

# SHARPSTEEN MUSEUM



# NEWS

## CALISTOGA HISTORY MUSEUM

Volume 35: Number 1

December-January 2017 Newsletter



Dear Sharpsteen Members,

While this year moves from fall to winter I have picked the last of the tomatoes from the garden, made the final batch of basil pesto sauce and planted some tulips, I couldn't help but admire the fall color change and the emerging green grasses that resulted from the October rains. As my garden has been very rewarding and productive this year so has the Sharpsteen Museum. Yes, as the museum celebrates its 38<sup>th</sup> year of being open to the public, our docents have volunteered almost 2000 hours guiding more than 10,000 visitors through this gem of a museum. I would like to thank the museum board, committee chairs, docents and the museum foundation for your dedicated work at the museum to keep it open all year round. I hope you continue your service into the New Year. It is the combined effort of all museum volunteers that makes this place a bright light in Calistoga.

Here is what we have accomplished this year:

- Conducted 30 group tours
- Great attendance at the children's educational summer program "Party On"
- Continued to improve the museum website and added our own Facebook page
- Very informative and successful Meet the Author Days- *Indian Baskets of Central California-Art Culture, and History* by Ralph Shanks M.A. and Lisa Woo Shanks; and *Hugh Glass* by Bruce Bradley
- A delightful history lesson on "Meet Sam and Ann Eliza Day" and *Calistoga Springs 1871* book signing
- Ran our most successful Instant Wine Cellar ever- over \$19,000 in sales and donations
- Displayed two colorful special exhibits: *Treasures from the Button Box* by the Sonoma County Button Club; and *Still QWERTY After All These Years* by Jim Flamson

*Continued on next page*

## Annual Christmas Faire

Time is fast approaching for the Annual Calistoga Christmas Faire. We especially hope you will stop by the museum's holiday booth on Sat., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 am to 4 pm. Come Early! You will find lots of gift and decorating ideas, wreaths of all kinds for sale including fir and redwood, bay leaf and dried wreaths, embroidered tea towels (always a favorite), treats for dogs, cats and birds. We are especially fortunate to have Anne and Ellis Hamilton with us again selling their superb home cured olives. Thank you Hamiltons! Emma Mazzola will be manning the baked goods, jelly/jam table where you can choose goodies for your holiday sweet tooth, including gingerbread boys and girls to put you in the holiday spirit. Hope to see you on the 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Pat Haynes and  
Emma Mazzola, *Bazaar Chairs*

## *You're Invited— January 24, 2017*

In collaboration with the Napa County Historical Society, the Sharpsteen Museum will be hosting an evening with Supervisor Diane Dillon.

Supervisor Dillon will update us on her *History of the Napa County Supervisors*. The talk is subtitled "Late arrivers must buy cigars". This carefully recorded note appears in minutes of an 1890 Board of Supervisors meeting when they adopted this critical (ahem!) internal rule.

Mark your calendars for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, time to meet: 5:30-7 pm (or so). This should be a fun event; Diane has spent enumerable hours researching our County Supervisors back to the inception. There will be time for questions so be ready. Coffee and cookies will be served.



## ANNUAL SMA Members Christmas Luncheon

Calistoga Inn

**Wed. Dec. 7, 11:30 am**

(Lunch served at noon)

\$35. Sign up and pay  
at Museum by Fri. Dec. 2.

Message- Continued from front page

- Attendance to the museum has held steady
- Sales are up in the museum store (books and gift items)
- Saw an increase in museum membership
- Another profitable Calistoga Christmas Faire
- Participated in "Calistoga Celebrates 130 Year of Incorporation"
- Coffee Hour has become a very popular source of community information and covered topics such as the Francis House, new City Manager, Calistoga Hills Development, and Pepperwood Preserve.
- Installed new track lights in the museum with the help of the city
- Thanks to Bev Barnes, enumerable new collection pieces have been donated for display in the museum, such as 2 ceramic bed warmers donated by Sally Manfredi, and a parlor chair that was in the Magnolia Hotel in the early 1880's and said to have been used by Robert Louis Stevenson as he made notes for his book *Silverado Squatters*.
- The museum got a new roof- no more leaks!
- Award a \$2000 scholarship to Jacqueline Aviña Espinoza
- Honored Sandy and Irwin Herlihy with a life membership
- Found Al's Pals (Marilyn and Lorne Glaim) to work the Cottage Garden

I hope you did not miss the opening of our current exhibit on November 4th, but if you did, Jim Flamson's *Still QWERTY After All These Years*, will be on display through April 2017. This is Patsy Hahn's 15th special exhibit that she has set up and organized. Thank you Patsy for your creativity and imagination in bringing these exciting special exhibits to the museum. Another thanks goes to Rose Beck for setting up the food and dessert. As we all enjoyed sipping our wine and eating hors d'oeuvres, we listened to *Due Gallanti*.

Now, you have two opportunities to make holiday purchases that will help the museum. First, is at the Calistoga Christmas Faire on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Fairgrounds. This is a decorative and tasty fundraiser for the museum. Remember the olives! Thank you to Pat Haynes and Emma Mazzola for organizing this event. Second, during the holiday season the museum store will feature holiday items. Thank you Sonya Spencer for making the store look so festive and Kathy Bazzoli for making a variety of books available for purchase.

Don't forget the Christmas luncheon on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Calistoga Inn restaurant starting at 11:30 am. Cost is \$35 and you can sign up at the museum until Dec. 2.

The year 2017 will mark our 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary since first opening our doors. If not for the support of our members this could not have happened. Please help us to continue the vision of Ben and Bernice Sharpsteen and their beloved museum. As we get closer to ending another year we humbly ask you to consider a year-end donation to the Sharpsteen Museum. We are an all-volunteer non-profit organization, with no endowment, and rely on the generosity of others. There is much to do and work needed to keep the vitality of our museum ongoing. A donation in any amount is always appreciated. Please make checks payable to "Sharpsteen Museum Assoc." and mail to: P.O. Box 573. Calistoga, CA 94515. Donations are tax-deductible.

A very Merry Christmas and Happest of New Years.

Alan Rogers, SMA President



We thank all who contributed to the success of this year's Instant Wine Cellar. The Progressive Dinner live auction item was purchased by Joan Dambros (far right) who with her guests enjoyed a first course by Chef Gustavo Rios of Evangeline, and the main course at the historic "church house" home of Pat and John Merchant. Chef Ryder Zetts of Archetype prepared appetizers, the main course and dessert. Appetizers and wine, paired by Julianne Laks of Cakebread Cellars, were served at the Willis House, now the home of Valerie and Bob Beck. Dessert, with wines paired by Ted Osborne of Olabisi, was served at the Lillie House, which is the oldest house in Calistoga, now owned by Susan and Toby Mumford.



## Sharpsteen Museum

1311 Washington St.  
Calistoga, CA 94515

Tel: (707) 942-5911 Fax: (707) 942-6325

Email: [sharpsteenmuseum@att.net](mailto:sharpsteenmuseum@att.net)

Web site: [www.sharpsteenmuseum.org](http://www.sharpsteenmuseum.org)

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

Museum House phone: (707) 942-5916

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

### BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Rogers – President

Kathy Bazzoli - first VP

Shirley Blomquist - second VP

Pat Haynes - Recording Secretary

Rick McCloskey - Treasurer

Marilyn Glaim- Docent Chair

Jackie Lang - Education Chair

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.*

## Welcome New Members

Carla Chapman

Karen Mann

Donald & Laura Newmark

Steven Rasmussen

Maria Luisa Moreno Reyes

Felicia Woytak

## In Memoriam

Joe Birleffi

Robert (Robby) Burt

Joe Doody

**The Museum will be closed  
Dec. 5-9 for our new lighting  
system installation.**



**Make sure to do your Christmas  
shopping before 12/5 otherwise  
you will need to wait.  
See you all soon!**



## Introducing: Rose Beck and Susan Morton



Rose Beck, long time Life Member of the museum has accepted the position of Hospitality Chair. Rose actually took this on as of June 2015, and is responsible for all the wonderfully delicious appetizers and foods served for special events, such as the Instant Wine Cellar, and New Exhibit Openings. She is a stickler for detail and was even seen cutting a piece off of one of our trees to decorate a food table (with the help of Dave Larsen by the way). Did she ask first? No, never. Rose is a doer, has a vision in mind and the outcome is always the best.

"I LOVE doing this," said Rose. In addition she wants to "thank you all so much for your help at Jim Flamson's Typewriter Exhibit opening (Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>). The food was perfect, the kitchen crew even better and of course Jim Barnes as bartender. I couldn't have done it without all of you. You made my job a little easier. A special Thank You to Pat & Dave Larsen and to Patsy Hahn without whom this would not have happened. We do make a great team!"

Susan Morton (we just call her Sweet Sue) has only been a museum member for a year or so, but we recognized that special quality immediately. When our beloved Sandy Herlihy stepped down in June, Sue took over as Chair for members' luncheons & the popular morning Coffee Hours (a program Sandy implemented), held monthly at the museum before it opens for the day. In a mere two months, her chosen speakers have brought in nearly 80 early morning visitors who share their time, have a cup of coffee, and munch on wonderful cookies and brownies homemade by Sue herself. Speakers thus far have included Aaron Harkin of the new Calistoga Hills Resort and Tom Greco of Pepperwood Reserve. So far, so wonderful. No Coffee Hour in December, but we are looking forward to January. Whatcha gonna do, Sue? Can't wait to find out!

We want to thank both Rose and Sue for stepping into these positions, for their tenacity and vigilance. You gotta love 'em!

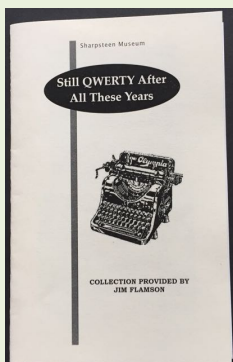


### *It Happened at the Museum*

Typewriter Exhibit Preview Party- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>



Above: (L-R) Kathy Bazzoli, co-chair; Patsy Hahn, Special Exhibits Chair; Jim and Kathy Flamson, at the well-attended Preview Party.



Left: Special booklet produced by Kathy Flamson guides visitors through the exhibit, machine by machine.

October and November "Coffee Hours"



Aaron Harkin, Project Manager, spoke and answered questions about the Calistoga Hills Resort Project.



Tom Greco, Communications Manager, explains the various programs, projects and opportunities at Pepperwood Preserve.



## New at the Museum

The Sharpsteen Museum has received a few pieces that are now part of the cottage decor. Look in the dining room to see the silver mustache cup and large condiment server. Then, right across the aisle in the bedroom, you will see a sweet new doll sitting in a wicker rocker as well as two mid-1800s rose china pieces sitting on the dresser.

Also, take a look in Granny's kitchen to see the pear corer and what we think is a cream whip.

Bev Barnes,  
*Collections Chair*



## Merry Christmas Books



It's that time again to recall childhood memories and the magic that Christmas brings. Sitting by the fire on a cold and rainy day while listening to the stories being read by grandma & grandpa. There is always a happy ending to these stories, and a lesson to be learned. What better way to share your love than with a book in hand.

New titles on our shelves include "The 12 Days of Christmas", a peek-through book. Beginning with a partridge in a pear tree, each page with cut outs expose more of each day's offerings.

In "Stowaway in a Sleigh" you will follow Slipper the kitty as he finds himself flying through the heavens with Santa himself, and learns quickly that there is no place like home.

"The Christmas Boot" shares with us the story of Hannah, a lonely woman who finds a boot in the snow. With no shoes of her own, she takes the boot home wishing she had another. The magic begins here for Hannah as she learns she has not been forgotten.

We are also offering this year Christmas books chosen at 50% off (while supplies last). Be sure to check out the sale table before they are gone.

My personal favorite is "Smudge and the Book of Mistakes". On the Irish Isle of Moracarrick, a young monk, Brother Cuthbert (aka Smudge) has been chosen to assist in illuminating their manuscript of the Christmas Story. Many mistakes and lessons later, Smudge finds the true meaning of Christmas.

In addition, our sale table includes titles such as "A Victorian Christmas", "A Piñata in a Pine Tree", Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" and "Father Christmas".

There are more Christmas books of course; we can't list them all but do hope you will come in and see for yourself. Choose just the right story to share with your children and grandchildren, find your place by the fire and make this Christmas special.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

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



Shop Now! Selected Christmas Titles  
on Sale Table at 50% off!

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

Two thousand hours? That's the number of hours Sharpsteen docents have spent guiding visitors into the mysteries of the Sharpsteen during a 12-month period.

Every month of the year, 7 days a week, every single day (except for Thanksgiving and Christmas) approximately 35 docents take turns making visitors feel welcome.

These docents work on a strictly volunteer basis, as do all the members of the staff. In fact, since becoming a docent, I have discovered that most docents are the ones filling other staff positions.

Docent Bev Barnes is in charge of the permanent collection. She spends countless hours adding to the collection, keeping it in order, and seeing that it is displayed in an exciting way. Bev has also overseen the project to replace museum lighting for a brighter, more welcoming look.

Kathy Bazzoli, former docent chair, oversees the bookstore. As first VP of the museum board, she monitors the needs of the entire complex, works with contractors, helps Patsy Hahn on special exhibits, and somehow finds time to research answers to the great variety of questions visitors ask.

Sylvia Marciano works with group tours and Sue Morton plans museum lunches and coffee hours. Shirley Blomquist is second VP on the board and among many other responsibilities takes care of museum memberships.

Ray Branstetter trains all new docents, guiding them carefully through the many jobs a docent does. And speaking of new docents, we welcome the most recent additions: Marilyn Johnson, Shelley Martin, Paula Newton, Maria Moreno Reyes, and Helen Yost. Expect to see more about them and our other docents in the coming months.

The Docent Prize Drawing for September and October: Ray Branstetter and Sylvia Marciano each won a \$50 gift certificate to Cal Mart.

Best of the Best Docent team for September & October:

Bev Barnes	Patsy Hahn	Kathy McCloskey
Kathy Bazzoli	Linda Hanson	Sue Morton
Shirley Blomquist	Pat Haynes	Jo Ellen Noble
Ray Branstetter	Gisela Huesmann	Ellie Robinson
John Clark	Jackie Lang	Anne Scott
Judy Cornils	Pat Larsen	Sonya Spencer
Al Derrick	Ellie Leake	Rita Tucker
Donna Dill	Sylvia Marciano	Josepha Walpen
Lorne Glaim	Barbara Maxfield	Wendy Watson
Bill Hahn	Emma Mazzola	DeAnn Wylie

Gold Star Awards to those docents working the most shifts this period: **19 shifts-** Lorne Glaim; **9 shifts-** Judy Cornils; **7 shifts-** Anne Scott; **6 shifts-** Jackie Lang; **5 shifts-** Shirley Blomquist, Ray Branstetter, and John Clark.

Marilyn Glaim, *Docent Chair*

## Meet Our Docents

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

This time around we are highlighting the ever-popular Emma Mazzola (seen here making Catnip Mice for the annual Christmas Bazaar).

Sometime around April of 2006, Emma had moved to Calistoga. June Claudon, a new acquaintance, had invited Emma to accompany her to a museum luncheon.

Emma consented wanting to meet new people and find her way in her newly adopted home town. During lunch a new project was announced asking for volunteers to help out. No one raised their hand, so Emma thought, "OK, here goes", and said, "I'll do it, I'll volunteer".

By the time Emma left the luncheon, she found herself volunteering for a second need, that of becoming a Docent.

Does Emma have a lot of extra time to fill? Not by a long shot. Emma boasts 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren with whom she is proudly and lovingly involved.

Emma not only has been a Docent for over 10 years, she spent two years on our Board of Directors as Docent Chair. She has also held the position of Associate Treasurer for many years (her favorite job she tells us). In addition, she remains active in the work needed for our booth at the annual Christmas Bazaar not only crafting, but responsible for the food donations (you may have received a phone call from her, cookies please?). Setting this up is no small task from step one through 100; a successful day at each year's bazaar is paramount to her.

Every time help is needed for any sort of project, whether it be stuffing envelopes, selling tickets at the Instant Wine Cellar event each year or making kitty-nips, you always hear Emma saying, "What do you need; how can I help?"

The great part about this is that Emma is a perfectionist, a true hearted and hard-working soul that will make sure everything is completed not only on time, but also absolutely correct.

We thank you Emma, gracious Lady that you are, for your giving and tireless help and dedication.

You make us all better just by being "You".





# Gift Shoppe

*May lovely happy times decorate your Holiday Season,  
May warm special memories brighten your New Year.  
May the wonder of Christmas be with you always.*

Our Gift Shoppe is filled with memories waiting to happen. Ornaments, Santa trains & salt 'n' pepper shakers, even frosty hedgehogs all waiting to be gifted to just the right, special loved one. Jolly Snowmen, Angels, lighted glass Christmas trees and decorative holiday towels... Racks filled with stocking stuffers, fun sticker books, old time Yo-yo's; the possibilities are endless.

Please stop by, we are here to help you find the perfect gift. We thank you for your support during this past year and look forward to another year together.

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



## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

**Sat., Dec. 3,** 9 AM- 4 PM.  
Christmas Faire.

**Wed., Dec. 7,** 11:30 AM.  
Annual SMA Christmas Luncheon- Calistoga Inn.

**Wed., Dec. 14,** 10 AM.  
SMA Board Meeting.



### JANUARY- 2017

**Wed., Jan. 11,** 10 AM.  
Board Meeting.

**Tues., Jan. 24,** 5:30-7 PM.  
An Evening with Diane Dillon.

### FEBRUARY

**Wed., Feb. 8,** 10 AM.  
Board Meeting.

### MARCH

**Wed., Mar. 8,** 10 AM.  
Board Meeting.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sharpsteen Museum Association  
1311 Washington St. (707) 942-5911  
P.O. Box 573, Calistoga, CA 94515

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
PERMIT #30  
Calistoga