



Save the Date *by Sue Ross, Executive Director*

On Saturday, October 17th from 1 to 4 PM *Wilson Winery* will host a Fundraiser for The Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society as part of a celebration marking the 100th Anniversary of Wilson's historic Barn.

The fun-filled afternoon at the winery will feature a BBQ, music, Grape Stomp, small wine exhibit put together by the Museum, and continuous showing of HM&HS's delightful film on Healdsburg's past in the Barn itself.

We'll keep you posted!



Kent Mitchell in the 100 year old barn

A Fun-Filled Museum Volunteer Picnic

by Darla Williams Budworth

It was an evening to remember--August 7, 2009 - The Volunteers of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society were honored at an Appreciation Picnic/Dinner at Brandt's Picnic area on the Russian River. Thanks to Mary Brandt and her family for allowing us to have the Picnic Grounds.

It was a lovely, warm evening with 98 volunteers attending the event. It was a time for visiting with friends followed by a dinner of barbecued Tri Tip, salads, fresh tomatoes, dessert, and coffee. All the food was purchased locally, no "big Boxes" for us. Kent Mitchell, our Chef *extraordinaire*, and his crew did a great job with the barbecued Tri Tip. Ed Head provided Cookies and Watermelon for dessert.



Board members Carla Howell, Kent Mitchell and Mark Gleason (L to R)

(continued on page 5)

Calendar

SEPTEMBER, 2009

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
- 5 IWC Party & Drawing, Museum Garden, 3-7 pm**
- 15 Board Meeting, 8:30 am
- 17 Julie Silber, Quilt Expert, Returns to the Senior Center, 4:30-7 pm

OCTOBER, 2009

- 7 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am
- 17 Wilson Winery HM&HS Museum Fundraiser, 1 to 4 pm
- 20 Board Meeting, 8:30 am

Healdsburg Museum

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Healdsburg, CA 95448
Telephone 707 431 3325 - Fax 707 473 4471
www.healdsburgmuseum.org
HealdsburgMuseum@sbcglobal.net
Museum Hours: 11:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesday – Sunday,
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY
Research Archives open by appointment:
Thursday – Saturday

Research Report by Holly Hoods

There have been so many interesting and rewarding days in the past month! August got off to a fun start with a personalized birthday tour of the Museum for Care Morgenstern and her family, pre-arranged as a surprise by Care's husband David. I guided the



Morgensterns and their daughter Zoe through the history exhibits while answering their excellent questions about the early history of Healdsburg. Ann Howard joined us as a docent, explaining and interpreting the historical and design significance of the quilts in the

current exhibit. Thanks to Ann and especially quilt expert Julie Silber, I have a tremendous new appreciation for quilt designs, use of materials in quilts and the artistry of the quilt makers. **Join us at a second quilt "show and tell" with Julie at the Senior Center September 17th.** Our August quilt event was fascinating, educational and fun, according to everyone who came. Don't miss it this time! Call Ann Howard to reserve a place for you and your quilt: 473-9803 (a quilt is not required).

Marie Butler, the friendly *Tribune* columnist and longtime local resident, has been working with me lately to research a children's book that she is writing. Her idea was to select a toy (artifact) from the Museum collection and write a story about it. The story will take place in the context of Healdsburg history, so Marie has been researching the businesses and events appropriate to the toy's era. Austin Betts, one of the Museum's new young volunteers, agreed to meet with us as a "toy consultant." Austin, age 12, gave "thumbs up" to a brightly painted toy soldier in the Museum collection to star in Marie's story. It looks like the brass dog desk mascot from the old Healdsburg Fire Department will have a featured role in her book, too.

Janet and Ed Pisenti, Joe Lenci, Laura Parker and I spent several delightful hours with George Greott at his Chalk Hill ranch. He has an amazing collection of tools, bottles, Native American artifacts and other local history memorabilia. George generously donated a multitude of wine-related artifacts for a new wine history display that Janet and I are installing in the Museum gallery in early September. He also contributed a gorgeous redwood slab for our lumber exhibit. The tireless 99-year old deftly demonstrated his wooden box-making technique for Laura's video camera, telling us proudly, "I used to be able to make one box per minute." I'll bet he still can.

Notes From the Director's Chair

by Sue Ross, Executive Director

"SPACE... THE FINAL FRONTIER!"

Sitting at my desk I am surrounded by the energy within the Museum. Volunteers have arrived to get out a mailing, scan images, and help with both the labor-intensive tasks of researching and documenting our collection; and sorting and storing artifacts in the back room.

As it's impossible to focus on mundane tasks, I defer a written report to the evening hours to join the community in "the center of the Center." It is within the circle of volunteers and individuals who come to research the past that I find a context to the present.

I often say that "My door is always open." Well, it's true that I don't *have* a door, but, it would probably be infrequently closed if it existed. Our open floor plan has provided me with the opportunity to meet Healdsburg's "living history," the people who walk in to share stories that inform and inspire.

Yet, our First Floor serves multiple duties by housing our offices; Research Center, workspace, and Museum storage. *No wonder we are bursting at the seams!* So, what to do? Handling natural growth without readily expandable space must begin with consolidating *storage*.

The Museum collection not on display is housed within three separate facilities, none optimal to preserving or protecting precious artifacts. Even more frustrating is refusing offers of additional important artifacts simply for the lack of *SPACE!*

I don't believe there are *problems* in life, simply *undiscovered solutions*. If you know of any unused or under-utilized government facilities, private offices, or homes nearby *that would not require rehabbing* and could be *donated* for Museum storage (approximately 2,000 sq. feet), please call me at the museum, or email: suehmhs@sbcglobal.net. (NOTE: There are sometimes tax benefits for in-kind donations of space to non-profits.) Please join our thinking "outside the box." *Together* we can discover that elusive solution.

Meet Your Members by Bob Rawlins



We have long needed an Office Manager to provide for an effective and efficient operation of the museum office. Meet Victoria Kincaid Taneyhill who currently fills that important position.

Victoria lived the first part of her life in South Bay cities where her father worked for Hewlett Packard. In 1972, her father had a chance to transfer to the Santa Rosa facility, quickly did so and settled in Healdsburg. Thus, Victoria was able to

complete her education from first grade to high school in Healdsburg. Active in many HHS clubs: Rainbow for Girls, the marching band (she played flute), Westside 4-H (sewing, raising pigs and sheep), the Russian River Riders (her horse was named Jeremiah), and participating in events and parades in the area.

After high school, uncertain as to what she wanted to do, she held a number of jobs: as a baker at Raleys and office work at Windsor Chevron and North Coast Builders Exchange. Victoria later graduated from Heald Business College as a legal secretary and worked for a temporary employment agency at a law and an insurance firm. Unfortunately, her mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and Victoria left the work force to help her mother and family at home.

Recently Victoria began looking for work at the Sonoma County Volunteer Center in the Welfare-to-Work program and called the Healdsburg Museum as her first choice. She has quickly worked into the office routine and, with her background and experience has proven to be just the person we needed so desperately. She happily spends 16 hours a week on the program working here in the same building (then a library), that she used to visit as a child. Victoria is a quick study, personable, and a willing worker. We greatly appreciate to have a person of her talents holding down the office fort for us.

What's New by Holly Hoods

Carla Caletti, daughter of former HM&HS volunteer Floramay Caletti, has just donated a 100-year old, handcrafted wooden cradle made by her grandfather Cootes, who lived and worked out on Mill Creek at "Venado." Since we are extending the current quilt exhibit through September 20th in order to host some quilt-related community events, the cradle has been added to the exhibit. Be sure to stop by and take a look at this beautiful historic piece, as well as to view the many fine local quilts on display.

Dana DiRicco recently donated an intriguing artifact that appears to date to 1899. It is a rectangular piece of cotton muslin, featuring signatures of turn of the 19th century Healdsburg men and the number "99." The 88 signatures and number are embroidered in a variety of brightly colored silks, but the rest of the cloth is unadorned. One signature is particularly puzzling: "H.R.H. Prince of Wales." We hope that the significance and meaning of the object will be revealed through further research. After acquiring the embroidered fabric from a former Simi residence, Healdsburg Classic Antiques alerted the Museum, but the item exceeded our artifact budget. Recognizing the object's historical value, Dana purchased it for the Museum. We appreciate her generosity.

Sharon (Smith) Soracco just brought in two wonderful circa-1900 photos: one of girls at a Westside Road birthday party, another of a Mill Creek School class. The children in the photos bear recognizable Westside Road names like Storey, Goddard and Jones. Dave Harmeson donated a fabulous stack of Dry Creek Valley prune blossom and panorama photos from the 1950s, as well as Lewis family photos from the 1890s. Dave also just hosted a "Richard E. Lewis" historic tour for interested friends and members of the pioneering Lewis, Neely and Mothorn families. Eric Drew and I met the group at the former March and Heald mill building on Felta Road where Richard E. Lewis worked from 1856 until 1862. The happy Westside group included Jack Soracco, Nancy Citro, Charles and Helen Bacigalupi and Manuel Lownes (91 years young).

Julie Silber, Quilt Expert, Returns on September 17! by Ann Howard and Holly Hoods

Julie Silber will be coming to Healdsburg **again** on **Thursday, September 17**, to visit with you and talk about your old pre-1960 quilts! We meet again at the **Senior Center at 133 Matheson from 4:30-7:00 PM**. The hall can hold 80 people. Come and learn how to store your prized quilts, keep its history with the quilt, and much more. You may bring your quilts in a plastic bag, but do not store them in plastic. \$10 public, \$5 Museum members.

The **first 25** who sign up will be able to display their treasured pre-1960 quilts and share what they know about it. Julie will then describe what she sees, allowing 4-5 minutes per quilt. This is not an appraisal.

Please call Ann Howard at 473-9803 to reserve your turn. Even if you are not among the first 25, you will certainly enjoy the colorful displays and expert discussion! (See last month's notice for more details)

Holiday Toy Alert by Holly Hoods

It isn't too soon to start thinking about Christmas--the Christmas Toy exhibit, that is. Do you or does someone you know have toys, games or creative hobbies from 1975 or earlier that you would be willing to loan to the Museum for the annual holiday display? If so, please call me at the Museum or HMVA Chair Pam Vana-Paxhia at 227-6427. This busy year I will need more help than ever from volunteers, so please let Pam know if you are willing to help.

**Curator Dan Murley remains out on temporary disability due to a back injury
FEEL BETTER, DAN!**

For questions regarding exhibitions or our collection, please contact Holly Hoods, hollyhmhs@sbcglobal.net, or call her directly at the museum.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED!

Are you interested in doing something fun, stimulating and meaningful? Do you enjoy working in a warm and welcoming environment alongside great folks? There are *always* projects and activities at HM&HS, and we can use your help! In addition, you'll become a proud member of HMVA, and become better acquainted with others within our wonderful *Corps d'Volunteers*.

PUBLICATIONS: EDITORIAL ASSISTANT & WRITERS

The monthly *Review* is the result of many people working together under Editor Barry Stallard through contributions of articles, stories and special features. He then puts it together, runs a final copy edit, and sends the newsletter off to the printer.

OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR IS SEEKING AN EDITORIAL ASSISTANT TO: contact editorial contributors to submit articles on a timely basis, find new writers to keep the content fresh, and help with final copy edit. This position will initially be that of an apprentice, who once trained will assume the responsibility of "putting the newsletter to bed" and getting it to the printer several times a year when Barry is unavailable.

WRITERS: Are you a good storyteller, or investigative soul? Would you enjoy seeing your ideas in print? Both the *Review* and *Russian River Recorder* exist due to talented writers who contribute articles and stories to our two publications.

Barry Stallard at the *Review* wants writers of short articles to be included intermittently, or as regular features. Arnold Santucci, Editor of our scholarly quarterly journal, the *Russian River Recorder* is seeking serious writers committed to presenting substantive historical articles concerning Healdsburg and northern Sonoma County. Writers would compose essays or oral histories and select related historical photographs to accompany the text.

Please contact *Barry Stallard* about the *Review* at: bwstallard@comcast.net and *Arnold Santucci* at: 433-3870 about writing for the *Recorder*.

Julie Silber, Quilt Expert, Came to Healdsburg August 13! by Ann Howard

About 36 people (with more than that number of quilts piled among the audience) enjoyed sharing family heirlooms and detailed stories, or quilts they'd purchased and knew nothing about. The quilts were displayed cleverly, stuck as if by magic to a large sheet of black felt taped to three 8' tables standing on end side-by-side like a giant easel.

For three hours we all listened closely to what each owner had to say about her/his quilt, then Julie described what she knew about the pattern, fabrics, and variety of techniques used to approximately date each quilt. Holly Hoods and Catherine Curtis each had family quilts dating back to the 1850s based on Catherine's family story, and Holly's had fabrics that dated before the Civil War. Two quilts, with an unusual appliquéd detail (Feathered Star) that Julie had never seen in her 40-years experience and belonging to two unrelated families, were most certainly made by the same woman, or possible by a mother and daughter. Julie was impressed with information that accompanied each quilt.



Julie Silber with 1897 Single Irish Chain quilt displayed on black felt. The quilt belongs to Ted Jones and Betty Shanahan.

Quilts were used on beds, so seeing them displayed like a grand painting allowed us to notice detail and sometime optical illusions of geometry, color gradations, patterns within a pattern, meticulous to whimsical, 1850s-1940s – an amazing variety.

Julie and I had about 40 minutes to look at the quilts on display at the Museum before the event that took place at the Senior Center. She was astounded by the Pickle Dish quilt pattern and the Victorian era silk quilt and pieced top created by Josephine Fitch Bailhache. With only nine quilts on display she felt we had a very fine variety within the small collection.

Thank you to Sonja Drown for use of the Senior Center for the event. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped in numerous ways: Bob Rawlins, Pam Vanapaxhia, Victoria Taneyhill, Diane Bertoli, Catherine Curtis, Holly Hoods, Kay Robinson, and Lee Nalle.

We have received many calls about how much fun the participants had, how much they learned, and what a good teacher Julie is!

We are now planning the second event at the Senior Center with 25 different quilts on September 17 with Julie. Please call Ann Howard, 473-9803 to sign up ASAP.

Endowment Fund Contributions:

Generous Contributions from:

In memory of:

- Hollis Black** - Warren & Julie Krch
- Helendale Barrett** - Robert & Sandra Blasser
- Mervyn Silberstein** - Gloria R. Brown
- Robert Young** - Ted & Kay Robinson, John & Sharon Soracco

Kay Hopkins Roberts - Richard & Alice Pierson, John & Kathy Cross

Welcome New Members:

Mr. & Mrs. McNery, Kristy & Chris Monti, Greg Damron, Marty & Ellen Silge, Taya Levine, Betty St. Martin, Jay & Lori Tripathi, Helen McCarthy

Museum Volunteer Picnic (continued)

A big ***Thanks*** goes to the many museum members that helped with the set-up, dinner, wine pouring, and clean-up, all Museum Volunteers themselves. For this event, the Museum Board of Directors donated their own funds, making it possible to have this dinner.



This year for the first time, Healdsburg native Dennis Williams (Darla Budworth’s brother) came from Elk Grove to play his jazz music, adding a festive touch to the evening.

Our beloved Museum Volunteers make it what it is, so I hope in some small way you know that you are appreciated. This evening was for you!

Kudos!

by Sue Ross, Executive Director

While over 100 volunteers contribute to our ongoing operations, applause goes to the following people for their outstanding assistance during August:

- ❖ *The Instant Wine Cellar Committee* chaired by Mark Gleason, along with Stan Becker, Carla Howell and Kay Robinson, who brilliantly handled the responsibilities of our major fund-raising event, and IWC’s Farmer’s Market sales teams, (especially Bob Rawlins & Al Loebel). You did a *magnificent* job and we thank you!
- ❖ Darla Budworth for chairing the annual Volunteer Picnic, and the HM&HS Board for its sponsorship (especially our generous Anonymous Donor). Special appreciation to the gracious Mary Brandt and family for the use of their property on the banks of the Russian River. Ed Head - thanks for the hand-sliced watermelon and cookies even though you couldn’t attend.
- ❖ *Many thanks* to Barbara Baxter for many years of fabulous *Flashbacks!* You kept us in front of the public. You’ll be missed in this capacity, but we appreciate your passing the baton to the talented Kathi Engler. Also thanks go to De Anderson for 10 years of dedicated service training our Receptionists. Welcome Kaye Stallard, former assistant, who will carry your work forward - you’ll do great.

YOU ARE MY HEROS & “S/HEROS” ALL!

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