

SONOMA and PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARKS



Docent and *SPParks* **GAZETTE** Spring 2020



Living History Day Cancelled

This information was in an email from Karen Barrett received on April 3, 2020 6:23 PM:

Living History Day at Petaluma Adobe, scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, has been cancelled. In hopes that our parks will be open sometime in May Jennifer Hanson is looking into the idea of creating something special but attainable at that time. Thank you for your understanding,

Karen J. Barrett, Interpretation & Education Program Manager, Bay Area District

Message from California State Parks

As the State of California continues to issue guidance on preparing and protecting Californians from COVID-19 (coronavirus), California State Parks is monitoring the situation and implementing safety measures to prevent employees, volunteers, partners and the public from exposure to the pandemic disease. The department is monitoring the coronavirus situation closely and is following guidance provided by the Governor's Office via the California Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

News from Ranger Rob

Although the parks are closed, some staff will be at work to keep essential functions going. Rangers will be on duty, since we are law enforcement and public safety, but all seasonal staff will be off; this means park aides, senior park aides, and park interpretative specialists. They have been told that they can apply for unemployment. Vince told me the parks closure date has been moved through 4/30. Joleen will be working out in Novato, at Olampali SP, where she will be working with Karen Barrett on special assignments. Emily will be working at District, also on special assignments. Maintenance will still be providing various services, like cleaning and landscaping duties. The restrooms are open at the Vallejo Home, as well as the parking lots at the Vallejo Home and behind the Barracks. I expect to be in my office, (707)938-9548 or (707) 769-5652 (ext200). Joleen, Emily, and I can still be reached online. Thanks and stay well,

Rob Pickett, Supervising Ranger

NEXT DOCENT QUARTERLY

MEETING

JUNE 13, 2020

BARRACKS A/V ROOM

WHAT A GATHERING THIS WILL BE!!

SPParks Update

At the time of this writing Sonoma and Petaluma State Historic Parks are closed for health and safety reasons with regard to the COVID-19 virus. The closure is expected to continue until the end of April.

SPParks has been working with State Parks to make some improvements at the Park venues. Ronnie Cline, State Park curator, brought to our attention that the chairs in the Barracks media room had seen better days. *SPParks* has purchased 40 new chairs for that room. In addition, *SPParks* has funded the replacement of the Toscano Hotel sign atop the building facing Spain Street, which was deteriorating (another consequence of age). Board member Jeff Weiss took on the responsibility to find a sign company and direct the removal of the sign in early February and a replica has been made to replace it. The new sign will be installed soon. The *SPParks* Board has also purchased a new computer and digital projector, primarily for use at lectures and performances at the Mission.

The *SPParks* Board is searching for a new Treasurer for the organization. If you have the requisite skills and are interested in serving on the

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Notes from the Docent Co-Chairs

What can we say?

Since the quarterly docent meeting scheduled for March was cancelled we thought we'd provide a summary of what was planned for the meeting. We were going to propose a field trip to the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah (gracehudsonmuseum.org), hear a talk by Dr. Peter Meyerhof, "A Tour of the Mission As It Was in 1834", celebrate the retirement of stalwart Mission docent Carrie Fogg, vote on updated docent organization guidelines that were previously sent to you, hear news from State Parks and establish docent committees to include more of your skills and interest. While COVID-19, has disrupted our plans for now we will include all of these and more in a future meeting.

In a strong concern for the health of docents and Park staff and visitors, the Sonoma and Petaluma State Historic Parks are closed at least until the end of April. Let's hope that's not an overly optimistic projection. In the meantime, we hope to see you, at 6 feet away of course, during senior grocery shopping hours or out walking around town. If anyone needs support, an errand run or just a friendly hello, reach out. Sonoma is still strong. If you have any ideas for future field trips, book titles, a website or podcast that strikes a chord or provides insight, please share.

Until the world returns to a semblance of normalcy and we can get back to giving tours again, stay safe.

Suzanne Berube & Sharon Douglas

Membership Report

A big *SPParks* THANK YOU for everyone who renewed their membership for 2020. We had renewals ranging from 25\$ to 500\$ with a total amount of over 6000\$. It's great to see that so many of us renewed at a level that was comfortable. All renewals are greatly appreciated. We now have 104 members, which includes 23 family or friends groups. Our members live in Sonoma, Petaluma, Vineburg, Atascadero, Kenwood, Glen Ellen, Rohnert Park, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Pacific Grove, San Bruno, Vineyard, Napa, Malibu San Francisco and San Diego.

Your membership contributions will add to the support that *SPParks* can give to its three pillars: Interpretation, Awareness and Preservation.

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(Membership Report, continued)

Check out the new sign on the Toscano Hotel, new chairs for the AV room at the Barracks and, coming soon, a working fountain on the Mission grounds.

Please take advantage of your discounts and don't forget to stop by and pick up your membership appreciation items at the Barracks Gift Store (when it reopens).

Dave Brummett, SPParks Membership Chair

News from Joleen

We miss you community! Your health and safety is important to us, and so we have suspended all volunteer activities through April. Sheep Shearing Day and Children's Day must wait another year and we shelved Pueblo Day in June for evaluation. Living History Day at the Adobe on May 23 is the next event up for consideration during this unprecedented time. Please remember, you can visit our State Park websites for updated park information.

You can find our detailed 2019 VIPP report on the Docent page of sonomaparks.org. Our volunteers contributed nearly 4500 hours of valuable time at both parks. Activities range from Vallejo's vineyard and olive grove to docent tours, crafts at special events, and administrative as well as curatorial assistance. Active long-term volunteers, contributing at least forty hours received a district-wide parks pass, and those who contributed at least 200 hours received a statewide parks pass. We also celebrated another year of community contribution at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner under a Fandango theme.

As we approach our first full year with the new volunteer database, Better Impact, ninety-five percent of our volunteer base is using the system successfully, and it has helped my coordination efforts remarkably.

Over the next several months, I will be working from another office on a special project within our Park District. I am both excited and honored to lead the Summer Learning Program at Olompali State Historic Park. The program is state mandated and offers outdoor day trip experiences to underserved students of the Bay Area. To ensure continuity of our volunteer program I shall dedicate one day each week for correspondence, database updating and facilitation of necessary committees. I appreciate your understanding and patience in advance. Take care and please be well.

Joleen Ossello, Volunteer Coordinator

Petaluma Adobe Restoration

The structural renovation of the Petaluma Adobe has been on hold due to the current coronavirus pandemic that has hit the State. Prior to the pandemic paralyzing all activities, two hopeful funding sources were identified. The Native Sons contacted SPParks, following up on correspondence sent to them asking for continued financial support. Preliminary discussions with the Native Sons were promising for some small amounts of funding from various local Native Son's Parlors. Additionally, possibly funding might be available from their State wide Preservation Fund. Visits to the Adobe were planned by Native Son's representatives to receive clarification about the proposed projects, but all activity has ceased for the time being.

Additionally, Noah Stewart (Historian III) who is relatively new to the Department, mentioned a new State Parks grant program for renovation projects. Apparently, the grant program started last year with newly identified funds. Noah expressed interest in working with SPParks to apply for the funding. Quite a bit of preliminary work is required which Noah is willing to do. With the work we have conducted to date (structural engineering, design) through Gil Sanchez, FAIA, the possibility looks promising. To his credit, Noah has been able to unearth plans from prior seismic work conducted on the Adobe. The plans are apparently in a fragile condition. Once copies are made, they will be made available to Mr. Sanchez, which should help the Adobe project. Again, with the pandemic altering priorities of staff, we are on hold.

Jim Carr, SPParks Project Manager

Chapel Events

SPParks presented two winter events at the Mission Chapel in its ongoing series, both well attended and much enjoyed by their audiences. On January 16, Choir Director Buddy James and the Cal State Singers from CSU East Bay returned to our venue to sing a stirring *cappella* concert of classical, spirituals, and show tunes that was enhanced by the wonderful acoustics in the chapel. On February 27, author and SRJC English professor Ida Rae Egli presented the achievements of several little appreciated women in her lecture, "Women of Color in 19th Century California." Signed copies of Egli's anthology, "*No Rooms of Their Own*", will be for sale at the Barracks Store when it reopens.

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(Chapel Events, continued)

On June 18, Professor Damien Bacich, Chair of the Department of World Languages and Literatures at San José State University, will speak on "*Native Americans Ranchos in Northern California.*" In the 19th century a small number of Native Americans requested and received land grants to create their own *ranchos*. Prof. Bacich will discuss how native people obtained grants, as well as some individual stories of Indian *ranchos* in Northern California including nearby *Rancho Olampali*, now a California State Park.

On September 17, Archaeologist Glenn Farris will share with us the results of his research, "Fort Ross: Research Update."

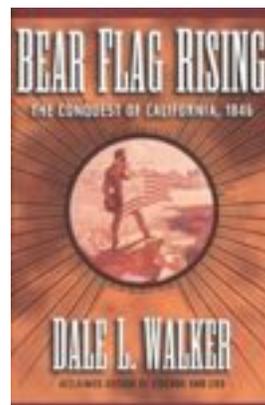
Lectures are at 7 pm in the Sonoma Mission chapel. The fee is \$10 for the general public, \$5 for SPParks members, and free for docents and staff.

Lisa Tremblay, Events Chair

DOCENT BOOK CLUB

Join this group of amateur sleuths who enjoy learning/reading about the history of the *Pueblo* of Sonoma, *Alta California* and the development of the Great State of California; to be held immediately after the next Docent Quarterly Meeting. Whether you have read the book selection or not, please feel welcome to participate. Discussions often stray from the immediate topic and docents educate colleagues from their knowledge and experiences.

The suggested book is ***Bear Flag Rising: The Conquest of California, 1846*** by Dale L. Walker. This classic presents a history of California, from the time before the first Europeans arrived, to the dominance of Mexico, to the ultimate war that brought this territory under American control.



This 300 page history is an easy and suggested read for all docents. Copies are available at the Barracks Book Store, the Docent Library, online, and at our local library which has 9 copies. A 2017 edition has been released which includes Walker's ***Pacific Destiny***. If you do NOT read the book, go online; read articles which pertain to this era.

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(SPParks Update, cont. from p. 1)

board in this capacity please contact me or Yvonne Bowers.

According to Dave Brummett, SPParks Board member in charge of membership, the promotional items for SPParks members, totes bags and a book of the Jorgensen Mission paintings, will be available to be picked up at the Barracks gift store when it reopens. Please recall that the promotional items were based on membership level. The tote bags display a cuddly California grizzly bear on one side and SPParks logo on the other.

On February 26th, Mary's Pizza had a "dine out" day where a percentage of their profits went to the SPParks organization. We are grateful that Mary's Pizza is helping us sustain our work to support the Sonoma and Petaluma Adobe State Historic Parks. We also want to thank docents and SPParks members who participated in this event.

Jim Danaher, SPParks President

Book Review

Franciscan Missionaries in Hispanic California
1769 – 1848 A Biographical Dictionary
by
Maynard Geiger, O.F.M. (1969)

This book brings together for the first time the biographies of 142 Franciscan priests that brought Christianity to California. It is valuable as a reference tool, an important history of the Mission era, and of the men who brought that era to pass. Within the 300 plus pages are:

- Individual biographies in short form
- Individual matrix data on each individual starting with birth, country, college, years served in California and much more
- A Glossary of Terms to easily interpret Spanish and religious terms
- Reference to larger depositories of documents and related biographical material, catalogues, printed works, etc.

The author has made every effort over a 25 year period to obtain the basic data of each friar, but some data has been lost or through destruction of those documents. The biographies tell of individual hardships or psychological impact in their vocation, remembering that California was referred to in these days as "The Last Corner of the Earth" and to many...it seemed like exile!

Jerry Pozo, Docent

(Book Club, continued from page 3)

After the critique, plans for the future quarterly meetings will be discussed. We are suggesting re-organizing the format to possibly subject discussions rather than one book for all to read. Topics of discussion relevant to Sonoma history could be...

- Evolution of our Mission
- Who was San Francisco Solano?
- John C. Fremont
- Women during the Gold Rush
- Chinese in California
- The Vallejos
- Italians in 1800 California
- Maria Carrillo
- Chris Jorgenson and the Californian School of Art
- Californians in the Civil War

Each person could use whatever resources they wanted: books, non-fiction or fiction; audio books, TV productions; research on the Internet. We are fortunate that there is so much information out there!

This less structured meeting will hopefully entice more docents to attend our *Bookies* gatherings. A discussion of specific topics might be more beneficial and include more docents.

Sincere thanks to Tom Martin who chaired this activity for many years.

Ellen & Hugh McBride, Bookie Organizers

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

About eighty docents, parks volunteers, and their guests gathered on January 30 at the Veteran Memorial Building in Sonoma to be feted by our local parks staff at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Parks staff served a delicious buffet provided by El Molino Central and kept glasses full. Participants reached out to give special thanks to Joleen Ossello for organizing this warmhearted and gracious evening. A special event at this year's dinner was honoring Fran Weiner, Helen Herbaugh and Gunther Solomon for their many years of docent service. They each received the Poppy Award, a statewide recognition granted to individuals who have made significant contributions to the betterment of California State Parks through their voluntary service. Fran became a docent in 2006 and Helen

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Thank You Carrie Fogg

This is a brief note to acknowledge Carrie Fogg's more than 20 years of volunteering for the Sonoma State Historic Park. Carrie joined the docent organization in 1997 and was active in organizing some of the early docent training classes. Her primary interest was the Mission and this is where she gave most of her tours. Carrie was also active in the California Mission Studies Association (currently now a part of the California Missions Foundation) and served as secretary for that organization for several years.

Carrie once told me that her favorite building in Sonoma is the Blue Wing Inn and hopes that someday we will be able to include this among our interpretive sites and give tours of this beautiful and intriguing building.



To honor Carrie's many years of service to the Sonoma State Historic Park as well as her appreciation of the both the Mission and the Blue Wing Inn we presented her with a

beautiful framed Mission tile and a lovely drawing of the Blue Wing Inn which was graciously provided by the artist, Sonoma Treasure Artist Barbara White Perry, as a contribution to our organization.



Thank you Carrie and we wish you all the best!

Sharon Douglas & Suzanne Berube,

Hands on History

The second year of Hands on History was a success. Although cut short by the park closure, four sessions were held during January and February. Under my guidance, visitors participated in candle making, making baskets, weaving a bookmark on a mini-loom, and playing a game to test their knowledge of mission food origins. The activities were created to enhance the experience of fourth graders visiting the mission for a project. Many participants just happened to be at the mission that day, some had seen the flyer, and one family who found out about it through our public relations postings came from Antioch. If anyone has ideas for activities or would like to volunteer next year please let me know. I start the planning in October.

Unfortunately, Children's Day at Sonoma SHP, set for April 25, has been canceled. With the uncertainty of the spread of the coronavirus, we want to keep all park employees, volunteers, and visitors safe. We look forward to bringing it back in 2021.

Emily Walski, Guide I



Tom Martin Recommendation

I'm not in charge of the Book Study Program any longer, that privilege having gone to Ellen and Hugh McBride. However, I have a personal recommendation - one of the best California histories off the press - "*The Elusive Eden: A New History of California*" by four historians from CSU East Bay. Reads like a novel. A nugget of information from way back then until now.

Tom Martin, Book Club Chair emeritus

(Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, continued from p. 4)
 and Gunther joined a year later. In the intervening
 years many hours of their time was spent giving
 tours and volunteering at parks events.

Bob Alwitt, Editor



Dennis Weber, Sharon Douglas, Suzanne Berube, Jim Danaher, Karen Barrett
 photo K. Paulsen



Denise Fowler, Phil McCulley serving the guests
 photo J. Ossello



Wildflower Volunteers Nancy Bundschu, Sara Clegg, Marilyn Kittleson
 photo J. Ossello

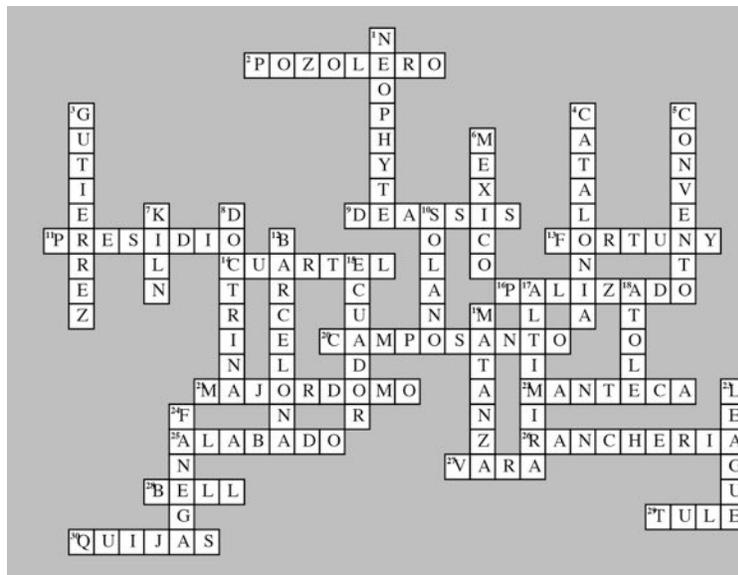


Fran Weiner, Helen Herbaugh, Gunther Solomon, Joleen Ossello
 photo K. Paulsen



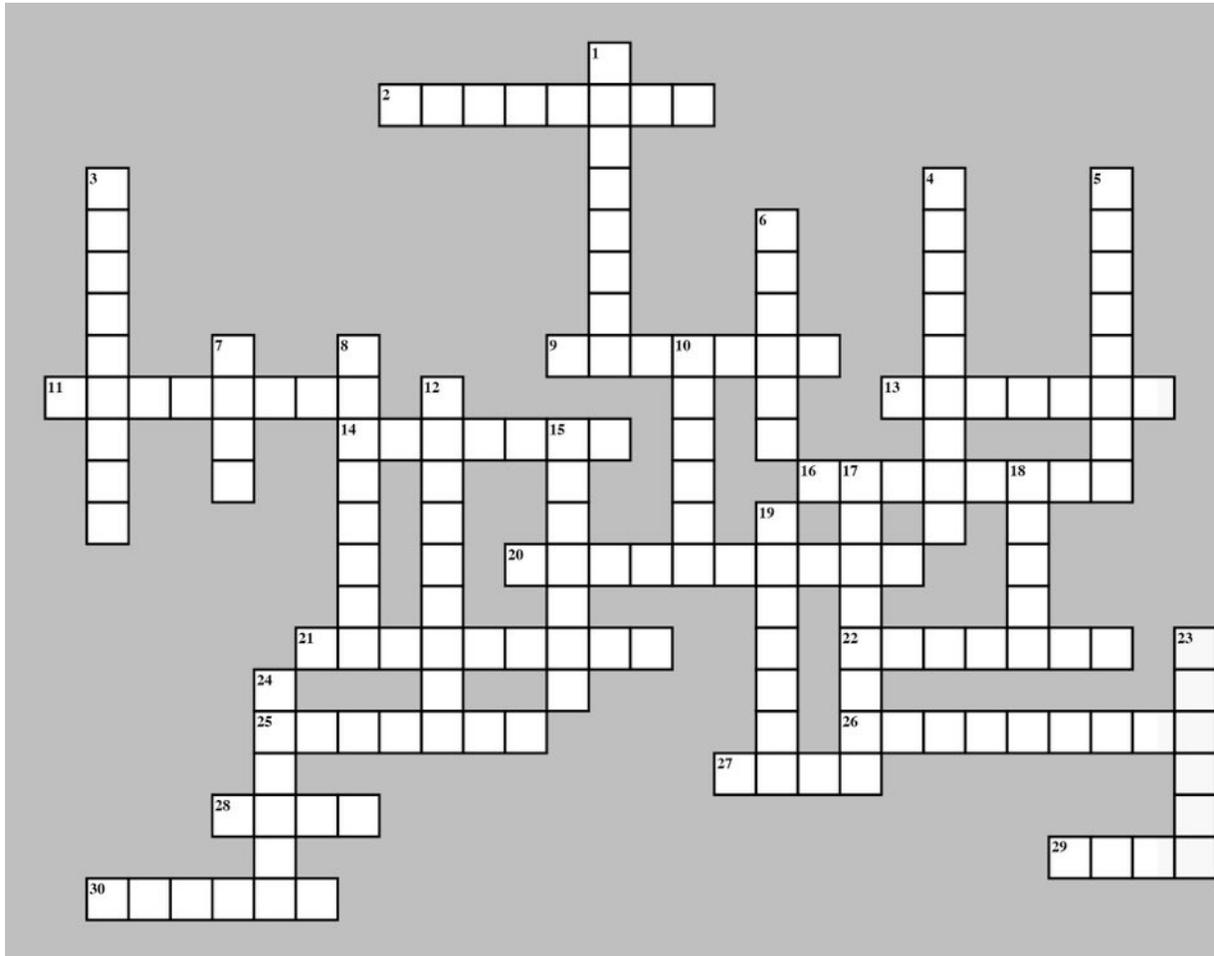
Derek Shelly, Alan Plotter, Lynn Luzzi, Sandy Plotter
 photo K. Paulsen

Solution to puzzle on page 7



Mission San Francisco Solano Crossword Puzzle

by Vera Svaldgaard



Across

- 2 kitchen
- 9 the St. Francis the San Francisco Mission is named after
- 11 frontier military garrison
- 13 name of the second Sonoma Mission Father
- 14 guardhouse
- 16 fenced enclosure
- 20 cemetery
- 21 supervisor of mission (or ranch) under the priest (or owner)
- 22 butterfat
- 25 song in praise of the Sacrament
- 26 Indian village or settlement
- 27 measure of length, 32.99 inches
- 28 what William A. Richardson brought to Sonoma
Mission in 1825
- 29 a reedlike plant, growing in marshy lowlands
- 30 name of the fourth Sonoma Mission Father

Down

- 1 new Christian mission Indian
- 3 name of the third Sonoma Mission Father
- 5 priest's quarters
- 6 birthplace of the third Sonoma Mission Father
- 7 oven for firing tiles, pottery, etc.
- 8 catechism
- 10 the St. Francis the Sonoma Mission is named after
- 12 town of birth of the Sonoma Mission founding father
- 15 birthplace of the fourth Sonoma Mission father
- 17 founding father of the Sonoma Mission
- 18 staple mission food
- 19 slaughter field
- 23 Spanish measure of distance, *approx.* 2.6 miles
- 24 dry measure of weight

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

LINKS

Sonoma Petaluma Parks (SPParks): <http://sonomaparks.org>
Sonoma State Historic Park: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/sonomashp>
Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park Events: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/petalumaadobeshp>

MEETINGS

Docent Quarterly Meetings: Sonoma Barracks A/V Room, Second Saturday in March, June, September,
10:00 AM, First Saturday in December, 10:00 AM

SPParks Monthly Board Meetings: Second Tuesday, 10:00 AM

GAZETTE AND DOCENT SCHEDULE ONLINE

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

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