

SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM



NEWS

CALISTOGA HISTORY MUSEUM

Volume 35: Number 3

April-May 2017 Newsletter

*Cookie Jars
Are Everywhere*



**A New Exhibit
Opening at the
Sharpsteen**

**Preview Party is
Friday, May 5th, 5:30-7**

Susan Wolleson-Freund's family history in Calistoga dates back to the days of Reason P. Tucker in the 1840's. Her collection of cookie jars goes back a mere 30+ years. She made her first purchase of a pair of cookie jars, Little Dutch Boy & Little Dutch Girl, in the late 1980's. This is where her journey would begin. Her collection now stands at over 300 pieces. Some jars she purchased herself, others have been gifts from family and friends.

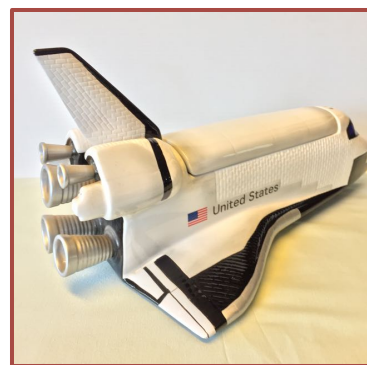
Recently visiting Susan to photograph her collection, we thought it would be an easy task. Not! Walking into Susan's home we first saw a cabinet filled with cookie jars, then another cabinet, then a shelf, then over the fireplace, then a hutch, and another hutch-- every jar more beautiful than the one before. The best part was talking to Susan about her collection. She knows every single cookie jar, on what shelf or cabinet it resides, and the story behind each one. It was an amazing experience.

Artist Andy Warhol was a collector as well, and he and Susan have more in common than you might think. Both acquired their jars at flea markets, yard sales, small antique shops, or received as gifts. Neither Andy nor Susan chose these jars because of their current or ultimate value; each jar was chosen simply because "I liked it". Susan has Andy beat on quantity though; he maxed out at 175, about half the number in Susan's collection. After Andy's death in 1987, his collection was auctioned off by Sotheby's and brought in \$250,000. Of course Warhol's provenance likely boosted the auction prices, but you never know.

Cookie jars have their origins in the late 18th century biscuit jars of England. They did not become a household favorite in America until the early days of the Great Depression. Cookie jars were first made simply of glass with screw on lids. Only later did cookie jar manufacturing get creative. Everything imaginable such as animals, fruits & vegetables, and storybook characters, became a cookie jar.

There is not room enough in our display cases for Susan's 300 cookie jars, but we are hoping to fit 100 or so. Be looking for Mickey & Minnie Mouse, Elvis in a pink

Cookie Jars- Continued on next page



In the past we have exhibited collections belonging to our members. For the next exhibit slated for this coming November and to run through April of 2018, we are asking for our members' involvement again. An opportunity for you to share your personal collections, treasures and memories with the public! What do you keep in that box under the bed? Porcelain, carnival glass, dolls, silverware, crystal, vintage toys, fans, your grandmother's tea service? Take it out of that box and let it be appreciated by the hundreds of visitors coming through our doors each month. Your collection does not need to be large; our 5 display cases can easily fit 2-3 individual collections each.

The exhibit will run for 6 months so be ready to be without your treasures for that period of time. (no dusting!) We are only in the beginning stages of this exhibit project, but the sooner you can get your name on the list the better. Please contact Patsy Hahn or Kathy Bazzoli at the museum.

Message from the President

Dear Sharpsteen Members,

Well, is it time to put our umbrellas, raincoats, and galoshes away? In the last three months my rain gauge has registered almost 40 inches of rain. That is more than the Calistoga rainfall average for the whole year. It has been a glorious spring so far. My fruit trees, daffodils, and tulips have blossomed and the irises are on the way. What a colorful time of year!

The Sam Brannan Cottage garden has also been very colorful. Yes, the Board has voted to name the cottage garden *Al's Garden* after member Al Derrick who has maintained this garden for many years. Al is a little laid-up right now but hopes to get back to this garden after knee surgery. In the meantime "Al's Pals", Marilyn and Lorne Glaim, have been doing an excellent job taking care of this garden. Did you see this year's tulip bloom?

While the Sam Brannan Cottage garden was making the outside of the cottage colorful the inside was getting redecorated. Thanks to Mr. Schingler's generous donation of Victorian furniture from a historic farmhouse on Bale Lane. I want to thank Bev Barnes and Kathy Bazzoli for picking out the furniture and redecorating the cottage. With the help of Marilyn Glaim, Jackie Lang, Gail Sharpsteen, Jim Barnes, and the Turner Moving Co., the cottage now has a clean new look. Come and see the Cottage's new parlor.

Do you know what the Sharpsteen Museum Foundation (SMF) is and does? The SMF was incorporated in December 1996 specifically to provide a permanent source of funding for the exclusive benefit of the Sharpsteen Museum Association (SMA), which promotes the historical, educational and financial needs necessary to support the Sharpsteen Museum. With the approval of the SMA Board of Directors, a new SMF board has been established. This Board now consists of Kent Domogalla- President, Bruce Dill- Vice President, Shirley Blomquist- Secretary, Leonard LaBranche- Treasurer, Diane Barrett, and Dave Larsen. In addition Kathy Bazzoli, First Vice President of the SMA, was appointed to this board by the SMA President to replace me as one of the Association Representatives on the Board of the Foundation. This board met in February and started discussing its participation in seeking funds for the Association's garage project.

Kathy Bazzoli and her Nominating Committee have completed their work and now you get to vote. Please vote and mail in your ballot or place it in the ballot box on the counter behind the store display case. In addition you will be marking a ballot for the new members on the SMF.

Have you been to one of our museum coffees? If you have not you are missing out on some very informative presentations. Our last coffee, in March, featured Danny Cusimano, Director of Research and Education at Safari West. You will be surprised at the amount of information you can get in one-hour presentations about various activities going on in our Calistoga community. Come and enjoy one of these coffees that have been organized by Sue Morton. Good coffee, Good treats, Good informative time!

Hope to see you at our special exhibit opening in May: *Cookie Jars Are Everywhere*. Do you still have a favorite cookie jar story?

Now, I have to go out and enjoy my Al-inspired tulip garden and prepare the soil for a spring garden.



Sharpsteen Museum

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Rogers – President

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Shirley Blomquist - second VP

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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

Distribution: Shirley Blomquist

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.*

In Memoriam

Francesca Wignall

Cookie Jars- Continued from front page

Cadillac, Sylvester & Tweety Bird, Aunt Jemima, Coca Cola, Babe Ruth, and Lucile Ball. How about The Cow Jumped Over the Moon, a John Deere Tractor, the Space Shuttle, even Hogs on Hogs (yes, pigs riding motorcycles). Susan's collection is truly mind-boggling.

The public is invited to preview this new exhibit on Friday, May 5th from 5:30-7:00. Please join us and see for the first and only time this awe-inspiring collection. *Cookie jars will be everywhere!*

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

Meet Our Docents

In each newsletter we will highlight one or more members that have donated their precious time to the museum.



Please meet our tenacious and dedicated Docent treasure, Anne Scott. Having lived nearly half of her life in Calistoga we're still not sure exactly how long Anne has been involved with the Sharpsteen, but she fits so perfectly it seems she's been here forever.

We asked Anne how she happened to land in Calistoga and begin her tenure at the museum?

"I joined the museum, around the mid-1990's. I was a docent for 3-4 years and in charge of tours for a year or two. I began to volunteer again when I retired from the library in 2008. Moved to Calistoga in 1971 for six years (my college roommate had lived in Calistoga; that's how I heard of it), then again in 1980 for one year (first year teaching) and finally in 1987, when Don and I got married.

Attended UCSB, graduated from Sonoma State, cum laude, with honors and distinction, as a Spanish major and received my teaching credentials. I worked my way through college and lived on very little. I taught for about 15 years as a bilingual (Spanish/English) teacher.

I wrote a column for the St. Helena Star for 3-4 years, "Scott in Calistoga", about what was going on in town. Worked at the Calistoga Library for about 15 years as a library associate, also about one day a week at Napa Library in charge of selecting and ordering all Spanish materials for all Napa County libraries.

I've volunteered at the museum, food bank & pantry, as science docent at CES with fourth graders, at Bothe State Park in the visitor center. I have volunteered and acted with St. Helena Players, Calistoga Theater, Pastiche Players, an earlier Calistoga theater group, and Bay Area Stage in Vallejo. I have one stepdaughter, Nicola Stupka, son-in-law Alex Stupka and darling grandson, Hugo.

I love meeting people who visit the museum and sharing information and really enjoy fellow museum members (What a great crew!)."

A typical Anne story; one stormy winter's day a couple of years ago, the power had gone out all over town. Rushing to the museum to make sure everything was OK, I found Anne was on duty. The museum was dark but I could hear voices. Anyone else would have simply closed the museum when the power went out, but not Anne. She found a flashlight and was leading visitors through the darkness, giving tours as best she could. I asked Anne if she needed any help, she replied "only some new batteries, the flashlight is getting dim".

For all of the above and more, I am sure you can understand why Anne is such a trusted and valuable member of our team, an asset never to be taken for granted. The woman is all heart; it's as simple as that.

Kathy Bazzoli

COFFEE HOURS

Hallelujahs and Amens were heard throughout the museum on Jan 31st during that morning's Coffee Hour. Guest speaker Audrey Ward, author and Methodist Minister, read excerpts from her book "Hidden Biscuits", her own story of a small girl growing up the daughter of a traveling Evangelical Preacher in the Appalachian Mountains. Her words and story were mesmerizing and the morning was topped off with an Appalachian music sing-along. With guitar, mandolin and fiddle in hand, inspiring musicians Ron and Esther Brunswick took us sweetly through a revival from the deep south as the crowds voices rang true. (Ron and Esther Brunswick seen here with Audrey Ward herself).



We want to thank Audrey Ward, and Ron & Esther Brunswick for an unforgettable experience. Thanks to Sue Morton, our Chairperson for Coffee Hours who put this fun event together for us.

Watch the local papers for announcements of future Coffee Hours. Sue is planning a diverse collection of speakers and subjects. The public is invited and welcome to attend.



Meet our life-sized Sam Brannan cutout. He may appear in a variety of places throughout the museum. Some days he may even be resting in the back room. This particular day (see photo) he was standing near the

diorama and his Timeline when he began flirting with Cynthia, a visitor from Fresno. We had to get a picture of this and Cynthia happily complied.

What's New at the Cottage?

A very recent and generous donation of several Victoriana pieces was the inspiration for the refurbishing and rejuvenation of our Sam Brannan Cottage.

Richard Schingler, son-in-law of Betsy Kilburn, contacted Bev asking if we would be interested in accepting furniture belonging to Betsy. That's all we needed to hear. After seeing the pieces, each was carefully packed and loaded and brought to our carriage house for storage. Only a few days later, this project began.



Betsy and Channing Kilburn, standing on the front porch of the Cottage, during its restoration in the mid-1970's.

Early one morning, the Cottage was nearly emptied. Each and every item was cleaned, the furniture, windowsills, and floors were dusted, swept and vacuumed.

Hours later after each piece was lovingly given its new place, our Sam Brannan Cottage became fresh again. Walking into the Cottage is truly a step back into 1862 when Brannan's Resort was at its height of popularity. A calming parlor, a space to enjoy music, artwork adorning the walls, 2 fully furnished bedrooms with appropriate accoutrements.

Major Thank Yous, first to our wonderful donor; then to Marilyn Glaim, Kathy and Dan Bazzoli, Gail Sharpsteen, Jackie Lang, Bev & Jim Barnes, and our "muscle" from Turner Moving Co., Napa for making this inspiration happen.

We do this all for you. Please take the time visit our "new" Cottage.



Our "muscle" from Turner Moving Co.

Our "muscle" from Turner Moving Co.,

Bev Barnes, *Collections Chair*



Save the Date!



Mark your calendars now for the 29th annual Instant Wine Cellar fund-raiser, Saturday, August 26, 4-7 pm, at the Museum Plaza. Thanks to the help of dozens of volunteers, last year's event produced record profits. Chairs Pat and Dave Larsen will once again need lots of help with wine and merchant donation solicitation and pick-up; publicity; raffle ticket sales; basket assembly; and event set-up and takedown. Leads for appetizer donations from local restaurants and exciting Live Auction donations are especially needed this year. If you can help out in any capacity, please contact Pat and Dave at 707-341-3313 or dirofdev48@gmail.com.

Pat Larsen, *Ways & Means Chair*



Please Open Up Your Hearts

With ever-needed upgrades and repairs at the museum, funding is always an issue. Because we are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, we must rely on the generosity and support from our members and supporters. A donation of any amount is always welcome. Donations can also be made in memory or honor of a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Larger donations can be earmarked to a specific use. Please consider including the Sharpsteen Museum in your estate planning. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

We sincerely thank you in advance.

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

This column is for all you who are not Sharpsteen docents-- yet! Have you recently moved to Calistoga? Are you retired and looking for a group to connect with? Do you love this charming town and want to know more about its history? Do you enjoy visiting museums? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, consider becoming a Sharpsteen docent.

We moved to Calistoga almost two years ago, and we knew we wanted to connect with people here. Almost magically we met a couple of Sharpsteen volunteers-- Kathy Bazzoli and Pat Larsen: "Become a docent at the Sharpsteen. You'll love it. We need you." We were not even sure what it meant to be a docent, but we volunteered to at least try the personalized training program provided by Ray Branstetter.

We discovered the excitement of sharing our exquisite little history museum with people as far away as Australia, Mongolia, Europe. Every year we also help to greet school children in tours planned by our education docents, Jackie Lang and Sylvia Marciano. We love showing guests Calistoga's treasures. We wouldn't miss the museum's educational coffee hours planned by docent, Sue Morton. Best of all, we now belong to a community of people who love our town and museum as much as we have come to love it. We belong.

We want you to belong too. Stop by the museum, discover local history, and meet the docent on duty. Leave your name and number, or call 942-5911. We'll call you back. We'll get you started. You'll soon be a part of our museum community.

Docent Prize Drawing for January and February:

Pat Larsen won a \$50 gift certificate to Cal Mart and Jackie Lang won a \$50 gift certificate to Calistoga Inn Restaurant.

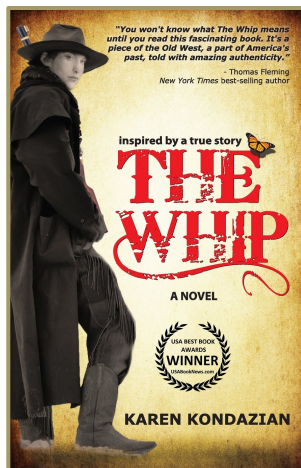
Best of the Best Docent team for January/February:

Bev Barnes	Pat Haynes	Jo Ellen Noble
Kathy Bazzoli	Gisela Huesmann	Biserka Potrebic
Shirley Blomquist	Marilyn Johnson	Ellie Robinson
Ray Branstetter	Jackie Lang	Anne Scott
John Clark	Pat Larsen	Sonya Spencer
Judy Cornils	Sylvia Marciano	Josepha Walpen
Donna Dill	Shelley Martin	Wendy Watson
Lorne Glaim	Emma Mazzola	DeAnn Wylie
Marilyn Glaim	Kathy McCloskey	Helen Yost
Linda Hanson	Sue Morton	Ingrid Zehner

Gold Star Awards to those docents working the most shifts this period: **17 shifts-** Lorne Glaim; **10 shifts-** Anne Scott; **7 shifts-** Judy Cornils and Pat Larsen; **5 shifts-** Josepha Walpen and Wendy Watson.

Marilyn Glaim, *Docent Chair*

Notes from the Book Chair



New on our shelves and a highly recommended read is "The Whip" by author Karen Kondazian. The story of "one of the greatest stagecoach drivers of the old west", Charley Parkhurst was born in 1812 as Charlotte Parkhurst. Charlotte was orphaned at an early age and found quickly that the only way to live her life the way she wanted was to put on a pair of britches and live life as a man.

Her life is filled with adventures we can barely imagine. Charley worked as a stable hand & learned to handle horses including driving coaches drawn by multiple horses. In 1849, Charley boarded the *R.B. Forbes* from Boston to Panama, then into California being hired to drive "the great stage route", from San Jose to Oakland and San Juan to Santa Cruz. It was a dangerous era in a dangerous country where dangerous conditions were the norm, and Charley handled it all. Having lost an eye after being kicked by a horse, Charley was nicknamed "one-eyed Charley".



Karen Kondazian

When Charley died in her cabin in Mariposa in 1879, it was only then it was discovered that Charley was in fact a woman. The examining doctor also determined that Charley had given birth at some point. A trunk in the house contained a baby's dress.

In an obituary written in the *San Francisco Call*, it was noted that Charley was "in his day one of the most dexterous and celebrated of the famous California drivers ranking with Clark Foss, Hank Monk and Geo. Gordon."

Obviously a story to be looked into; a story of determination, and a story of courage.

"The Whip", has earned numerous awards including International Book Award, USA Best Book Award, and the Gold Medal Prize for Best Western fiction and First Place Goodreads. Buy it in our bookstore today!

Kathy Bazzoli, *Bookstore Chair*
Josepha Walpen, *Co-Chair*



Did You Know?

You can explore back issues of the *Weekly Calistogan* (1877-2015) on the Napa County Library website. Go to napalibrary.org; click on the **Databases** button, and then scroll down to select **Newspaper Archive**.

❧ GIFT SHOPPE ❧

Spring has arrived in our Gift Shoppe! From wind chimes and bird feeders, to garden stakes large and small, every piece of color to remind you that Mother Nature has again brought her rebirth to the museum. Easter bunnies and decorative cans, place settings of colorful glassware, serving trays and an array of other gift items to help you get rid of the winter doldrums.

Inventories are limited so be sure to visit soon and make

your choice of that perfect gift for yourself (or someone else of course).

Last newsletter we asked for donations of items to sell in our Members Treasures case. Thank you to those members that searched their closets and hutches and brought us stunning vintage teacup & saucer sets, salt & pepper sets and crystal plates to name a few. Please keep looking, we can always use more.

Is your collection of costume jewelry becoming a burden? Don't throw it away, consider donating it to Members Treasures and we will do the rest. Donations are tax-deductible.

Sonya Spencer, *Buyer & Gift Shoppe Chair*
Josepha Walpen, *Co-Chair*



CALENDAR

APRIL

Wed., Apr. 12, 10 AM.
SMA Board Meeting.

MAY

Fri., May 5, 5:30-7 PM.
Special Exhibit, "Cookie Jars Are Everywhere"
Preview Party.

Wed., May 10, 10 AM.
SMA Board Meeting.

JUNE

Wed., June 14, 10 AM.
SMA Board Meeting.

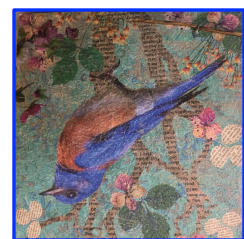
JULY

Wed., July 12, 10 AM.
SMA Board Meeting.

AUGUST

Wed., Aug. 9, 10 AM.
SMA Board Meeting.

Sat., Aug. 26, 4-7 PM.
Instant Wine Cellar



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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