



“Life in Healdsburg” film and stereopticon viewing

## Healdsburg Senior Living Community - Museum Fund Raiser by Sue Ross

This past Saturday we experienced one more example of why our most *senior* Seniors are frequently referred to as “The Great Generation.” We were proud and honored to be feted by one of our HEALDSBURG’S 100 – **Healdsburg Senior Living** (725 Grove Street) – an absolutely *beautiful* residence where some of our community’s finest citizens live. It was an afternoon defined by Wine, Food, Art, Music, Fundraising, and “Friend-raising.” As their staff passed scrumptious trays of food, three of Healdsburg’s great wineries - Foppiano, Sbragia and Seghesio – poured generously donated fine wine into goblets (donated by the Seniors) emblazoned with our building’s Centennial logo.

With the strains of cool jazz by the Kai Devitt-Lee Jazz Quartet (see Ann Howard’s article on page 4) in the dining room graced by a lovely buffet, we all soaked in the atmosphere. From the garden outside into the building, balloons were everywhere. A *wonderful* Silent Auction of donated items from businesses and individuals transformed the Ice Cream parlor into a high-end marketplace, and local artists displayed their work in the generous hallways that led to residents’ private apartments.

However, the art didn’t end there! Several residents joined in by putting up “mini galleries” of paintings, drawings and photographs outside of their apartments. In fact, I believe Holly and her erstwhile team (who arrived early in the morning to mount a representative display of artifacts and photographs from our collection) took home ideas for future exhibits inspired by those of the residents.

It was my privilege to share current activities and future plans with all present and thank Mike McGuire for his kind introduction. Most of all, I want to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to the brilliant job done by Marketing Wiz Tony Fisher, Executive Director Rob Matthews, and the entire Senior Living staff. We are *thrilled* to report that \$3,242 was raised to benefit the Museum! *Talk about “giving back” to the community!* They have set the benchmark for ways business and citizens can support the Museum.

Many thanks also to our crackerjack team: Holly Hoods, Ann and Edson Howard, Victoria Taneyhill, Isabel Ramirez, Bethany Jump and Bob Rawlins for helping with such a fine display. (More photos on pg. 5)

### Calendar

#### JUNE, 2010

- 2 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
(Museum Research Center)
- 15 Board Meeting, 8:30 am, City Hall
- 20 Last Day - "From Cabin to  
Craftsman" Exhibit closes
- June 23 to July 7 - Gallery closed for  
installation of new exhibit

#### JULY, 2010

- 7 HMVA Meeting, 9:30 am  
(Museum Research Center)
- 7 Reception for New Exhibit:  
**Members only**, 6 pm
- 8 Exhibit Opening – Dressed for All  
Occasions: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fashions  
from the Healdsburg Museum
- 20 Board Meeting, 8:30 am, City Hall

### 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  
Wednesday – Sunday,  
CLOSED MONDAY and TUESDAY

Research Center open by appointment:  
Thursday – Saturday

## From the Director's Chair, by Sue Ross



Having just celebrated my first year at the Museum, I now feel we are moving forward at nothing less than “warp speed.” Whether working on traditional events, or introducing exciting new programs and initiatives, we are working at full tilt to expand the breadth and reach of the Museum.

Kathi Engler will be introducing our newly revamped Membership program in July (with many new benefits), work on our website is underway, and we are planning a simply fantastic 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party as an umbrella event for this year’s IWC.

Speaking of IWC, the wine is simply “pouring in.” One area where we can really use a hand from our members is donations to our Silent Auction. We are seeking “high-end” prizes this year, such as: time-shares in San Francisco, Tahoe or other equally wonderful destinations, weekends in some of our fine hotels or B&Bs, dinners in either San Francisco or local restaurants, good tickets to San Francisco sports events, a basket filled with picnic wine and food for Tuesdays on the Plaza, the theatre or symphony, glorious jewelry that you are willing to part with, fine art for which you no longer have room, or prizes that YOU would find attractive to bid on! In-Kind donations are a great way to support the Museum (and are fully tax deductible).

I am also learning that sometimes striking life’s balance at work makes my job so stimulating. Two recent occasions reminded me what all our hard work is about – both had to do with milestones. One was the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of George Greeott. Soon after arriving at the Museum I began to value his visits, regaled by both his stories of life in the Wine Country as a child, and as a craftsman still creating treasures from wood. He is nothing short of an inspiration. Both George’s creative zest for life and his amiable character have brought him gracefully to the century mark. When I called him on his birthday, George said “reaching 100 wasn’t so hard, so I’m simply going to keep going.” I admit it – I simply *adore* the man!

Another important event I attended was a Memorial celebrating the life of famed architect, John Carl Warnecke, who recently passed away at the age of 91. I attended the services with Board Member Anna Darden, who was with me when I first met Mr. Warnecke - a living legend – a mountain of a man – bigger than life – a close friend of the Kennedy family - and considered by many to be one of the great architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. All that, and a Healdsburg Resident! I never cease to be amazed at the treasures beneath our noses in this remarkable place, and look forward to more adventures as I embark upon my second year at the Museum.

## History Matters by Holly Hoods

Thanks to Darla Williams Budworth for donating copies of the Ferguson family’s pioneer story, “A Trip to California in 1849,” to the Museum Gift Shop. Written by Henry O. Ferguson, the *must-read* story chronicles this local pioneer family’s vivid tale of hardship, survival, and triumph during the Gold Rush. It is a fascinating read for only \$4.00. Darla has also helped bring the past to life by generously loaning the furnishings that the Fergusons carried across the plains in 1849. Please visit the Museum to see this and much more in the current exhibition, “From Cabin to Craftsman: 100 Years of Healdsburg Architecture.” High School students Bernice Monroy and Emily Stanford helped me develop an interactive History Hunt to engage younger kids to learn about the exhibit in a fun way. Several school tours are planned for early June.



Sue and I are now busy developing content for our new website. We are also excited to be launching a brand new audio component to our Museum exhibitions, thanks to a donation from the John and Betsy Bippart family. The Museum is fortunate indeed that Elizabeth Holmes has agreed to provide her voice-over talent and recording studio production of audio tours as a donation this year. Elizabeth and I worked closely together on the Healdsburg pictorial history book a few years ago, so it is a huge treat for me to collaborate with her again. We are developing scripts with historically appropriate background music, creating a test audio tour to accompany the current exhibit.

Thanks to Ann Howard for helping me put together “A Taste of History,” a display of representative items from the Museum collection, for the fundraiser (and fundraiser) at Grove Street Senior Living Facility on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Edson Howard, Victoria Taneyhill, Isabel Ramirez, Bethany Jump and Bob Rawlins also helped transport and/or arrange the artifacts. It was a really great event, thanks to Tony Fisher, the friendly residents and the excellent staff of the Grove Street Facility! Thanks to the participating artists and to Sbragia, Seghesio and Foppiano for pouring wine at the event. We made money, made new connections and celebrated the Healdsburg Museum.

## Historic Fashions by Meredith Dreisback

Arms, legs, and torsos are everywhere about the Museum, but do not be afraid; we are not bringing out the ghosts, just bringing in the supplies we need for our upcoming exhibit *Dressed for All Occasions: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fashions from the Healdsburg Museum*.



A special thanks goes to the Crocker Museum in Sacramento and the Vacaville Museum for loaning us mannequins and dress forms for the exhibit.

A very special thank you to **Silveira Pontiac Buick GMC** for giving us the use of a van for a day to pick up the items in Sacramento. With nine “bodies” in the van, there was no doubt Jim and Meredith Dreisback could use the carpool lane on their return trip!

Melissa Leventon, our guest curator, has made her final selections for the exhibit and Meredith is busy recruiting help for the installation process. Jeanette Marie and Fran Schierenbeck will sew curtains, and various covers; hammers and saws are whirring in Jon Lacaillade’s workshop as he makes 15 hat forms; and Isabelle is busy typing exhibit labels. Many thanks to everyone for your help.

Save the date, July 7<sup>th</sup> for the members only opening reception of *Dressed for All Occasions; 20<sup>th</sup> century Fashions from the Healdsburg Museum*.

## **A Brief (Impossible!) History of HMVA**

by Ann Howard, Coordinator, with comments by Darla Budworth, Bob Rawlins, June Smith, & Catherine Curtis



In December 1993 Betsy Bippart invited about 25 ladies and a gentleman for a Christmas luncheon at her home. Darla Budworth recalled “how beautiful her home was decorated, and how each table was set with Limoges

plates, sterling silver, & Waterford crystal. We all brought side dishes and she provided the rest. Betsy then asked us all to come into her family room because she had something to discuss with us. Wondering as we gathered there, she explained her idea to form a volunteer group at the Museum. She called it ‘HMVA’, the Healdsburg Museum Volunteer Association, (had already been approved by the Board on December 15). We all agreed, and she said she would get it started.”

Darla added, “That was 16 years ago, but I remember some of the ladies who were there that day, about 20 of us,” remembering many names.

Bob Rawlins remembered everyone’s name! Judy Babin, Rhea Bain, Nancy Bauer, Susan Bierwirth, Betsy Bippart, Darla Budworth\*, Ginny Canfield, Carol Clark, Catherine Curtis\*, Shirley Davis, Mary Jean Elze, Alice Grove, Nanci Gunnerson\*, June Jones, Mae Malone, Jeri Myers, Fern Naber\*, Elizabeth Neal, Norma Passarino\*, Bob Rawlins\*, Peggy Rawlins, Betty Reukema, June Smith\*, Eleanor Zak, Doreene Zanzi\*, and Claire Rithner, Curator. Names with (\*) are still active volunteers!!!

The Healdsburg Museum, not quite four years in its new home in the old Carnegie Library, was on the brink of closing. Betsy and the first members of HMVA recognized that the HM&HS Board of Directors needed organized assistance to manage Museum operations when funding from outside sources vanished.

Claire Rithner was the curator at the time, and June Smith became the editor of the “Newsletter”, first sent only to the volunteers. In the first issue in “Betsy’s Notes from the Margin” she wrote, “Let’s HMVA!” (Catherine remembered that they tried to come up with a different name, but couldn’t).

Charlotte Anderson wrote a heartfelt and detailed tribute to Betsy in the March 2007 issue of “The Review”. Betsy was responsible for many “firsts” in 1994 raising a lot of money, including crafts sold in the Gift Shop, the Barn Sale, the Autumn Fest silent auction in conjunction with “101 Bottles of Wine” (honoring Highway 101), a grand success as a fundraiser now known as the Instant Wine Cellar (**next one September 12**). In December 1994 the first Open House for Children was held with candy canes and a seven-foot elf. Betsy “obtained ideas from projects from other museums.”

Betsy wanted a display board at the receptionist desk upstairs, and Bob Rawlins, “made the cork board using corks from bottles of wine he and Peggy had lovingly consumed.” Bob collaborated with Betsy to create the “Handbook for Volunteers” that has been updated, and compiled “The Roster”, which Bob still updates annually.

De Andersen became coordinator in 1996, Ginny Canfield in 1998, Mary Jean Elze in 2000, and Charlotte Anderson in 2002 until early 2009. Pam Vana-Paxhia served through December 2009, and Ann Howard became the current coordinator in February 2010. The loyal secretaries through the years kept thorough minutes, and the number of volunteer receptionists has grown with many serving on special committees as needs arise.

The receptionists, automatically members of HMVA, are the backbone of the operation of the museum by being responsible for the Museum Gallery during opening hours, and providing security by his or her presence. The receptionist readies the gallery for opening, meets and greets visitors, answers questions, deals with gift shop sales, and shuts down the Gallery at closing time. Specially trained receptionists with a key to the building open or close the museum and secure the alarm, especially on weekends.

HMVA members help recruit volunteers as reception staff and other functions; maintain the list of volunteers; conduct training of receptionists and docents; and assist the Staff and Board as necessary with respect to exhibits and events. A HMVA committee operates the

Museum Gift Shop, and the Coordinator is a member of the Board of Directors.

HMVA volunteers are invited and urged to attend the monthly meeting held the first Wednesday at 9:30 in the Research Room of the Museum. To quote Betsy in 1994, "If you know what we're 'up to,' you can spread the word to your friends, and they will want to join us and spend their time and/or money like we do. We need ideas for spending time and making money, and we really need your help!"

*Thank you, HMVA volunteers, for all that you do for the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society, often quietly and steadily behind the scenes.*

## Smooth Jazz - Surprise Talent!!

by Ann Howard

The fund raising event for the Museum, sponsored by Healdsburg Senior Living on Saturday, May 22, was a pleasant success. It did not rain as predicted all week, the exhibit was attractive and well-received, and the receptionist disappointed when it was removed after the three-hour event.

A talented, local young man and his four-piece jazz band provided back-ground music. As I was touring the halls observing guests viewing the artifacts and visiting with residents, I sensed a different sound from the band – quiet, smooth jazz from the past. I glanced at the band, looked again, and there was Mel Amato on drums!!



When Holly and I approached him grinning, he said he couldn't pass up such an opportunity. He had suggested his favorite to the group, and mentioned "no one plays that style any more. I paid my way through college playing the drums."



"Go for it", Mel

## Captain Henry Fitch Connected to Mexico and Two U.S. Presidents

by Mary Ann Gervais

As a receptionist at the museum, you never know who is going to walk through the door. In early May a gentleman named Luis Carrasco Bazúa and I began chatting and he told me he was the great-great grandson of Captain Henry Delano Fitch. His mother was a Fitch through one of Josefa's sons, who married a woman from the Castro family, which had huge land holdings in the Bay Area. Her father was Commander of the S.F. Presidio. The young couple left California and went to Chile to manage the Castro family mines. Eventually they helped design and build ports on the west coast of Mexico near Mazatlan and that is where Mr. Bazúa's mother is from. He lives in Mexico, but attended Berkeley, and is now an astronomer. He had many interesting stories to tell about the family.

Captain Fitch grew up in Massachusetts among seafaring people. He decided early on that there was too much competition on the East coast so he came west and ran a business shipping goods from Chile to San Diego to Hawaii. He met Josefa in San Diego and her cousin helped the two elope. The young couple sailed to Chili where they were married in a Catholic ceremony. The first child was born in Chile. Fitch then took his wife and infant (son) around the Horn to Massachusetts to meet his family. They married again in a Protestant ceremony with an American marriage license. When the couple returned to San Diego, Josefa's father was furious and had Fitch thrown in jail for several months. Eventually he relented. The young couple built one of the first houses in San Diego, which was outside the military garrison. Josefa was a business woman operating the general store.



Josefa Fitch and Family

The Fitch family was related to the Delano family, the same family as Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It was

interesting to learn that they were related to the Grants. Josefa's youngest daughter, Maria Anita Fitch Grant, was the wife of Dr. Grant who was the brother of Ulysses S. Grant. A photo on display in the museum probably taken in 1870 in San Francisco is interesting. It shows Josefa sitting next to her daughter Maria, Dr. Grant, and the three young children of the couple. The four young people in the back row are the children of President Grant who were on the west coast and visiting their uncle. So Captain Fitch was related to two U.S. presidents.

Needless to say, this was a most enjoyable afternoon. I love hearing the stories which link our little hamlet with a family in Mexico.

**Isabel Ramirez to Help with “Hands On History!”** *by Sue Ross*



Please welcome *Educational Program Manager*, Isabel Ramirez. Isabel has a 3-year old, and experience in developing “hands on” activities we’ve been planning as part of our dedication to serving children, youth, families, educators, and non-profits serving children. Bi-lingual in Spanish, Isabel will help expand our ability to serve an even broader population translating materials, and working within the Gallery, Research Center, programs and events.

Like Victoria, Isabel comes to us through The *Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship*, one of 3 local non-profits working in partnership with the Goodwill-Redwood Empire under contract with Sonoma County Human Services. They provide the Subsidized Employment Program (SEP) managing Federal Stimulus funds awarded to our area. This great program provides organizations such as ours with talented workers we otherwise couldn’t afford and helps individuals learn new job skills through salaried positions at non-profits.

Both Isabel and Victoria will continue working at the Museum through August. *Hopefully*, the program will continue past August, but for now we’re just thrilled to have them both. Many thanks to *The Center, Goodwill, Sonoma County* and (SEP).

**Welcome to the World!** *by Sue Ross*

This is getting to be one of my favorite jobs – recording history as it is (literally) *born*. I am pleased to present the newest member of our extended community! Kathi and Joe Engler (Kathi is the Membership Chair of our Board) welcomed their 16<sup>th</sup> grandchild into the world (although the first for her daughter, Missy Brunetta and her husband Allen.) Jackson Matthew

Brunetta was born May 16<sup>th</sup> weighing in at 8 lbs. Many congratulations to the tired, but very happy family!



**Kathi Engler with Grandson Jackson Matthew Brunetta**

**Healdsburg Senior Living Fundraiser - Making History with Wine, Art & Music**  
*(Check out our website for many more photos)*



# HEALDSBURG'S 100

## Local Businesses Keeping Our History Alive

We proudly present our rapidly expanding list (which will present new businesses monthly). Please consider patronizing these fine Healdsburg businesses that are supporting both the Museum, and Our Town's rich history! (*\*Indicates\* PREMIER BUSINESSES, who have donated an additional \$400*)

*Museum Members at \$100 + levels need only present their GOLD-STICKERED Membership Cards to receive the following consideration from:*

**\*Healdsburg Senior Living\***  
725 Grove Street (707-433-4877)  
Senior Independent and Assisted Living  
*A small bag of thoughtful gifts*

**Amoruso Printing**  
401 Center Street, Suite G (707-433-9045)  
*5% off all Printing Services*

**B-Real**  
Women's Clothing & Accessories  
311 Healdsburg Avenue (707-433-1557)  
*5% off on purchases*

**Dr. Charles D. Elias, LCSW, PhD**  
1083 Vine Street, Ste. #506 (707-433-3955)  
*Free Hour "Foodie Shrink" consult  
exploring relationships with food*

**Geared for Growing Landscape Services**  
12020 Old Redwood Highway (707-473-4333)  
*Free Consult - Residential or Commercial Space*

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1500 Healdsburg Avenue (707-433-9500)  
*One-day Free Guest Pass*

**Mackenzie Digital Art**  
Award-Winning Graphic Designs  
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*Free Consult & 10% off on first project*

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Packaging, Shipping, Documents, Supplies  
*Color Copies (usually \$.79/pg.) for \$.39/pg.*

**\*Kreck Design Solutions\***  
524 Healdsburg Avenue (707-433-6166)  
Professional Website Design  
*Free Website Review and 5% off first project*

**Barbara Bourne Photography**  
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*10% off any framed photograph in the gallery*

**Consignment Cottage**  
44 Mill Street (707-433-3180)  
High End Consignments  
*10% off furnishings, collectables, jewelry*

**Fowler Associates**  
175 Foss Creek Circle (707-433-0405)  
Real Estate Broker &  
Residential Property Mgmt  
*Free Consult for Property Valuation*

**Healdsburg Lumber**  
359 Hudson Street (707-431-9663, x 16)  
*A "wearable gift" such as a T-Shirt or hat*

**Holly Harman Design &  
WineLabelDesign.com 1083 Vine Street #344  
(707-494-0314)**  
*Free Consult plus 10% off first project*

**Phelps-Baskin Investment Group, Inc.**  
Menlo Park, CA (650-208-9634)  
Property Rentals  
*A Free Wine Country Map*

**U&I Landscaping Services**  
12976 Old Redwood Highway (707-431-9133)  
*Free Consult - Commercial or Residential Space*



Centennial Logo  
by Holly Harman

***Contributions to the Endowment Fund:***

Anna Darden, Linda Wittke, George Greeott,  
Tom Jordan, Nancy Cook, James & Dorothy Walters

***Contributions to the General Operating Fund:***

Quincey & Dan Imhoff, Amoruso Printing,  
Elenita & Dennis Parker, Bippart Family Trust,  
Gay and Lesbian Fund of the Redwood Empire of  
Horizons Foundation,  
Gallo Family Vineyards (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event)

***Contributions in Memory of:***

**Tracy Tienda Bagley** - from Shirley Buchignani  
**Mervyn Silverstein** - from Gloria Brown

**Pete Dayton** - from John & Dianne Smith

**Marilyn Roudebush** - from Alma & Shirley Buchignani

**Madeline Ravani** - from Janes & Gloria Cameron

**Merle Daniel Copp** - from Shirley Buchignani,  
Sally Smith

**James Mazzone, Jr.** - from Peachie & Norm Dunlavy,  
B. Harrison

**Vrian Conely** - from Sally Smith

**New Members**

***Individuals:***

Kathie G. Mathews, Mary Jo Gault & Peter Valtin,  
Carol St. Clair Stratton

**Langhart Dinner Kudos!**

Many thanks to Ann Mahoney, Al Loebel, Lois Grace and Catherine Curtis, assisted by Victoria Taneyhill, for putting together a *SOLD OUT* Langhart Awards Dinner at Seghesio's Family Vineyards

**Dinner Chair, Ann Mahoney**



Mel Amato and Margaret Frampton looked elegant as they received their well-deserved awards, and "a good time was had by all."



**Margaret Frampton & Co**



**Emcee Al Loebel  
with  
Mel & Geri Amato**

**Board of Directors:** Kent Mitchell (President), Ted Calvert (Vice President), Ann Mahoney (Past President), Darci Rosales (Recording Secretary), Stan Becker (Treasurer), Bob Rawlins (Assist. Treas.), Mel Amato, Anna Darden, Kathi Engler, Rawleigh Fjeld, Louise Fowler, Mark Gleason, Holly Harman, Ann Howard, Al Loebel, Celso Rosales, Karen Tynan, 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