

SONOMA and PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARKS



Docent and SPParks **GAZETTE** **SPRING 2017**



MESSAGE FROM SPPARKS

Yvonne Bowers, President

SPParks (Sonoma Petaluma Parks) is a California State Parks Cooperating Association. Cooperating associations are non-profit organizations dedicated to enhancing the educational and interpretive programs in California State Parks. Collectively the network consists of 89 associations and serves most of the 280 state parks. These associations, with more than 34,000 members and donors, provide critical funding for educational and interpretive needs that are impossible for state parks to meet. Associations contribute more than 17 million dollars annually to fund critical staff positions, exhibits, visitor center developments, junior ranger and nature walk programs, living history demonstrations, special events and many other exciting projects.

Facilities -- Associations help the state to build, restore or furnish visitor centers, museums, historic buildings and exhibit shelters.

Programs -- Supported by associations include guided tours, nature walks, Junior Rangers, special events, living history and environmental living programs. Hundreds of special events that occur annually are due to the dedicated partnership between cooperating associations, department staff and volunteers.

Your Association last year created three "pillars" to focus our efforts on behalf of the park: Interpretation, Preservation and Awareness. To that end, we have tailored our 2017 financial budget so all our expenditures (excluding the Barracks Bookstore revenue and expenses) are categorized by those pillars. It enables the Association to easily track our activities by pillar and focus our energy where it's most needed.

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HIGH IMPACT DOCENT ENRICHMENT

Joleen Ossello, Volunteer Coordinator

Ocean waves and pounding rain provided for a good night's sleep at the Mott Training Center of Asilomar State Beach in Pacific Grove, CA in March. A place where Park Staff are rejuvenated, mentored, and praised for their passion and contribution to social service and shrouded by pines, sand dunes, and open water. If ever I wonder about the intensity and importance of my job, a weeklong training session with statewide counterparts brightens my attitude and rekindles my passion for public service.

Thirteen speakers presented volunteer coordination instruction, experience, and advice from all aspects of the position's duties, including; *Highly Impactful Volunteer Program Model* presentation by an environmental economist at Monterey Bay Aquarium, *Energizing Your Volunteer Program* from Santa Cruz's Park Interpreter II, *Volunteers in Action* by Point Sur Light Station State Historic Park's Cooperating Association, and DPR Headquarters' Nate Tucker on *Risk Management* just to name a few.

With all of you, we make a far better park experience available to the public. And therein lies the reasoning behind a change in the 2017 Docent Training Schedule. After conversations among colleagues and supervisors, I've decided to work on enrichment and workshops throughout the rest of this year spending time and energy on existing docents and volunteers who contribute their precious time greeting the public, fulfilling CSP's Mission, and meeting their program commitments.

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Our Numbers for 2016

In 2016 there were 72 docents who led tours at our park venues, about the same number as in the previous two years. They contributed more than 2,100 tour hours, about the same total as in 2015 but tours were up at the Mission and down at the Vallejo Home and the Toscano H&K.

Docents spoke with more than 34,000 visitors, about 3,000 less than in 2015. This can be accounted for by the decrease in Toscano visitors as a result of a 20% reduction in tour hours, from 691 hours in 2015 to 556 hours in 2016. We need more Toscano docents; please sign up for Toscano docent training when it is offered in 2017.

From my experience, visitors are grateful for the information and insights they get from a docent-led tour. We make the visit more meaningful and memorable through the telling of the history of our local historic parks and the people who lived and died here.

Membership in Sonoma Petaluma Parks stood at about 123 persons at the end of 2016, about the same as for 2015. The geographic distribution is 80 members in Sonoma Valley, 20 residing in Petaluma, and 23 elsewhere. In 2015 we had 24 Petalumans as members; there has been a small but steady decrease in our Petaluma ranks in recent years. This, despite the time and money contributed by SPParks for restoration of the Adobe walls, a major ongoing project. The SPParks board is considering what can be done to reverse this trend; please let us know if you have any suggestions.

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*IN MEMORIAM
KATIE PRESCOTT
March 30, 2017*

As we went to press we learned of the passing of Katie Prescott, a long-time docent and volunteer. The end came quickly; she was working at the bookstore until about three weeks ago. Katie was a kind, gentle, interesting person and a good friend to many of us. We all shall miss her.

SPParks Board Member David Coronado

Many of you know David as a docent at the Sonoma Barracks. He realized from this exposure to our parks community that, by drawing on his professional experience, there was still more he could do for our local parks. We are pleased to now have his services as a member of the SPParks Board.

David moved to Sonoma County from Contra Costa County when he retired in 2012. His interest in history and its interpretation led him to volunteer as a docent at the Sonoma Barracks in 2015. David is also a volunteer with other community organizations. Prior to retiring David had an active career in both the public and private sectors. He was the Medicaid Director for the District of Columbia and the Medicaid Policy Director for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He has also served as the Deputy U.S. Peace Corps Country Director in Guatemala and is an accomplished consultant, managed care executive and a federal, state, county and city government health program official. As a consultant, his clients included foreign governments, the federal government and multiple state and local governments as well as private sector health organizations.

As a member of the SPParks Board, David hopes to put his local, county and state government relations experience to good use and will use his experience in working with community groups to help expand support for SPParks and its activities among the Hispanic communities in Sonoma County.



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For example under the Interpretation Pillar, SPParks provides funding for Docent Training, Docent Enrichment, Special Events (Children's Day at the Mission, Fandango, Christmas at the Mission and the Victorian Christmas Craft Fair to name a few) and Appreciation events like the Docent Picnic and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

In support of the Preservation Pillar, we provided funding (with the help of the Landmarks Commission of Sonoma County and the Native Sons of the Golden West) for the repair of the Petaluma Adobe walls, replacing the tiles in the entrada and around the hornos, and are planning a refresh of the Bell Room in the Mission.

The Awareness Pillar means awareness of both the Park and the Association. Participating in the Fourth of July Parade, funding lectures and hosting events serves that end.

Your Association Board of Directors is hard at work and welcome any suggestions or help.

Fourth Grade Mission History Projects

For many years our association has sponsored fourth grade mission history projects at our local schools. This program continues this year. Teachers have been contacted and we await their commitment to participate. Each participating school receives a \$300 stipend in the form of \$1 silver coins and a diploma for each student. Nine schools have been invited to participate. The teachers will set up their displays in the Barracks TV room on Friday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo). The research papers, Mission models, maps, and displays will remain through Memorial Day (May 30). Any docent wishing to assist before and after the program, please contact Tom Martin ph 938-5025, email tvmsnomia@att.net.

Tom Martin - program coordinator

Next Quarterly Docent Meeting

10:00 AM June 10, 2017

Barracks A/V Room

HELP WANTED!!



The Barracks Bookstore is looking for more volunteers! If you like meeting visitors from all over the world and sharing our Sonoma story we would love to talk with you about joining our team of sales people. We are looking for people who can contribute 4 hours, one day per week. The usual time slots are 10am to 2pm and 1pm to 5pm but we are happy to work out other arrangements. We provide training so no retail experience is required but we do ask that you bring your gracious personality with you. Please contact Patrick at the bookstore Thursday through Monday if you are interested, or email him at pdk@sonomaparks.org and he will happily answer any questions you might have.

Patrick Kearney, Store Manager

Our Numbers...continued from page 2

A large part of our membership comes from the docent ranks but there are still docents who are not members. SPParks strives to enhance the docent experience through support of docent training and enhancement lectures, the annual picnic and holiday luncheon, and other docent program needs. We hope that those docents who are not members of SPParks will consider joining in 2017. You can do it online, at sonomaparks.org.

Bob Alwitt, docents statistics and SPParks membership

Docent Library News

The library is full of good books as usual, so come and get 'em! Now the library key can be borrowed from the Barracks book store – it is no longer in the Soldiers Room lock box. To return your books, you may simply drop them off with the park aides at the Mission whenever it is open.

HOW TO ACCESS THE DOCENT LIBRARY LISTINGS ON LINE:

Go to **Big Tent** website and type in **Docent Bookies** when prompted to describe your group. Type this email address into the Member Login box --- docent@sonic.net — then type this as the password --- SPSHP123. To get to the library holdings listings, go to Utilities and then click on the “Files” tab. You can choose from Author Listings, Title Listings and Subject Listings.

Lisa Tremblay, Docent Librarian
lisaftremblay@aol.com

Docent Enrichment, continued from page 1

I will only hold an official recruitment and training if a particular site is lacking the necessary number of docents by a wide margin. Please consider signing up for an additional shift in this quarter or filling a vacancy at another site in which you are trained. I ask for your patience and support, while I sort through the programs details and brainstorm along with the training committee and docent chair to provide for each of you, the enrichment and direction you deserve. Please do not hesitate to contact me with ideas or thoughts. Our new Sector Office is at 20 E. Spain Street on the Plaza in front of the docent library. I can be found there on the second floor, by phone at 938-9547 or email at Joleen.Ossello@parks.ca.gov.

A list of the 2017 Special Events for both Sonoma and Petaluma State Historic Parks is on page 4 of this Gazette. Please phone the contact person to let them know you're interested in participating. I look forward to seeing you in the museum.

Next Quarterly Docent Meeting

10:00 AM June 10, 2017

Barracks A/V Room

Children's Day at the Mission

Spring is upon us which means it is time once again for Children's Day at the Mission. The event is held on Saturday, April 29, from 11:00am to 3:00 pm. It is a great time for kids and their parents to turn off electronic devices and go back in time to the world of hands-on activities. This year we are changing some stations to keep the interest going. We will have our standards: candle making, basket weaving, wool spinning, roping, and branding. Of course the ever popular cornhusk dolls will be back as well as beading. This year we offer butter churning and tortilla making at the grills. Also, we have added a leather tooling station. The event kicks off at 11:00am with a performance by the Youth Pomo Dancers from Santa Rosa. Please note that there is an event on the Plaza starting at 11:00 am, the Sonoma Climate March. This is finished at noon but will cause congestion in the vicinity so plan accordingly.

If you are interested in volunteering at this event please contact Emily Walski at: emily.Walski@parks.ca.gov.

Emily Walski, Park Interpretive Specialist



Want to join SPParks?

Do it online!

Go to sonomaparks.org

Click on Membership

You can renew membership there, too!

DOCENT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

ALL DOCENTS are welcome! ...As are all candid comments during the discussions. Most find the fellowship gladdening to the heart as well as enlightening to the mind. The book for our June Meeting is *"Soldiers, Scoundrels, Poets & Priests"* by David J. McLaughlin. It tells the personal stories of Californians, some well-known, during the Spanish, Mexican and American eras, spanning the years from 1768 through 1853 as California evolved from wilderness to state. There is a page about the fate of each mission. The book is both diversified and comprehensive in its coverage of the people whose souls and bodies are the stuff of which California was made.

A unique book, in addition to first hand quotes revealing views of days gone by, it includes over sixty photographs, many of them historic images never before published, and a timeline that's a helpful guide relating what was happening in California to U.S. and world events. Organized by era, the book puts flesh and blood onto California's history.

The book is available in the Docents' Library (limited number...key in Bookstore), the Sonoma Public Library and in the Barracks Bookstore (Note: it's cheaper in the bookstore than online!)

Ed Purkey, Bookie



2017 Sonoma State Historic Park Events

Saturday	29-Apr	Children's Day at the Mission	11-3pm	Emily Walski, PIS	938-9560	emily.walski@parks.ca.gov
Saturday	29-Apr	Dia Del Nino w SEEC	11-12pm	Dave Duplantier, PIS	938-9550	dave.duplantier@parks.ca.gov
Saturday	24-Jun	Pueblo Day	11-4pm	Joleen Ossello, PI I	938-9547	joleen.ossello@parks.ca.gov
Tuesday	4-Jul	Fourth of July Parade	10-12pm	SPParks	843-0109	yvonnebowers@mac.com
Sunday	20-Aug	Volunteer Picnic	tbd	SPParks	815-6005	berlev662@gmail.com
Saturday	26-Aug	ESP Teacher Wkshp	9-3pm	Emily Walski, PIS	938-9560	emily.walski@parks.ca.gov
Saturday	9-Sep	Optics & Nature Festival	11-4pm	Dave Duplantier, PIS	938-9550	dave.duplantier@parks.ca.gov
Thursday	26-Oct	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	5-7pm	Joleen Ossello, PI I	938-9547	joleen.ossello@parks.ca.gov
Sunday	19-Nov	Victorian Crafts Workshop	11-4pm	SPParks	843-0109	yvonnebowers@mac.com
Saturday	9-Dec	Christmas at the Mission	4:30-7:30pm	Joleen Ossello, PI I	938-9547	joleen.ossello@parks.ca.gov

2017 Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park Events

Saturday	8-Apr	Sheep Shearing Day	11-1pm	Crystal Battles, SPPO	762-4871	crystal.battles@parks.ca.gov
Saturday	13-May	Living History Day	10-4pm	Crystal Battles, SPPO	762-4871	crystal.battles@parks.ca.gov
Saturday	Sept	ELP Teacher Wkshp	8-6pm	J. Hanson, Guide I	762-4871	jennifer.hanson@parks.ca.gov
Sunday	8-Oct	Fandango	12-4pm	Crystal Battles, SPPO	762-4871	crystal.battles@parks.ca.gov

Sonoma Petaluma Parks
P.O. Box 1702
Sonoma, CA 95476

LINKS

Sonoma Petaluma Parks: <http://sonomaparks.org>
California State Parks: <http://www.parks.ca.gov>
Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park Events: www.petalumaadobe.com/

MEETINGS

Docent Quarterly Meetings: Second Saturday in March, June, September 10:00 am
First Saturday in December 10:00 am

SPParks Association Monthly Board Meetings: Second Tuesday 10:00 am
Alternating Location, Sonoma Barracks and District Office, Petaluma

GAZETTE AND DOCENT SCHEDULE ONLINE

The Gazette and Quarterly Docent Tour Schedule updates, along with News and Events can be found at sonomaparks.org.

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