

# SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM



# NEWS

## CALISTOGA HISTORY MUSEUM

Volume 35: Number 6

October-November 2017 Newsletter

## Out of the Attic

**New Special Exhibit**  
**Preview Party Fri. Nov. 3, 5:30-7 pm**

lovingly in cabinets, some may have been in a closet, under the bed, in the garage, or in the attic itself. We didn't ask but we love what we've seen!

Exhibits will include such pieces as antique baby plates, tea dishes, Roseville Pottery, antique model cars, Faberge Eggs & Nativity scenes, Maude Humphrey-Bogart figurines, sea shells of all sizes collected throughout the pacific nearly 100 years ago, dolls collected over 6 decades, vintage photographs of old Calistoga, beer steins, porcelain/china collections, and to commemorate the 80 year anniversary of both Snow White and the Golden Gate Bridge, you will see memorabilia ranging from 1937 to present.

Who are these members ready to mark this exhibit as the best we've ever shown? You may recognize some names: Barbara Maxfield, Pat Haynes, Virginia Dooley, Sylvia Marciano, Rick & Kathy McCloskey, Gail Sharpsteen, Napa County Historical Society and St. Helena Historical Society.

What else can we say? You are all invited to attend the special preview celebration on Friday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30-7 pm. As always, wine and appetizers will be served, with a great raffle basket ready for one lucky winner to take home. See you all there.

Patsy Hahn, *Special Exhibits Chair*, and Kathy Bazzoli, *Co-Chair*



**Instant**  
**Wine Cellar a**  
**Sizzling Success**

The temperature was sizzling, and so was the action at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Instant Wine Cellar celebration on Saturday, August 26. The hearty souls who braved the 105 degree heat were rewarded-- with fine wines from Canard Cellars, Chateau de Vie, Chateau Montelena, Fairwinds and Laura Michael; and appetizers from our ever-faithful Hospitality Committee cooks, Cal Mart and Panevino. Local merchants and friends were generous in their donations that filled the popular raffle baskets and provided items for the silent and live auctions. Special thanks to Castello di Amorosa, Carolyn and Rich Czapleski and Pat and Dave Larsen who provided the live auction offerings.

The culmination of this event is always the drawing for the two grand prizes in the

*Continued on Page 3*



## Message from the President

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. The days get shorter and the daytime temperatures are no longer in the 100's. Leaves change color and fall from the trees as nature prepares them for winter. My summer garden is in its final stage as I pick the last tomatoes of the season and start thinking about what I'll plant for the fall/winter season. Fall also means that the museum is almost at the end of another year of existence- its thirty-ninth. It has been an up and down year for our museum.

The real downside for the museum this year is the shortage of volunteer docents to cover all the monthly shifts. Due to that shortage, for the months of September and on into October the Museum is closed on Tuesdays. The museum takes pride in being only one of very few museums to stay open 363 days a year. We are working on finding ways to recruit more docents so that all can work an equal number of shifts per month. If you are a member of the Sharpsteen Museum then you are eligible to be a docent. After a short (one hour) training period you can become a member of our docent team. This can be a rewarding experience working with public from all walks of life as you share your knowledge of Calistoga history. A shift consists of 2½ hours either in the morning or the afternoon. If you like history and like to interact with people you might want to give docenting a try.

An upside for the museum this year was our annual Instant Wine Cellar fundraiser held on August 26. With the help of many museum volunteers and despite the terrible heat, Pat and Dave Larsen chaired this event to a very successful conclusion. One of the exciting parts of the night was when Margaux Singleton won one of the Grand Prize wine lots, donated it back to the museum, and Mayor Chris Canning quickly placed it in live auction to a very favorable result. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. Thank you to the merchants and wineries that donated their products for prizes. These donations were greatly appreciated and helped propel us toward success. What resulted from your participation and donations is \$17,500 into the museum funds and many new members.

Another upside for the museum this year is the monthly meeting of the Sharpsteen Museum Foundation. They are gearing up to fund raise for our garage project. The plan is to tear down the garage at the Museum House and construct a structure that will store our museum collections. The Board has already approved preliminary drawings for this project. As we get deeper into this project more information will be forthcoming.

If you have not been to one of our museum Coffees you are missing some very informative events. Our next Coffee is Wednesday, October 25, at 10 am, featuring Kelly Hirschberg, Caltrans Project Manager for the Lincoln Street Bridge project. She will be talking about the two-year project.

We have installed a 65-inch TV in the museum, which will be used for Powerpoint presentations during our Coffees, Meet the Author events, historical Calistoga photo slide show, and other multi-media opportunities. This is an exciting addition for the museum.

Please plan on coming to our Holiday Luncheon that will take place during the first week in December. Sign up sheet will be at the Museum early November.

Now that fall is upon us I'm ready to plant some tulips and onions along with other winter vegetables. Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

Alan Rogers, *President*

### October Coffee Hour at the Sharpsteen Museum

Wednesday, October 25, 10-11 am

Kelly Hirschberg, Cal Trans Project Manager will speak on the Lincoln Ave. Bridge replacement.

Come with questions, and enjoy some coffee and treats!



### Sharpsteen Museum

1311 Washington St.  
Calistoga, CA 94515

Tel: (707) 942-5911 Fax: (707) 942-6325

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Web site: [www.sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://www.sharpsteenmuseum.org)

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

Museum House phone: (707) 942-5916

Museum Hours: 11 am to 4 pm daily,  
except Thanksgiving and Christmas

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Rogers – President

Kathy Bazzoli - first VP

DeAnn Wylie - second VP

Kathy McCloskey- Recording Secretary

Rick McCloskey - Treasurer

Marilyn Glaim- Docent Chair

Jackie Lang - Education Chair

Bev Barnes - Collections Chair

Pat Larsen - Ways & Means Chair

The Sharpsteen Museum Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Sharpsteen Museum Association, a non-profit organization, and mailed to 500 member homes and businesses.

**Editors:** Gail Sharpsteen and  
Kathy Bazzoli

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Museum's mission is to preserve and to provide for public exhibitions and study of the history of the community of Calistoga and the upper Napa Valley.*

### Welcome New Members

Don Bauer

Marcia Ciarlo

Spohie Gullung

Sara Kavanaugh

Joann Mannix

Torild Roberts

Kathleen Scavone

Bob and Linda Shaw

Maureen Taylor

Jody Theobald

Bernie Trilling

Eden Umble

Jenny Woltz

### In Memoriam

Elaine Angela Hudson



## Before (& After) Hours at the Museum



Early one morning, on August 2, the St. Helena Historical Society visited the Sharpsteen Museum for a special tour. *Pictured L to R:* St. Helena Historical Society representatives: Marilyn Coy (Collections & Acquisitions Committee), Board members: Shannon Kuleto, Stephen Taplin, Helen Nelson, Bonnie Thoreen, Susan Veresh, Suzanne Salvestrin (president), and John Palmer. SMA representatives: Marilyn Glaim, Lorne Glaim, Kathy Bazzoli, and Alan Rogers. Not pictured, Jackie Lang.

Do you have a group that would like a special museum tour outside of regular hours? Please call the Museum at (707) 942-5911 for more information and to arrange your tour.

Late one evening, on August 11, Chateau Montelena's Wine Club had a tasting event outside on the River Patio, and the guests were invited into the Museum for special tours. Pictured are Judy Barrett of Chateau Montelena, Bev Barnes, museum docent, and Wine Club guests.



## Christmas in Calistoga

The Sharpsteen will be open a little late on Friday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> due to a couple of unexpected guests scheduled to be in town.



Around 7 pm, Sam Brannan and his wife, Ann Eliza will be here to light the official Calistoga Christmas tree (the giant redwood located next to the police station).

A perfect opportunity to witness history in action! Don't miss it!

## Calistoga Christmas Faire Coming Up!

The 48th Annual Calistoga Christmas Faire is scheduled for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Fair Grounds. As usual the Sharpsteen Museum will have a booth selling craft items. Our first meeting will be on Thursday, October 26th at 10 am at the Museum House. Whether or not we will sell baked goods depends on whether someone volunteers to be in charge of arranging baking sessions at a "commercial kitchen" The powers that be in Napa will not allow goods baked in home kitchens to be sold at the event. Interested in organizing commercial kitchen baking? Please call Emma Mazzola at 942-6649. (Pat Haynes will be out of town until Oct., 23<sup>rd</sup>).

Come join the "crafty ladies" on Thurs. October 26th. No special skills necessary.

Pat Haynes, *Chair*

Instant Wine Cellar- *Continued from Page 1*

raffle. Sixty-five wineries and three individuals provided enough premium wines for each grand prize winner to receive six mixed cases, truly an 'instant wine cellar.' Happy drama ensued when the first grand prize winner, Margaux Singleton, proprietor of Enoteca Wine Shop, donated her six cases back to the Museum to be auctioned off on the spot. Alex Dierkhising was the generous high bidder. The second grand prizewinner was Alice Tordjman, an 85-year-old San Francisco resident who visits Calistoga frequently with her family.

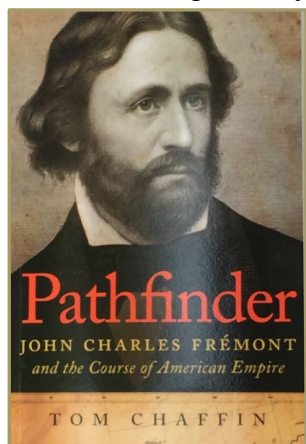
As always, the Museum's hard-working Board members pitched in to help publicize the event, stuff envelopes, solicit donations, sell (and buy!) raffle tickets, assist with set-up and clean-up, and generally keep everything running smoothly. Donna and Bruce Dill, Jackie Lang and Rose Beck coordinated the solicitation of downtown merchants, while Barb and Doug Herrmann made countless trips to wineries throughout the Napa Valley to pick up donations. Sue Mauro assisted with some key solicitations. Once again, Mayor Chris Canning served as MC and auctioneer, while David Moon-Wainwright (aka "DJ Moon") brought his sound system and music. You all helped create a really fun event, and the Museum even made some money!

Pat Larsen, *Ways & Means Chair*



## Notes From the Book Chair

We are suggesting a partner read this month. The first title is “Pathfinder: John Charles Fremont and the Course of American Empire”, by author Tom Chaffin. Fremont, born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1813, became an American explorer, politician, Civil War General, abolitionist, two time Republican presidential candidate, husband to the remarkable Jessie Benton Fremont and a true aristocrat of the Gilded Age. Fremont stood at the center of the vast federal projects of western exploration and conquest. His expeditions between 1838-1854 made him legendary with that era’s admiring historians according him the sobriquet *The Pathfinder*, a name that would follow him throughout his life.



Historians portray Fremont as controversial, contradictory and impetuous, while others regard him as a military hero of significant accomplishments; still others viewed him as a failure, repeatedly defeating his own best purposes. Luckily for Fremont it was his wife, Jessie Benton Fremont, whose constant defense and support kept him to his historical destiny.

Our second partner title is “Jessie Benton Fremont: a Woman Who Made History” by Catherine Coffin Phillips. Born in May of 1824 in Virginia, Jessie was the daughter of the

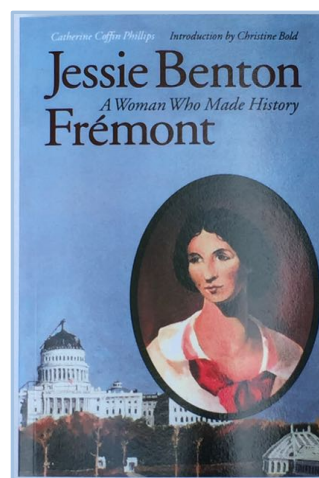
popular and strong-willed Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. Jessie was raised in Washington DC more in the manner of a 19<sup>th</sup> century son than a daughter. Being a constant companion to her father, this served her well. Always reading books, studying maps, learning more of her father’s dream of a nation stretching from ocean to ocean. She was well educated, fluent in French and Spanish with a mind of her own.

At age 15 years in 1840 while studying at Georgetown Seminary, she met Lieutenant John C. Fremont. Having become engaged most readily, Jessie’s parents frowned on her marrying at such a young age. No matter, shortly before her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jessie married John on October 19, 1841.

Jessie was a writer, an outspoken voice on political issues, and a determined opponent of slavery. By maintaining a high level of political involvement during a period that was extremely unfavorable to women, Jessie Benton Fremont proved herself to be years ahead of her time.

In 1856, John C. Fremont’s antislavery position was instrumental in his being chosen the first Republican candidate for President. Jessie was an active player in her husband’s campaign. In fact, one campaign slogan read “Fremont and Jessie too”. Due to her intelligence and strong will, Fremont supporters named her the “first lady in the land”, a title she carried throughout her life.

The history of the Pathfinder and the First Lady, available now in our bookstore.



Kathy Bazzoli, *Book Store Chair*



## Brannan Cottage Gets “Laptop”

A bobbin lace making pillow in a wooden lap box, ca. 1880s has been donated by Julie Tahja Rodolph, and was previously owned by Thekla Mitchell and Virginia Harmon of Knights Valley.

Bobbin lace is a lace textile made by braiding and twisting lengths of thread, which are wound on bobbins to manage them. As work progresses, the weaving is held in place with pins set in the lace pillow, as determined by a pattern pinned on the pillow. Bobbin lace is also known as pillow lace because it was worked on a pillow, and bone lace because early bobbins were made of bone or ivory. Origin is believed to be Italy, evolving from *passementerie* or braid-making in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the textile centers of Flanders and Normandy eclipsed Italy as the premiere sources for fine bobbin lace, but until the coming of mechanization, hand lace making continued to be practiced throughout Europe, suffering only in those periods of simplicity when lace itself fell out of fashion.

Bev Barnes, *Collections*



## Docents: We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

After graduating from UC Davis and earning a credential from Chico State, Jackie Lang moved to Calistoga in 1976, and for 35 years honed her teaching skills at Calistoga Elementary School where she taught fourth grade. Today she shares those skills with the Sharpsteen Museum. Visitors notice her ready smile, her direct gaze, and her confidence in her knowledge of the town and its history. She shares

this knowledge as she guides visitors past the displays and explains their meaning in a clear, succinct way, always encouraging questions and responses.

Jackie started volunteering as a docent in 2012, and she still puts in more than her share of docent shifts, but where we all benefit the most from her years of teaching is in her work that started four years ago with the educational programs. She works with public and private schools in Calistoga, St. Helena, and even Santa Rosa, to arrange trips to the museum for classes of mostly third or fourth graders who are focusing on California history. Sometimes students in the first grade who happen to be working on special projects involving Indian tribes visit the museum with their teachers.

Each group visit takes a lot of planning. Jackie has to contact teachers, arrange times for the visits, bring extra docents to the museum, and provide materials to teachers so that their students experience a combination of fun and learning. She provides a carefully developed "Teacher's Guide to the Sharpsteen Museum" filled with questions and answers suitable to a child's level. Students search for answers to the questions as they explore the museum. They see how people lived 150 years ago and come to realize that these people are a part of their own history.

Jackie also joined the museum's summer educational program planned and carried out with the county library. Children, some still riding in strollers and others with a few years of grade school experience, attend six sessions each summer. Each program focuses on a special topic and skilled presenters entertain and educate the children. Two favorites this year were the puppeteers and the "bug lady," who gave children a chance to handle tiny creatures in a safe setting.

At the museum we are grateful for Jackie's dependable planning and follow through-- and for her

consistently up-beat nature. The town is grateful for the knowledge she shares.

### Docent Prize Drawing for July and August, 2017

Sylvia Marciano and Ray Branstetter each won a \$50 gift certificate to the Calistoga Inn.

### Best of the Best Docent Team for July and August:

Bev Barnes	Marilyn Johnson	Biserka Potrebic
Kathy Bazzoli	Jackie Lang	Maria Reyes
Ray Branstetter	Pat Larsen	Ellie Robinson
John Clark	Sylvia Marciano	Anne Scott
Judy Cornils	Barbara Maxfield	Rita Tucker
Donna Dill	Emma Mazzola	Josepha Walpen
Lorne Glaim	Kathy McCloskey	Wendy Watson
Marilyn Glaim	Sue Morton	Helen Yost
Linda Hanson	Jo Noble	Ingrid Zehntner
Gisela Huesmann	Judy Parent	

**Gold Star Awards to those docents working the most shifts this period:** 8 shifts- Judy Cornils; 7 shifts- Ellie Robinson; 6 shifts- Ray Branstetter and Jackie Lang; 5 shifts- Pat Larsen, Patricia Murphy, and Judy Parent.

Marilyn Glaim, *Docent Chair*

## The Sharpsteen Needs You.

Yes, YOU-- the one reading this paragraph. You know how to smile and welcome people into your home. You know how to relate an interesting incident. You're good at answering questions. Because you're already a good host in your own home, you will be able to welcome visitors to your home away from home: the Sharpsteen Museum. You won't have to do this on your own. We have a personable docent trainer who will lead you step by step into the sharing of the treasures in the museum. You'll have the chance to work with other docents until you can take a shift on your own.

And what is a shift??? A short time of 2.5 hours from 11:00 to 1:30 or from 1:30 till 4:00; twice a month, any day of the week. Though there is no pay, the rewards are huge. You will be sharing the stories of your hometown as you welcome your neighbors and people from all over the world. Call the Sharpsteen at 942-5911 and tell us you're interested. We'll contact you and make you a part of our Sharpsteen family.





## GIFT SHOPPE

The Sharpsteen is proud to introduce our new Gift Shoppe Buyer and Chair, Becky Turner. With heads bowed in respect, we say good-bye to Sonya Spencer who spent numerous, numerous successful years in this position.



Becky Turner, *Buyer & Gift Shoppe Chair*

Change is not always easy but we are confident that Becky can pull this off. Her familiarity with the museum goes back to the early days when she spent time as a child with her grandmother, Barbara Wurz, walking the museum floors during its infancy.

She writes, "I am so happy to be chairing the Gift Shoppe. My grandma was such a big part of the museum and as a child so was I. I have been in 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades on floats, in beautiful clothes for museum fashion shows and in the kitchen while my grandma cooked goodies for the Christmas Bazaar. It just feels right that I can now be a part of the museum. I know grandma would be happy too."

Becky also asks if any of you have suggestions of what you would like to see in the Gift Shoppe, please leave a note in her box at the museum or send a message through the Contact page of our web site.

Holidays are coming! Many items in the store are now 40% off. Start making your purchases now before it's too late.

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

**Wed. Oct. 4,** 5:30 PM. SMF (SM Foundation) Meeting, Museum House.

**Wed. Oct. 11,** 9:30 AM. SMA Board Meeting, Museum House.

**Wed. Oct 25,** 10 AM. Coffee Hour at Museum.

**Thurs. Oct. 26,** 10 AM. Craft Meeting, Museum House.

### NOVEMBER

**Wed. Nov. 1,** 5:30 PM. SMF Meeting, Museum House.

**Wed. Nov. 8,** 9:30 AM. SMA Board Meeting, Museum House.

### DECEMBER

**Fri. Dec 1,** 7 PM. City Tree Lighting

**Sat. Dec. 2,** 9 AM. Christmas Faire.

**Wed. Dec. 6,** 5:30 PM. SMF Meeting, Museum House.

**Wed. Dec. 13,** 9:30 AM. SMA Board Meeting, Museum House.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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