Bates on display in 2015. Maggie and Jon added holiday touches to the 1886 Plaza model, including a snowstorm, snowman, bundled-up children and adults, Santa Claus and sleigh. Be sure to see the exhibit before it closes on January 4, 2015.

Historic research has been busier than ever. I helped consultant Vicki Beard from Tom Origer and Associates locate historical information and photos of the former Isabelle Simi House at 68 Front Street. A Santa Rosa attorney hired us to spend up to five hours in our database researching names in a chain of title for a northern Sonoma County property dispute. Clark Mason from the *Press Democrat* contacted me to learn more about Pine Flat for an article about Joe Pelanconi’s excellent book on the topic. Kimberly Kaido-Alvarez, working on an article for *Discoveries* Magazine, sought information on the history of the Grange. Michael and Karen Miller continue to research the house history of Tucker Street to create a possible new historic district. Currently Matheson Street and Johnson Street are the only streets protected by historic district overlay zoning.

HMVA News  
**by Ann Howard**

If I were to list all of this year’s accomplishments, they would fill the *Review*. Most importantly, with Whitney Hopkins as Assistant Curator and Jane Bonham as Office Manager, Holly has more time to focus on research, writing, exhibits and outreach, etc. Holly now works Monday through Friday. Whitney and Jane’s hours will be increased to 24 hours a week in January.

With Healdsburg now a well-publicized destination, the Museum has visitors from far and wide to view our exceptional exhibits. Jon Lacaillade’s skill with recycled wood to create the scale model of the Plaza and Maggie’s delicate and detailed hand work to create the felted figures in the Plaza scene is truly remarkable. You must see how she dressed all of them for winter!

The Museum will close in January for some much needed renovations in the gallery level. The first phase on the Fitch Street entryway is now complete with new paint, carpet and four vertical display cases with glass doors and shelves were built into the interior windows.

Our 125 loyal volunteers serve in many capacities: as board members, receptionists, committee chairs, event planners, outreach to the schools and the community, exhibit planning and installation, to name a few – the list of committees fills an entire page. Please keep track of all of your hours and enter them in the computer (or ask for help) in the office. I cannot stress this enough. The receptionists are now asked to keep track from where our visitors come, if even just a zip code. We need this information for grant writing.

As my fifth year as HMVA Coordinator comes to a close, I want to thank each and every one of you for all that you do to help the Museum operations run smoothly.

Don’t hesitate to call or email me with any question, concern, or suggestion. It is rewarding to be a part of warm and welcoming village within the larger community of Healdsburg.

Just a Few Days Left!  
“All Aboard for Toyland” Exhibit Closes January 4, 2015

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**Thank You to Our Latest Donors**

Glenn Grigg  
Eric Drew Healdsburg Sotheby’s  
Mitchel Haake  
Pamela Vana-Paxhia
Wishes and Wants  
by Jane Bonham

I wish you all a Happy New Year and want to thank you in advance for your patience as the remodeling gets underway in the upstairs exhibit gallery.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the museum in what was once a Carnegie Library. In the 1990 Summer issue of the Russian River Recorder, Phillip J. Smith, then-President of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society, looked back on the grand opening and wrote: “On May Day, 1990, the Carnegie Library building became the museum. A lot of hard work and donated hours by Society members helped to achieve this goal; it’s an accomplishment we can be proud of. Of course, with the new facility, the Society’s obligations will not diminish. We have docent and gift shop duties to perform. However, I have no doubt that we will continue to contribute hard work and hours.” Thankfully, the work to be completed to our exhibit hall now is much less than the work to set up the building as a museum in 1990!

Mr. Smith continues with a caution that the success of the museum also takes money, and reminds his readers of the planned events: dinner hosted at Madrona Manor, a popcorn/snowcone booth at the annual Wine Fest on the Healdsburg Plaza and the major fundraiser, the Zinfandel Hop at the Hop Kiln Winery co-sponsored with the Mendocino Brewery.

It’s rather wonderful to read about the enthusiasm and dedication of those who saved this historic edifice and built within it the Museum we enjoy today. I see reflected in their determination and vision the sustained efforts of like-minded individuals through the intervening years, matched today by our own community of HM&HS members and volunteers. Rather wonderful, indeed.

Museum to Close for Renovation

The Healdsburg Museum will close on January 5th to complete some much needed interior improvements in the gallery.

We will re-open in February with a new exhibit, “Fitch Mountain Everlasting.”

The Museum in the Classroom 
by Phyllis Chiosso Liu and Carol Adams

After three years of researching, preparing materials and piloting the program, we have officially launched the Museum in the Classroom program in the Healdsburg Schools. We bring a slide show, a whole class nature activity and two hands-on centers into third grade classrooms. The goal is to enhance student awareness of the history of the first inhabitants of our town - the Pomo people.

Since November, we have visited St. John’s, Healdsburg Charter and Fitch Mountain Schools. We also have a few more presentations scheduled after the winter break.

The students have been enthusiastic and engaged and the teachers have seemed to appreciate the information, activities and follow up materials that we leave with them to further explore the history of the Pomo.

As retired elementary school teachers, it has been a lot of fun for us to be back in the classroom. We hope by bringing the a bit of the Museum into classrooms we will encourage the teachers to bring their students to the Museum and students to visit the Museum with their families.

Welcome Our Newest Members
Mitchel Haake
Della Faloni
Tom Origer & Associates
Robert Scavullo
Ron & Donna Vane

Audio Tours and Virtual Exhibits

Elizabeth Holmes and Fred Campbell have produced an audio tour to accompany “If the Plaza Could Speak…” In addition to recorded segments about the displays, this audio tour features first-person experiences and observations about the Plaza from the 1970s to the present. Elizabeth recorded oral history interviews with former Healdsburg Planning Commissioner/Mayor Carla Howell, former Police Officer/Mayor Gary Plass and former Healdsburg Tribune Editor Gabriel Fraire. Still active in the community today, respectively, as Chamber of Commerce Director, City Councilman and Healdsburg Literary Laureate, their perspectives bring the recent history to life.

The audio tour is available at the Museum now and will eventually be accessible online as part of a virtual exhibit on our website.

Save the Date!
New Exhibit Opening Reception
February 4, 2015
Conservation Update  by Holly Hoods

We are pleased to report that the conservation work on the Sotoyome Market painting has been completed and that the artwork will soon be reinstalled in the Museum gallery.

Painted by local artist William Monmonier, this huge colorful oil painting on canvas hung for generations above the meat counter in Healdsburg’s pioneer butcher shop, the Sotoyome Market. The painting was commissioned by the enterprising John D. Hassett in 1878.

The Museum contracted the professional services of art conservator Niccolo Caldararo of Conservation Art Service to thoroughly clean, repair and inpaint the locally historic painting. (Niccolo has provided expert consultation on a variety of matters to the Healdsburg Museum since the early 1990s.)

The conservation work was funded entirely through generous donations of Museum patrons Bob Rawlins, Bruce and Carmen Selfridge, Frank Zak, Peachie and Norm Dunlavy, Barry and Kaye Stallard, Elise Bulger, Anna Darden, Kay and Ted Robinson, Pam Vana-Paxhia and Jon Lacaillade, Jim Brush and Ken and Diane Wilson.

Before any repairs could be made, Niccolo undertook a thorough overall cleaning of the painting. The cleaning is done with cotton balls and swabs. This was a huge challenge, since the painting measured 14.25’ x 4.9’ in size and had spent some years under a porch, plus at least a decade in a barn. The front was grimy, but the bottom had actually accumulated mud and silt. There were multiple gashes and numerous holes and tears (some possibly bullet holes!) marring the surface of the painting. Repairs to the canvas were painstakingly made with Belgian linen, BEVA and gesso. This left the painting with visible white sections wherever the gesso was used.

After the cleaning and repairing the canvas, Niccolo returned on a second visit to inpaint the repairs to make them less visible.

The double wooden frame, made of Douglas fir and redwood, was also dirty and faded. It was carefully removed and refreshed by talented woodworker, Jon Lacaillade.

The entire painting now looks brighter and revitalized, yet it retains its rustic, cracked historic patina. When the Museum reopens in February, the painting will have been reinstalled. We will also have a separate reception to hear more about the restoration from Niccolo Caldararo in mid-February.

Newspaper Digitization Project Update

Fundraising for our newspaper digitization project continues. For those who have not heard, we are digitizing our microfilms of Healdsburg’s historic newspapers, and putting them online with the California Digital Newspaper Collection for all to freely access and search. At 40 cents per page for scanning and optical character recognition conversion to enable searching, this task is not inexpensive.

Our fundraising goal is $40,000. To date, we have raised nearly $25,000. Thank you to our generous supporters! These donations will fund the digitization of Russian River Flag, Healdsburg Enterprise, Sotoyome Scimitar, and Sonoma County Tribune. These four newspapers, a total of 53 reels of microfilm, are currently at the scanners. We hope to have them online with the California Digital Newspaper Collection by spring of 2015.

Next in line for scanning, as soon as funds are raised, are Healdsburg Tribune, Democratic Standard and Sotoyome Sun newspapers. We hope you will consider contributing to this important project.

Thank You to Our Latest Donors
Marta Starr  Phyllis Chiosso Liu  Holbrook Mitchell  Tim Muller Family  Sheila Menzies and Joseph Taylor  Paul and Dixie Duffey

Thank You, De Andersen  by Holly Hoods

De Andersen has announced her retirement after many years of faithful volunteer service to the Museum. I still remember her active involvement with the Museum and friendly welcome when I was first hired in 1996 as a Curatorial Assistant. Ten years later, in 2006, the Museum recognized De’s many contributions with the Langhart Award for outstanding volunteer commitment. Now, another ten years later, De will retire from the Museum. She has certainly earned a rest! I salute De (and her husband Bill) for their stalwart support, good ideas and ongoing friendship to the Museum.

“Thank you” just doesn’t say enough.
Collections Corner by Whitney Hopkins

Our collection of historic Healdsburg newspapers and unique photos of past Healdsburg residents are a big draw for researchers. Recently, Mitchel Haake and his wife came up from their home in Belmont to learn more about Electa (also written as “Electra”) Kennedy, from whom Mitchel is descended. In taking the time to assist them, I learned of a past Healdsburg celebrity – by virtue of her age!

In 1915, when she passed away at age 105, centenarians were highly unusual. In the final years of her life, “Grandma” Electa Kennedy’s story was shared in newspapers across the United States. In 1911, the *Washington Post* reported that courtesy of California’s universal suffrage, when she registered to vote at age 101, she was “the oldest new woman.” On Election Day, Mrs. Kennedy reportedly walked to the polling booth, walked home and then cooked dinner. She was also mentioned in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1912 as a “living centenarian” who, on her 102nd birthday, baked and decorated her own cake (see photo). She was the oldest member in the world of the Order of the Eastern Star. Her birthday parties were described in detail by the Healdsburg newspapers.

Born January 29, 1810, in Derby, Vermont, one of eleven children, to farming parents, Electa was taught all of the traditional skills, such as spinning, knitting and weaving. At age 16, she became a schoolteacher and taught until her marriage in 1836 to James Kennedy in Nashua, NH. The couple moved to Lowell, Mass. where their two sons, Charles and George, were born.

As a young woman, Electa had poor health and was diagnosed with consumption. She was ordered by a doctor to move to a better climate, so in 1843 her husband took a job as superintendent of a cotton mill in Mexico. Leaving their two young sons with her parents in New York, Electa and James traveled by mule and then boat to Mexico. The outbreak of the Mexican War soon after their arrival forced them to leave Mexico. Following another arduous journey, they reconnected with their children on the East Coast.

In 1852, the Kennedy family traveled across the plains in a covered wagon, where they settled in Gold Country. Electa kept a hotel and cooked for the miners in Michigan Bluff, in Placer County, California. Due to a difficult economy, the family left the mines and became farmers on a ranch near Windsor in 1854. The Kennedy family later lived in Cloverdale, Santa Rosa and Healdsburg.

Although her husband died in 1880, Electa lived on for 35 years until she passed away at 105 in 1915 in Healdsburg. At the time of her death, she was considered by the press to be one of the world’s oldest people.

Board of Directors: Stan Becker (Past President), Ted Calvert (Past President), Jim Brush (Vice-President), Phyllis Chiosso Liu (Recording Secretary), Phil Hartlaub (Treasurer), Barry Stallard (Assistant. Treasurer), Rawleigh Fjeld, Louise Fowler, Sally Freelen, Lockie Gillies, Ann Howard, Jeanne Leal-Hartlaub, Kent Mitchell, Larry Orr, Ken Spadoni (Directors)

The mission of the Healdsburg Museum and 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 Dues:
- Centennial Circle: $1000 Patron: $500 Sponsor: $250 Gold: $100
- Business Premier: $500 Business: $100
- Family (2 or more): $50 Individual: $30 Educator: $25 Student: $15

Newsletter Editor: Pamela Vana-Paxhia, Printing: Amoruso