An Evening at the Healdsburg Museum

Special Event Celebrating Fitch Mountain - “The Crown Jewel of Healdsburg”

Wednesday, April 22nd, 5:30 to 7:00pm

You are invited to an evening at the Healdsburg Museum in conjunction with our current exhibit, “Fitch Mountain Everlasting.” The Museum will be open to members to peruse the exhibit, enjoy appetizers and a glass of wine and listen to local historian Ted Calvert discuss “Healdsburg’s Backyard Wilderness.” Ted is the author of two popular books, A Sense of Place: Legacy of Fitch Mountain and Healdsburg Chronicles. His presentation will highlight the history and many uses from past to present of this “crown jewel” of Healdsburg.

This special event will be free to Museum members. The general public is invited to attend for $10 per person. The fee, however, will be refunded with the purchase of a membership that evening.

Bring a friend and enjoy an evening at the Museum!

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Healdsburg Museum
221 Matheson Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Telephone 707 431 3325
Fax 707 473 4471
www.healdsburgmuseum.org
info@healdsburgmuseum.org

Museum Hours:
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday – Sunday
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY

Research Center
open by appointment
Thursday – Saturday
History Matters

by Holly Hoods, Curator

The Museum hosted an enthusiastic crowd March 1st to welcome the reinstallation of the Sotoyome Market painting, now back on display over the stairs. I talked about the history of the painting; and we all enjoyed an informative presentation by Niccolo Caldararo, the art conservator who worked to clean, repair and inpaint the 1878 painting. He described the significant and unique challenges to this conservation project and thanked the donors and Museum volunteers who participated. Niccolo was pleased to see so much community support and interest. He and I plan to collaborate on a journal article about the project.

The painting is also enjoying new life and exposure beyond the Museum walls. Restaurateur/chef Dustin Vallette is featuring a colorful, life-sized giclée (photograph printed on canvas) of the Sotoyome Market painting in his new restaurant, Vallette. Designer Myra Hoefer and assistant Susanne Bach brought in photographer John Younglove to photograph the painting and create a handsome reproduction for Vallette. They also have a few new ideas for fundraising.

I have been busy researching houses for the spring AAUW Healdsburg Homes Tour. This year’s assemblage boasts a fine assortment of architectural styles with intriguing house histories. Tickets for the May 3rd event are available for sale online at www.healdsburgaauw.com and at the Museum gift shop. Funds from this AAUW event benefit local education and support scholarship programs for girls and women.

Other recent research has included a site visit to Don Dana’s property at 615 Bailhache Ave. I also assisted a visiting scholar who is writing about small towns in America. “How Healdsburg ‘reinvented’ itself” was part of his research inquiry.

I shared historic photos of the 1921 Healdsburg Avenue (Memorial) Bridge with Senior Engineer Mario Landeros from Public Works. Mario is heading the City’s restoration project. He was delighted to closely examine these photos. Mario was also excited to discover that the Museum has been storing one of the original engraved dedication tablets once mounted next to the bridge. I offered to return it to the city for reinstallation.

President’s Corner

by Jim Brush, Board President

I’m proud to announce that the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society is sponsoring a major vegetation clean-up project in the non-endowment area of the Oak Mound Cemetery. As I’m sure many of you already know, this project is long overdue. As caretakers of our local history, it is also an appropriate venture for the Museum.

Holly and I recently walked the property for about three hours and it is a truly amazing place. Many of the gravesites are over 100 years old and include most of our founding fathers and early settlers. I can envision what the cemetery could look like if the vegetation was controlled and the space was opened back up.

This project is being led by Jim Dreisback, a lifetime Healdsburg resident and longtime Museum volunteer. Jim has already done a significant amount of work putting a plan in place.

Phase I will include a crew of professional vineyard workers and the appropriate equipment to begin clearing out much of the overgrown vegetation. This portion is estimated to take at least 400 work hours. It will be followed up with extensive professional tree trimming and removal of fallen and dead trees and limbs. The project will also include a regular maintenance effort to keep these areas in shape.

We also plan to prepare maps of the lots along with some appropriate directional signage to help visitors navigate the area. It will be a wonderful place to visit your loved ones or someone who may be of special interest to you.

We hope to raise $100,000 in a separate fund. Please contact me or Holly if you or someone you know would like to help support this project.

Donations may be sent to "Oak Mound Cemetery Project" c/o HM&HS, PO Box 952, Healdsburg, CA 95448.

Welcome Our Newest Members

Joan Prati Brewerton
Bruce Etchell
Patrick Mukaida family
HMVA News  by Ann Howard, HMVA Coordinator

On March 4th, we had our first HMVA meeting of 2015 to catch up on all the news. The minutes from our sessions are two and a half pages long!

On February 7th, our Board of Directors and staff participated in a successful strategic planning meeting at DeLorimier Winery.

On March 1st, approximately 60 Museum members and guests were treated to an interesting presentation by art conservator Niccolo Calderaro. He outlined the complex process of cleaning and restoring the Sotoyome Market painting. An accumulation of mud and silt and patching the various tears, some rendered by a fork lift and bullet holes presented Niccolo with some difficult challenges. He praised Jon Lacaillade and Pam Vana-Paxhia as equal to professional assistants with whom he has worked. Niccolo hopes to collaborate with our staff on a paper describing the restoration.

The Museum’s fundraising efforts and participation in the California Newspaper Digitization Project is very exciting. I look forward to eventually being able to browse our local newspapers from my own computer, even at 3:00 a.m. if I wish, just like our 19,000 photographs available on our website.

Stan Becker recently coordinated the creation and installation of two new plaques in the lower hallway. One is for the Matheson and Luce families; the other is for our research room. Thank you to our donors and longtime supporters.

Kay Robinson and Diane Carriger have been wrestling the oversized maps and papers in the map drawers, inserting each into protective sleeves, creating an inventory, cataloging and labeling. To date, they have inventoried 129 items in the first three drawers of ten. Thank you!

There are also changes and milestones among our volunteers. Jim Charlton has joined our receptionists at the desk. Darla Budworth celebrates 25 years as docent. Norma Passarino begins her 33rd year as a volunteer and receptionist. De Anderson recently retired after many years as a receptionist.

As “Mr. Fixit” and so much more for many years, Bob Rawlins continues his medical treatments. Bob has been my mentor for the past ten years and I extend my deep appreciation for his advice and offer my best wishes to him.

Wishes and Wants  by Jane Bonham, Office Manager

The name of this column should be “Nuts and Bolts” because I have a number of small items to bring up. Perhaps this is the result of our early spring weather that stirs childhood memories of seasonal house cleaning. Perhaps it is the number of little notes in my “to do” file. In any event, I write of odds and ends this month.

The post office routinely returns a number of items to the Museum for which there is a charge: almost two bits for a letter and just shy of two dollars for a returned Review – even more for the quarterly combo with the Recorder. “Small change” that can add up rather quickly with over six hundred Museum members who enjoy vacations or must cope with one of life’s most stressful adventures: moving. Please drop a note or email me at jane@healdsburgmuseum.org so that I can keep our mailing list information current and keep our postage costs down.

Another way to help is to receive the Review online. In addition to saving the cost of postage, you can access the newsletter earlier and in color. To sign up with our social media maven, Whitney Hopkins, send your current email information to whitney@healdsburgmuseum.org. Also let her know if you want to receive the e-blasts that alert our members to upcoming events and points of interest.

When you send in your dues or donations, I compare the information you provided with what is in our computer record. This is one way we keep your address, telephone and email information up to date. Lately I have been doing some special house cleaning in these files, spurred on by kind feedback we received about the “missing spouses” in our communications. For many couples, the computer fields included both spouses in separate fields but the labels and letters used only one name. I’ve changed the fields so that both partners’ names appear.

Experience has taught me that any change opens the way for errors and omissions. I may have unwittingly added a formal name when a nickname is preferred (Elizabeth when she only answers to Betty). I may have included a name from the file when that person should no longer be included in the record. Please let me know if there are corrections to be made. Thanks for your help!
AAUW House Tour

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be holding their 25th Annual Healdsburg Homes Tour on May 3rd from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This year’s tour features six delightful residences spanning three centuries: a remarkable synthesis of old and new architectural style. This amazing range of styles includes a Victorian built in 1885 and a Modernist factory-built Blu Home completed – start to finish – in 2014.

AAUW is the nation’s leading voice promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Proceeds from this popular event are used to benefit local education and scholarships for women and girls.

Tickets are $35.00 in advance, $40.00 at the event. They may be purchased online at www.healdsburgaauw.com or by cash or check at the Museum, Copperfield’s Bookstore or Levin & Company.

Save the Date!

Antiques, Arts & Collectibles Fair
Sunday, May 24, 9am to 4pm
Healdsburg Plaza

Thank You to Our Donors

2014 Annual Appeal
Thomas Bangs
Jan & Wayne Goodrich
Darci & Celso Rosales
Lew & Elaine Sbrana

Endowment Fund
Ms. Persis McCarley

General Fund
Mrs. Gary Smith

Newspaper Digitization Project
Our Newest Donor
Rotary Club of Healdsburg

Contributions in Memory of:
Marion Penny - from Holly Hoods
Teresa Ishikawa
David & Denna Faloni
Ken & Gail Cory
Jerry Goodyear
Mary Jane & Barry Noble
Norbert Babin
Lew & Elaine Sbrana
Judy & Edgar Deas
Marcia Teuschler
Ruby Wasson
Jerry & Mary Lou Eddinger
Ed Micheli
Bernie Wyman - from Ron & Arlene Kron

Contributions in Memory of:
John Pedroncelli - from William & Julie Conklin
Frank Pastori
David & Denna Faloni
Joe & Vivienne Rochioli
John & Rita Lawson
Marcia Teuschler
Anne & Wayne Goodrich - from Jan, Wayne & Greg Goodrich
Nora Canale Eddinger - from Marcia Teuschler
Wilbur Moniz - from Judy & Edgar Deas
Ed & Marjorie Summerville
Charles Scalione - from Janet Sbragia Pisenti
Keith Lampson - from Marilyn Haywood
John & Rita Lawson
Edith & Heyward Petersen - from Gene & Suzanne Valla
The Healdsburg Museum has been fortunate to receive a fascinating new addition to its collection. A big thank you to long-time Healdsburg residents Joel and Harlene Wright for the donation of an oil painting by Joel’s grandmother, Jennie Smith (Wright), also a Healdsburg resident. The painting depicts a national guard encampment in July, 1886 at “Matheson Park, the beautiful oak and madrona embowered grove in the eastern suburbs of Healdsburg” (west of present-day Tayman Park).

“The inaugural social event of the encampment, a reception at Truitt’s Theater in Healdsburg, included the local Albanian club, a semi-military women’s organization.

Organized under the auspices of the local Native Sons of the Golden West Parlor, Healdsburg’s 4th of July in 1886 “was a grand affair.” There was a street parade headed by the Gatling Band and Drum Corps. All eight companies marched in the parade, followed by the Native Sons Parlor, Healdsburg’s Sotoyome Band, the Healdsburg Fire Department, Healdsburg Cadets and citizens in carriages. A special feature of the parade arranged by the Native Sons Parlor was the “presence of a live bruin” which was the mascot of the organization.

Following the parade, literary exercises were conducted which thousands attended. There was also a mock or “sham” battle participated in by several companies offering much excitement. In the evening, a grand ball was held at Smith’s Theater in Healdsburg.

When the national guardsmen departed and marched through the streets to the railway station, it was reported by the newspaper that Healdsburg’s citizens cheered them heartily and were in return vociferously cheered by the boys.

The national guard encampments and 4th of July celebrations took place in Healdsburg for many years from the 1880s into the early 1900s.

We are lucky to have this artistic representation of Camp Robert Tobin, which features Fitch Mountain in the background. Since the painting is of Matheson Park, it is displayed on the first floor next to the exhibit featuring the Matheson family. We hope you’ll come see it for yourself!

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