



Volume 20, Issue 4

APRIL, 2009

## Tributes to Charlotte Anderson

by HM&HS members

[On Friday, March 6, we were all saddened by the passing of Charlotte Anderson. As is clear in these pages, she touched so many people, including your editor, in endearing ways.]



I've said it many times....one of the greatest strengths of the Museum & Historical Society is the commitment of its volunteers. We get things done because we've got people who are eagerly willing to get it done. There are numerous non-profit agencies in Healdsburg that do wonderful things that make Healdsburg a better place to live.

What sets us apart from so many of those agencies, is the small army of Charlotte's volunteers that are always ready to take on the next challenge. Whether it's a big production like the 150th Anniversary Celebration, or a small reception to preview a new exhibit, we can always count on Charlotte's Angels (HMVA) to accomplish the task.

Certainly Charlotte raised the bar and set the standard for volunteer participation. She was as reliable as a sunrise and as steady as a rock. I don't think I ever heard her say "no". That was not an option. Instead she just asked the questions...."what do you need....how many people....how can we make it better", etc, etc. She smiled, took on the task, rallied her troops, and it was always done perfectly. Always.

She had a marvelous sense of humor which allowed her to have such a great outlook on life. A truly wonderful person.

Charlotte....we're really going to miss you. We already do. You're the best.

Kent Mitchell

Charlotte cheerfully did the work of three volunteers for the Museum. Not only did she organize the troops for every

endeavor, she never asked anyone to do anything she was unwilling to do. If she was in town, she worked exhibit openings, outings in the plaza, dinners at Villa Chanticleer and the volunteer picnics. She even participated in the thorough cleaning we gave the old Carnegie Library once or twice a year. Her career had been teaching, and in retirement, she never stopped. Her thoroughly researched and clearly written articles on local history enlivened issues of the *Russian River Recorder* and *The Review*, and enlightened readers for many years.

Ann Mahoney (continued next page)

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Homes Tour

by Gail Wright ( American Association of University Women)

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Walking Tour of Historic Healdsburg Homes will be on Sunday, May 3, 1- 4:30pm. The tour, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, will visit some spectacular homes in Healdsburg. Tickets are \$30.00 in advance or \$35.00 on the day of the tour and are available for purchase at the Healdsburg Museum, Levin & Company, online at [www.healdsburgaauw.com](http://www.healdsburgaauw.com) or send check payable to AAUW, P.O. Box 1064, Healdsburg, CA 95448.

Enjoy a beautiful spring day walking around Healdsburg's historic district on a self-guided tour of six of the town's finest homes within walking distance of the plaza showcasing distinctive architectural styles. One home with an extensive indoor/outdoor art collection was featured in *House Beautiful* just recently.

Another home is an award-winning, carefully restored Victorian. The owners of another home have created a classic modern house with a philosophy for living in a very Zen-like dwelling. Holly Hoods, Healdsburg Museum Research Curator, has been a valuable and talented detective researching and describing the historical background of each featured home and profiling its owners.

The afternoon tour features knowledgeable docents at  
(continued page 5)

### Calendar

#### APRIL, 2008

1 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
**Note: Now back on Wednesdays!**  
14 Board Meeting, 9:30 am

#### MAY, 2008

3 AAUW Historic Homes Tour  
6 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
19 Board Meeting, 9:30 am  
24 Antique Fair, Plaza

### Healdsburg Museum

221 Matheson Street  
Healdsburg, CA 95448  
Telephone 707 431 3325 - Fax 707 473 4471  
[www.healdsburgmuseum.org](http://www.healdsburgmuseum.org)  
[HealdsburgMuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HealdsburgMuseum@sbcglobal.net)  
Museum Hours: 11:00 - 4:00 pm  
Thursday – Sunday, CLOSED MONDAY,  
TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY  
Research Archives open by appointment:  
Thursday – Saturday

## Tributes to Charlotte (continued from page 1)

Sitting in the office downstairs, an area serving also as a gathering place and center of activity for volunteers, the absence of Charlotte's voice is already obviously felt. There was almost nothing regarding the involvement of volunteers which escaped Charlotte's meticulous attention. She was always there to be sure that if there was any project or program in which volunteers could be represented she *would* be represented. Her articles for numerous Museum publications including this newsletter were always well-researched and written with care. On her stories, in which I could lend a hand by providing a photograph or altering an image which fit, she was always gracious and grateful. Probably my favorite of these was her article on "Palms of Healdsburg" where she researched the planting and cultivation of different palm species through the town's history. We had great fun traveling around town and finding and photographing the "oldest," the "tallest," and the most "exotic" of the palm tree species. The article spurred a further interest on my part, and I grew a number of palms from seeds...one of which was intended for Charlotte. In this one volunteer the sense of the word was embodied. She gave freely and tirelessly of herself to this organization. To replace her is an impossible task.

She is probably cheerfully riding a wave on some distant celestial shore.

*Curator Daniel F. Murley*

Charlotte was my right hand at the Museum. She was a true blue loyal partner and a wise colleague working closely by my side for the past seven years. We learned a lot of this region's history together, and loved meeting and interacting with the many interesting people who find their way to the Museum. I appreciated and loved Charlotte for the infinite ways she strived to make my job easier and my workload lighter. On days when the Museum was hopping and I was juggling multiple people and tasks, she would spring into action, sizing up the situation to provide exactly whatever assistance I needed. Sometimes she would answer the phone, sometimes greet a visitor, fill in a receptionist shift, research and write an article, take a photo, staff an event, orient a researcher, print out mailing labels, proofread a document, bring me lunch, look up a photo, lock the Museum, unlock the Museum, transport an artifact, recruit a new member. If a drop-in visitor proved to be longwinded (and took up what she thought was too much of my valuable time), Charlotte would sidle up and subtly move them along. She would later remark, "He sure came with his 'sitting pants' on!" She'd crack, "You owe me..." You're right, Charlotte. I sure do. Aloha, Halaki.

*Holly Hoods*

Our Beloved Charlotte: With the untimely passing of Charlotte earlier this month, a large emptiness has been left in the hearts of her friends. All who she knew and touched consider themselves her friends. Charlotte lived life to its

fullest, traveling to all of the places that she wanted to see. Being a traveler myself, I always looked forward to her returning from a trip to share her photos with me, always with a twinkle in her eye. When she was home, the Museum was her passion. You could walk into the downstairs offices almost anytime and there she'd be – researching an article she was writing, actually writing one or performing what seemed like a myriad other things she did for the Museum and for HMVA.

It is often said that Betsy Bippart was the mother of HMVA and it would not exist if not for Betsy. For the past 7 years Charlotte acted as the top sergeant, the coordinator and just about every other HMVA related activity that you can think of. It is clear to all that what Betsy started, Charlotte perpetuated. We will miss you, Charlotte. You touched all of our lives.

*Al Loebel*

So many memories of Charlotte--Where do I start--From the very beginning, she was bigger than life itself, with all her talents, and that school teacher voice of hers. The Museum and all of us really are fortunate to have had her come into our lives for a while. I know I shall always miss her and things will never seem quite the same at the Museum without her. No one will ever fill her shoes.

*Darla Williams Budworth*

Charlotte: I know you're already hard at work writing the history of Heaven. You won't be able to help yourself. Thank you for the years of service to the people and historians of Healdsburg. I'll miss your articles of hometown life. I just hope we find someone with half your talent to do the myriad tasks you did, not the least of which was chairing HMVA.

*Kay Robinson*

Although Marge and I were relative newcomers (1999) to Healdsburg and the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, Charlotte was always a reflection of the heart and soul of the community and the Museum. She was not only a great champion of Healdsburg and the Museum, but a great champion and advocate of the Healdsburg schools, and of the faculty, parents, and especially of the students. Charlotte you are missed, but never forgotten. Your beautiful spirit will remain with us forever.

*Ed and Marge Summerville*

Charlotte asked me to join the museum board several times before I relented. You know how persistent she was! Well, it was the best thing I ever did. I shall also remember her intelligence, her command of the English language, and the recount of her many trips. When she walked in with her blue-footed booby shirt, I knew where she had been! I will miss her at every museum event from this day forward. What a loss.

*Jan Pisenti*

Charlotte loved language. And hated sentences beginning with and. Or fragments. Our collaborations were spirited; her red pencil editing my copy writer's style. Making it better. Somehow, I sense her over my shoulder now. Making stern suggestions, in a playful voice, to improve this remembrance. I wish she could.

Aloha, Charlotte.

*Joe Norton*

Knowing about Charlotte's love of travel, I always enjoyed her sharing with us the highlights of her trips, and hearing about her next planned "safari." Miss you, Char! HMVA is not the same without you.

*Fern Naber*

My sympathy to the family and friends of Charlotte Anderson. The short time I've known her at the Healdsburg Museum she was hard working, dedicated, and a pleasant person. She will be missed.

*Joe Lenci*

A great smile and laugh, enjoyed life, traveling, her friends and the Museum. You will be missed.

*Karen Nencini*

My memories: Not only was Charlotte known as Healdsburg Museum personified and the one who could always be counted on to "get it done", she was kind and hospitable to all who knew her, even if they didn't know her well. I will always remember her cheerful greeting whenever I was on receptionist duty, and I cannot remember very many times that she was NOT there when I was! We always spent our time talking about her past or future travels and there was ALWAYS a future trip planned! She was an amazing lady and I miss her already.

*Cilla Marshall*

We all miss Charlotte. I admired her for her thorough research on her published articles and her Historical Moments at our HMVA meetings. She called herself the president of the "Sidetrack Society" because she found so many clues and hints about her subjects and took the time to track them down. Besides being a par excellence researcher, her enthusiasm about the Museum was contagious, affecting all of us volunteers. Aloha, Halaki.

*June Smith*

Charlotte was kind and gentle and just full of fun, waiting for the next wonderful event to occur. With her, it generally did.

We were working the Barn Sale the year of her chemo and she was wearing a hat in the hottest weather. She was like a cheerleader, making our "treasures" look their best and making everyone laugh. We received a huge load of beanie babies and were trying to look up in the reference book to see if we had any standouts. Charlotte made you think this was the most important job there was.

She always gave genuine smiles and hugs; if ever there was a job to do, no matter what, she was there. Charlotte was a Lady, a Cherub, and a Dear Friend.

*Sonne Pedersen*

Charlotte's involvement with the museum was so encompassing and complete - without her, many events and programs would not have occurred.

*Eleanor & Frank Zak*

Charlotte's spirit, enthusiasm and work ethic represented the cornerstone of the Healdsburg Museum volunteers. Charlotte's friendship and devotion to the Healdsburg community will be greatly missed.

*John Cross*

Charlotte will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She gave so much to everything she worked at, making the job or event seem fun. Charlotte was my dear friend, the kind there are too few of. I will always remember her smiling face and happy disposition.

*Catherine Curtis*

I was Secretary for HMVA for a number of years all during the time when Charlotte was the Chair. She ran the meetings to make everything interesting. I looked up to her and respected her greatly. When I think of her, I see a picture of a fine American lady.

*Leah Gilg*

Charlotte spent a lifetime of service to others, including our Museum where it seemed there was nothing she couldn't do. Her big heart gave and gave until she had nothing more to give. Rest in Peace, dear Charlotte.

*Ed Head*

Charlotte truly embodied the amazing volunteer spirit of the Museum. Her enthusiasm for historical research was contagious, and her devotion to the museum and its mission was incomparable. I worked on collections management at the museum during 2004-2006, where I had the wonderful pleasure to meet many supportive volunteers, including Charlotte. I will never forget her generosity, and passion for both the museum - and life. Some weeks when I was working at the museum, Charlotte would be there - doing research downstairs for a *Russian River Reporter* article, manning the reception desk upstairs, or preparing for a Volunteer Association, Admin. Committee, or Board meeting - nearly as many hours as the staff. In addition to our mutual fondness for history, she and I bonded over Flakey Cream donuts (delivered by Charlotte), and a shared love of travel and photography. Also a stickler for good grammar, Charlotte was an excellent editor, as a result of her many years as an English teacher. Since I moved to Washington, DC, to pursue graduate studies in 2006, I have always looked forward to visiting the Museum when I am back in Healdsburg. Charlotte, ever reliable, was almost always there working when I visited. I know that her

tremendous contributions, and her memory, will live on as long as the Healdsburg Museum is alive.

*Whitney Hopkins*

My remembrance of Charlotte: While working on my book *A Sense of Place, The Legacy of Fitch Mountain*, I gave a copy of the text to Charlotte to review for accuracy. One day, while walking to town, I get a call on my cell phone. The first words I hear, "You got your facts wrong!" I said, "Excuse me, who is this?"

"Charlotte Anderson. The section in your book about Henry Delano Fitch. Some dates are incorrect!"

"I see. Would you like to re-write it? I will put it in the book with your name on it."

"Yes, I will do that."

That was the beginning of a great professional friendship. Charlotte knew her subject matter/material very well. She had great English language skills, had a take-charge, leadership style, and had a serious side and a fun side. She was one of a kind. She helped shape the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society and its community. Charlotte made a quality-of-life difference in Healdsburg. Thank you Charlotte.

*Ted Calvert*

August 25, 2008, was a tragic day for my family. A very early morning phone call from Jon in Maine told me of his son's death in a biking accident. I had to get back East ASAP. The reality of our complicated lives today also meant that there were a lot of things to be dealt with first. At the time, I couldn't lay claim to a close friendship with Charlotte. She was, however, the first person I thought of that morning. With one sentence, she grasped the situation and asked how she could help. Together, we covered my previous commitments, made travel arrangements, took the dogs to the kennel, and packed for the trip. Throughout those first few hours, Charlotte was steady, calming and compassionate. As she dropped me off at the airport that afternoon, I tried to properly thank her for all she had done for me that day. She brushed aside my attempt, looked me in the eye and said she was honored that I had reached out to her for help. She was honored?! Clearly, Jon and I were the privileged ones. Charlotte, we miss you.

*Pam Vana-Paxhia and Jon Lacaillade*

Both Charlotte and Betsy Bippart pounced on me to volunteer when I visited the museum for the second time in the fall of 2004. Looking back I am amazed at the number of projects Charlotte coordinated with her enthusiasm and dedication to the museum. She encouraged me to write about my research – that part's easy, summarizing in words never has been. Led by her teaching skills and sharp wit, we would all continue to have fun downstairs in the "Charlotte's Side-Tracked Club" sleuthing out clues, and all of our detective skills, and particularly my writing skills, would sharpen. Edson and I appreciated Charlotte's smiles and friendship so much. We miss you.

*Ann Howard*

Charlotte was a friend to all. I have been a minor Museum volunteer for years, but Charlotte always treated me like I was an important member of the team....surely that is a trait of a gifted leader.

*Betty Miller*

Charlotte was so special and she will be sorely missed, but our great loss is Heaven's gain.

*Norma Passarino*

My memories of Charlotte will always be of her many roles at the Museum - leader, mentor, go-to-make-it-happen lady, and, most importantly, friend to so many. Her legacy to the museum will be her many contributions and all she tirelessly gave of herself.

*Meredith Dreisback*

My contact with Charlotte was through the schedule at the volunteer desk - my shift, the first shift on the first Sunday of the month, and hers for the second shift. Always like a ray of sunshine and laughter she would come up the stairs. Charlotte's passing will be a loss to all who have spent time with her. Her energy and good cheer will be truly missed.

*Mary Jo Garrett*

What special time we shared here with one we worked with. I feel a personal loss with the passing of Charlotte.

*Doreene Zanzi*

Charlotte spent a lifetime of service to others, including our Museum where it seemed there was nothing she couldn't do. Her big heart gave and gave until she had nothing more to give. Rest in peace, dear Charlotte

*Anonymous*

I Remember Charlotte: In 2001, Mary Jean Elze was completing her time as HMVA Chair and no one in the organization wanted to take over. Jeri Myers was President, looked over the roster, and decided that Charlotte was the obvious choice. Although not eager to take over the job, after some of Jeri's perhaps ungentle arm twisting she agreed to be HMVA Coordinator. It turned out that she was the perfect person to head the group and took to the job as a duck takes to water. She was organized, had the monthly meeting agenda nicely printed and ran the meetings with a light touch, obtaining full cooperation of the members if something needed to be done. She ended each meeting with an historical moment of information gleaned from early Healdsburg newspapers, all interesting, many amusing and some downright hysterical.

Charlotte loved researching and writing for the *Russian River Recorder*, a favorite activity. But there was other work to do and she could always be counted on to organize and help in every Museum fund raising event or other events where a museum presence was desirable. One year the newsletter editor quit suddenly. Charlotte stepped

up to the plate, learned how the newsletter template was arranged and acted as interim editor for several months until we could find a permanent replacement.

She was one of my mainstays for the Plaza antique fairs. The day before the event, we would load her car with treasures to be sold; the next morning she joined our small group of early risers at the Plaza between 5:30 to 6:00 a.m.

**Endowment Fund Contributions:**

*Generous Contributions from:*

Lynda Guthrie, Gail & Clinton DeWitt, George Greott, MacMurray Trust

**For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jim & Phillis Pedroncelli**

Peachie & Norm Dunlavy

*In Remembrance of:*

**Helendale Barrett** - Ellen L. Barrett, Lynne Gradek, Mary Ann Anderson, Elaine Pollack, Vi & Arnold Santucci, Virginia Halpin, Gloria Christensen, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Dick, Frank & Eleanor Zak, James & Meridith Dreisback, June & Temple Smith, June Fiege, Fern Naber,

(**Helendale Barrett** continued)

Charles & Carole Stumpf, Alma & Shirley Buchignani, Norma Passarino, Raymond & Ruth Gardner, Kay & Ted Robinson, Dean & John Carriger, Joyce & Rich Peters, Norma Cousins & David Rafanelli, Peachie & Norm Dunlavy, Dee & Benny Gagliardo, Linda R. Wittke

**Charlotte Anderson** - Darla Budworth, Fern Naber, Shirley Buchignani, Vi & Arnold Santucci, Billie Harrison, Rich & Dianne Starr, Marie Sugiyama, Ruthann Hoods, Norma Passarino, Frank & Eleanor Zak, Norm & Peachie Dunlavy, Kay & Ted Robinson

**Geoffrey Rawlins** - Peggy Rawlins

**Welcome New Members:**

John Guilfooy

to unload several cars and set up items on the sales tables. She would work a shift, take an hour or two off, and then return to load unsold items to take back to storage. She never stopped even during her first bout of cancer. The chemo therapy was wearing her out but she just put on her hat, came to board and HMVA meetings and soldiered on. Just a week or so before she was forced to resign by the second recurrence, she took her reception desk duty without complaint. You can't keep a good woman down.

I shall miss seeing her in the museum office sitting at a microfilm reader or working at the table on some project or other. I will miss her joy of living, her even temperament and her readiness to help in every way possible. I will always remember my good friend Charlotte with the greatest of fondness. In a traditional Navy farewell to a departed ship mate, I say to her "Charlotte, rest your oar."

*Bob Rawlins*

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Assisting with the newsletter, Charlotte was like 'my right arm', writing her monthly column, often providing other timely historical articles and, especially, with proof reading before publication. She made my job much easier.

*Barry Stallard*

**Annual Historic Homes Tour** (continued)

each home. Guests may check in at the Healdsburg Museum from 11:00 - 3:00 pm. The homes are open from 1:00 - 4:30pm. For more information and questions call

707-473-0313 or visit the website. Proceeds help fund individual scholarships and help support mini grants for Healdsburg area public schools.

Raffle opportunities this year feature five Wine Country Experience Packages including selections of lodging and restaurant certificates with premium wines from Dry Creek Valley, Alexander Valley and the Russian River Valley. The packages include generous donations from local hotels and restaurants.

Spend a delightful afternoon touring a bit of Healdsburg's history and diverse architecture while supporting.

**History Lived** *by the History Lives Committee*

About 200 of us gathered at the Villa Thursday night the 12<sup>th</sup> to honor Gene Domenichelli at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Pioneer Award History Lives Dinner. Our genial master of ceremonies, Mark Gladden, kept the evening moving while Mike Matson, Vintage Valley Catering, served us a delicious meal, accompanied by our donated wines which were the best of the best! All went well, despite the Villa's questionable P.A. system and their very questionable silverware. We are grateful for the loyalty and support of our sixteen sponsors and thank the local wineries that graciously donated their fine wine for the evening. We'll see you next year at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual!

**Board of Directors:** Kent Mitchell (President), Ted Calvert (Vice President), Ann Mahoney (Past President), Bob Rawlins (Recording Secretary), Stan Becker (Treasurer), Anna Darden (Assist. Treas.), Mel Amato, Louise Fowler, Mark Gleason, Carla Howell, Al Loebel, Dan Maraviglia, Darci Rosales, Celso Rosales, Frank Zak.

*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:**

Harmon Heald: \$1000 Josefa Carrillo: \$500 Edwin Langhart: \$250 Gold: \$100 Family (2 or more): \$40  
Business: \$75 Individual: \$25

**Newsletter Editor:** Barry Stallard, Printing by Amoruso