

## Message from the President



Dear Sharpsteen Members,

Thank you for re-electing me as your Sharpsteen Museum Association (SMA) Board President for the 2025-26 term! A long line of very talented folks have held this position since our association organized in 1977 and incorporated in 1979, and I am honored to carry on their work. Much of my time this past year was spent learning and asking questions, and I asked **a lot** of questions! In response, past and present board members patiently shared their knowledge and institutional memory with me as I tried to absorb it all. I can't thank those folks enough! As I've said before, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to keep your museum running smoothly. Having completed my first term as your president, I now have an even greater appreciation for our board, docents, committee chairs, and other volunteers!

I set two personal goals for last year: 1) To work with our Collections Committee to strengthen our collections record-keeping system, and 2) To work with our Scholarship Committee to review the history of the SMA Scholarship Program, redefine it, and modernize it. Both goals were met. I'm particularly pleased with the outcome of our scholarship program. For the first time, we have an information sheet that explains the program and provides details to prospective donors. We'll be distributing copies soon. The program is also well-positioned to be expanded in the future, if funding permits.

For the coming year, I have a couple of new goals. First is to revitalize the Museum Lecture Series. For starters, we have invited noted Napa Valley historian, Rebecca Yerger, to present a historical perspective at our annual membership meeting, to be held on June 5. Rebecca is a member of the SMA, and a valued friend of our museum. Her talks are always interesting, so I look forward to hearing what she has to say!

Second among my new goals is to take a deeper dive into the workings of each of our committees. As president, I need to understand as much as I can about how each committee functions and what they need to operate efficiently. Part of that effort will be to inventory the technology and software that we use, to assure that our needs are met.

I look forward to a very busy year that is not only productive, but also fun!



Rebecca Yerger

Dean Enderlin, *President*

## Coming in August —37<sup>th</sup> Annual Instant Wine Cellar

*Raffle Tickets go on sale late June*

Sat., Aug. 23, 4-7 pm

Boys & Girls Club, 1401 N. Oak St.

Premium NV Wine Tastings ♦ Yummy Appetizers  
Live & Silent Auctions ♦ Raffle Baskets

**ADMISSION TO EVENT:**

\$10 members; \$25 non-members  
Over 21 please.

### GRAND PRIZE

5 cases (60 Bottles) Premium Napa Valley Wines  
Grand Prize Tickets (\$10 each, or 5 for \$40) can be purchased at the Museum during open hours; by phoning 707-341-3313; online at: [Sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://Sharpsteenmuseum.org); or at the event.  
*Need not be present to win.*



## It's Membership Renewal Time

It's that time of our new fiscal year (June 1-May 31) and all membership renewals are due now. Letters were mailed out in May asking for your continued support as a member of the Sharpsteen Museum. There are several ways to respond to this letter and renew:

- Mail a check in the return envelope provided
- Present a check (or cash, or credit card) in person to the Museum during open hours (M-F 12-3 pm; Sat-Sun 11 am-4 pm)
- Pay online: [www.sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://www.sharpsteenmuseum.org), click on the "Join and Support" tab and make payment safely through PayPal

General donations and memorial or other gifts are greatly appreciated and can also be handled by the same methods as stated above.

More information about the different levels and benefits of membership can be found on our web site: [sharpsteenmuseum.org/join-support](http://sharpsteenmuseum.org/join-support).

The Sharpsteen Museum Association would like to thank you for being a member. Your contributions not only reaffirm your commitment to our vision, but also establish you as an integral part of our vibrant community. With your help, the museum will continue to be a source of inspiration to all.

Marcia Ciarlo, *2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Membership Chair*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ingeborg Bitter  
Dee & Daniel Desmond  
Ed Franzen

### CALENDAR

- June Annual Membership Renewal- Dues are due now for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- June 5, Thurs., 5:30 pm. SMA Annual Membership Meeting at Museum. Guest Lecturer Rebecca Yerger. See box at right.
- July 9, Wed., 10:00 am Board Meeting
- August 23, Sat., Instant Wine Cellar, Boys & Girls Club.

Regular SMA Board Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 10 am at the Museum House, 1317 Washington St.  
No Board meeting in June.  
Next meeting is on Wednesday, July 9.  
All members are welcome to attend.

### 2025-26

### Board Election Results

Dean Enderlin- President  
Dave Larsen- First VP  
Marcia Ciarlo - Second VP  
Peggy Berlin- Recording Secretary  
Barbara Lencioni- Treasurer  
Jane Bennett- Docent Chair  
Jackie Lang- Education Chair  
Bev Barnes- Collections Chair  
Pat Larsen- Ways & Means Chair  
Eden Umble- Media Chair

Thank you to all who voted  
and returned your ballots.



1311 Washington St., P. O. Box 573  
Calistoga, CA 94515  
Tel: (707) 942-5911

Web: [Sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://Sharpsteenmuseum.org)  
Email: [info@sharpsteenmuseum.org](mailto:info@sharpsteenmuseum.org)  
Museum Hours: 12-3 pm M-F; 11 am-4 pm Sat-Sun (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas)

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This Member Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Sharpsteen Museum Association, a non-profit 501(3)c organization.

Shari Hanson- Newsletter Editor

### 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.

## Attention Sharpsteen Museum Members

Meet the notable to notorious individuals who once called Calistoga home. Whether their respective residency lasted a lifetime or briefly, they added a unique vibrancy to Calistoga's history.

As part of Rebecca Yerger's Sharpsteen Museum Annual Meeting Presentation on June 5, discover the dreamers and schemers (No, not Sam Brannan!) as well as the defiant ones.

*(Did you know Calistoga had a bona-fide gangster in its midst?)*

This historical overview will also highlight Calistoga's innovative and gifted residents, including a promising Hollywood entertainer!

DATE: Thurs., June 5

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Sharpsteen Museum

Hope to see you there!!!



## The Original “Brannan Springs”

Of course you all know the story of Sam Brannan, founder of Calistoga and builder of the first hot springs resort in town known as Brannan’s Hot Springs opened in 1862. Brannan had been an Elder of the Mormon Church, sailing out of New York Harbor in late February 1846, along with over 200 LDS members and landing in Yerba Buena (San Francisco) July 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year. During this time, Brigham Young, leader of the church, was traveling across country with thousands of the Saints with the intention of moving as far west into the territories as possible, that being California. As Brannan began settling their new home, he waited for word from Young.

Word did finally come from Young that they had stopped short, instead choosing the Salt Lake Valley, Utah Territory, and would not be continuing on to California.

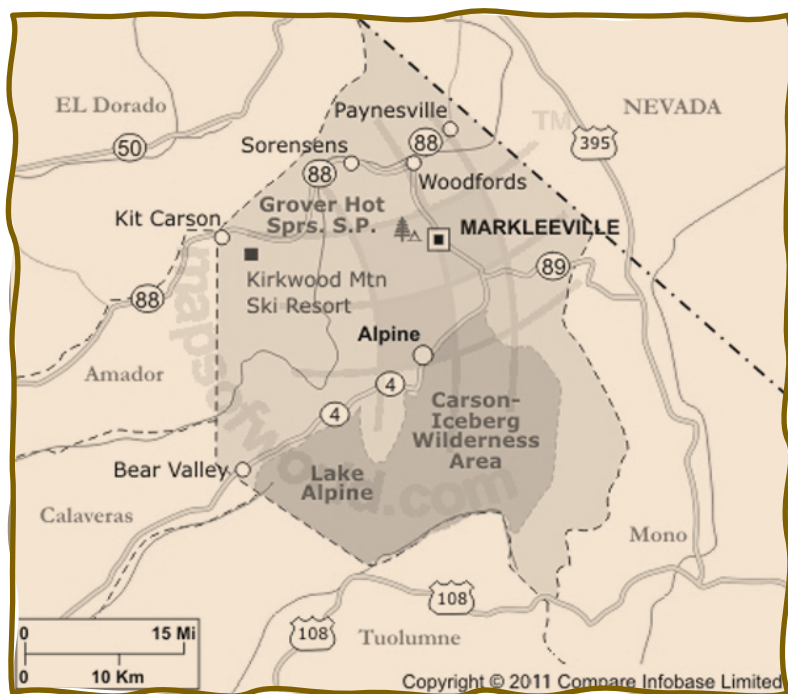
In 1847, Sam set out for Salt Lake to meet Young and convince him to come to California as planned. Sam traveled by foot, mule, horse and waterway via the Carson River Route of the Emigrant Trail where the mountainous road opened into the Carson Valley, which also became an important part of what became the “Mormon Trail”. It was here Brannan disembarked leaving supplies near a spring at the mouth of the Carson River Canyon thereby establishing Brannan Springs, the first non-native settlement in the area. Since Brannan’s main objective was to establish mercantiles throughout the state to better support the church members, this was not meant to be a common Trading Post. Money was the main objective.

Brannan Springs began to grow. When a post office opened in 1858, the town’s name was changed to Cary’s Mill, and changed again in 1869 to Woodfords (located approx. 6 miles NNW of what is now Markleeville).

There is no historic evidence that Sam returned to further develop Brannan Springs, which is surprising as this area was the Eastern Sierra gateway to the California goldfields and was ideally positioned to take advantage of the constant use of this part of the Emigrant Trail ...all potential customers.



*Modern-day location of the Springs- 2022. Photo courtesy of Michael Scialfa, So. Lake Tahoe*



No worries for Sam. It was only about two years later that he became California’s first ‘49er and California’s first millionaire due to his efforts announcing “Gold, Gold found on the American River”.

Samuel Brannan passed this life on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1889 at 70 years of age. He is interred at Mt. Hope Cemetery, San Diego, CA

--Kathy Bazzoli





## Destination Napa Exhibit Held Over by Popular Demand!

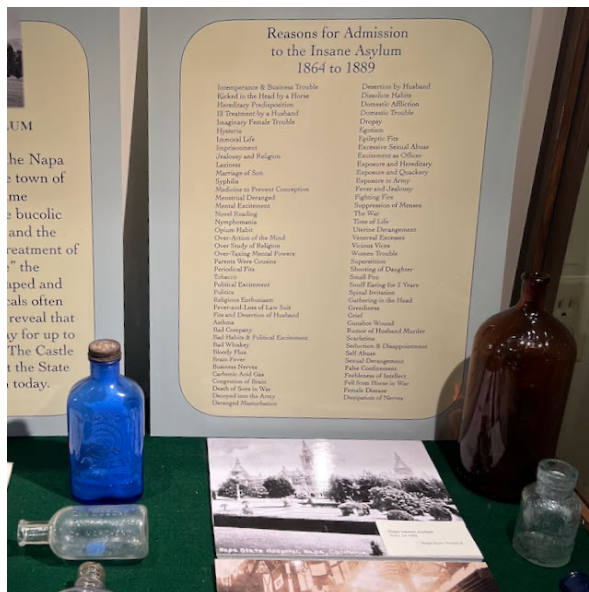
Our current exhibit, "Destination Napa: Philosophies of Wellness" has been extended through August. This fascinating exhibit curated by Napa County Historical Society is especially relevant to Calistoga with

its extensive documentation on Sam Brannan, geothermal resorts and bottled mineral water.

Through banners, the show poses questions – How did people get to the resorts in Napa?

What did people do at resorts? Where did people go in Napa Valley? – and answers them through historic artifacts, period ads, photographs and maps. (One of the most popular items is a list of reasons one could be committed to Napa's Insane Asylum in the 1860s, which must be seen to be believed.) If you haven't seen this show yet, you have more time to discover its treasures.

--Eden Umble



## Hats Off to Our Docents!!!



### BEST OF THE BEST Team Docent for March April 2025

Rose Beck	Pat Larsen
Jane Bennett	Karen Legeyt
Lloyd Best	David Lomax
Judith Cornils	Carla Taylor
Olivia Elam	Pierrette Therene
Lorne Glaim	Lauren Thollander
Marilyn Glaim	Molly Towey
Sally Houk	Jean Williams
Cathy Keag	

## Groups and Tours



Third Graders from St. Helena



Docent Sally Houk with Four Seasons Employees



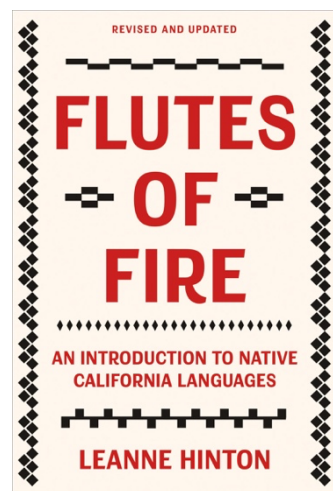
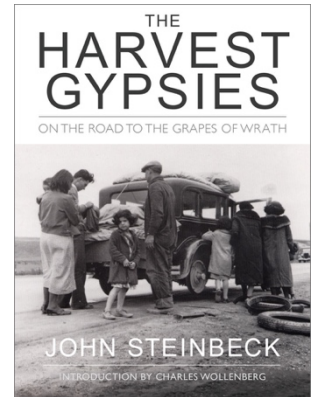
## Notes from the Bookstore

Eleven new titles on our shelves with two noted below for your reading pleasure.

The *Harvest Gypsies – On the Road to the Grapes of Wrath*, author John Steinbeck, introduction by Charles Wollenberg. Gathered in this volume are seven long form articles that John Steinbeck wrote in 1936 about the plight of the migrant farmworkers during the Dust Bowl. Trials, struggles, here we learn of the once strong, independent farmers reduced to fear and misery. This compilation, combined with the expressive powers of a novelist in his prime, fueled the *Harvest Gypsies*, which in turn furnished the factual and emotional roots for *The Grapes of Wrath*.

I have personal memories of visiting my G'ma & G'pa in So. Calif. Met friends of theirs that visited often, some belonging to the Dust Bowl history. They were humble, hardworking, and found appreciation in the smallest experiences.

Book is softcover, measures 8" x 6", 70 pages including over 20 black & white photographs. Cost: \$14.00 less 10% member's discount.



*Flutes of Fire – An Introduction to Native California Languages* by author Leanne Hinton. This title has been edited with major updates for the first time in 25 years. Approx. 100 distinct Indigenous languages, including our local Wappo, the Pomo, Patwin, Miwok, Wintun and beyond, filled with scores of history and information, lists of languages translated and numerous photographs. There's also information about Laura Somersal, one of the last Native speakers of Wappo, who passed in 1990.

There are stories, writings and poems by the First Nation, "Think like an Indian", page 304, "Songs Without Words", pg. 139, "What Language Can Tell Us About History", pg. 73. Powerful, educational & inspiring. Book is softcover, measures 9" x 6", 352 pg. including photos, appendix, bibliography and index. Cost: \$26.00 less 10% for members.

How can we appreciate our present without being aware of our past and history, the peoples that came before? Learning is an amazing unending journey. Please take advantage of our bookstore, it's all for you.

Kathy Bazzoli, *Bookstore Chair*

Check out these other titles that are new to our shelves . . .

- *A is for Acorn* by Analisa Tripp, illus. Lyn Risling.
- *Adopted by Indians, A True Story* by Thomas Jefferson Mayfield, illus. Hilair Chism & Rick Jones.
- *Bird of Four Hundred Voices, A Mexican American Memoir of Music and Belonging* by Eugene Rodriguez. You can hear the music on YouTube.
- *Bringing our Languages Home, Language Revitalization for Families* by Leanne Hinton. Includes not only American Indian but Scotch & Irish, etc.
- *California's Wild Coast, Poetry, Prints and History* by Tom Killion, with Gary Snyder. A beautiful, big book!
- *Hellacious California, Tales of Rascality! Revelry! Dissipation! And Depravity and the Birth of the Golden State* by Gary Noy.
- *Life in a California Mission, The Journals of Jean François de la Pérouse*.
- *My First Summer in the Sierra* by John Muir. "Another Glorious Sierra Day . . ."
- *Waa'aka, The Bird Who Fell in Love with the Sun* by Cindi M. Alvitre, illus. Carly Lake. Native American Stories.

### Happy Dads & Happy Grads

**Special books for those special people.**

Our bookstore is overflowing with titles of our shared histories, all specifically chosen for their value of the printed word.

Need a suggestion? Here are a few to get you started:

- *Hellacious California*
- *Bird of Four Hundred Voices*
- *Tools that Built America*. Antique tools, master craftsmen, woodcarving, et. al.
- *Backyard Blacksmith*. Traditional Techniques for the Modern Smith
- *Mt. St. Helena Guide*. Map included for the adventurer in your family.
- *Hidden History of Napa Valley*. With Napa County Historical Society

**Happy Father's Day and many Congratulations to all the Grads!**



*August, 1992:* "A new addition to our Museum House is the vintage light standard which was installed in early August (1992) by the Calistoga Rotary Club as a memorial to our beloved Barbara Wurz." A plaque was affixed to the lamp post at the bottom, and soon a freshly planted hedge took over and the plaque was no longer visible until now. Dan Bazzoli and son Danny reconstructed the concrete base for the plaque, raising it to a height suitable for viewing from the sidewalk.

Thank you guys!!!



This handsome sign replaces the tattered vinyl banner that hung for and endured several years of fire, wind and snow storms. Crafted and installed by Jodie and Mike Nieman of Jodie's Designs.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sharpsteen Museum Association  
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Calistoga, CA. 94515

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