



Petaluma Historical  
Library & Museum

# Petaluma Museum Association

Preserving the Unique History of Petaluma and Providing  
Educational and Cultural Services to the Community

Quarterly Newsletter



*A snowy day in Petaluma  
January 1, 1916*

Fall/Winter 2019

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 4

## On the Cover



**I**T WAS A snowy New Year's Day in Petaluma back in 1916 when this photo was taken. The location is at the corner of Fair & 10<sup>th</sup> St. looking west up B St.

It was fortuitous that Solange and her team were doing an inventory at the collections' off-site storage facility recently and came across Dora Peterson's ledgers that recorded her daily weather records from 1886-1929. Dorathea "Dora" Ann Peterson was born in 1865 and died in 1931. Thanks to volunteer, Michael Slade, who transcribed Dora's entry for January 1, 1916.

Jan 1, 1916

Sat-This has been an unusual New Years Day. Snow lay an inch thick on the ground this morning. A very high wind blew in the night but very little, during the day until later this afternoon when the windmill worked a bit. The snow melted under the trees during the afternoon but in the open, and on the roofs it lay quite thick just in places way in the afternoon and there are patches yet. The day was very, dark all morning and light rain fell a good part of the time which did not melt the snow at all. It was 32° this morning-37° at noon-40° at 1:30 p.m. The sun peeped through for quite a while early this afternoon. Then it clouded up again.

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The Petaluma Museum Association Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to its members. Many thanks to all the contributors and the proofreaders and volunteers who help with mailings.

If you would like to contribute any news or items of interest to our newsletter, you can email

mary@petalumamuseum.com

Deadline for submission is Jan 1, 2020

**Petaluma Museum Association  
20 Fourth St.  
Petaluma, CA 94952**

## A Note from Your Board of Directors

Greetings, PMA Supporter!

Here we are, staring down the last of 2019 and barreling toward the winter holidays. The Museum has several things in store to keep you interested and engaged. Events to add to your calendar include:

**Wednesday Dialogs** on November 20th brings us a program on Fred Wiseman, who flew the very first air mail flight in history.

The annual **PMA Membership Holiday Party** is on Friday, December 6th, and promises food, beverage, music and good conversation.

Heritage Homes & Landmarks will present its **Holiday Lighted Parlor Tour** on December 8th. Please see the HH&L article on page 8 for more details.

Our traditional **New Years Eve Gala** is the finest way to close down one year and greet another. Join us for some thrilling music and refreshments.

To kick off Black History Month in the new year, the PMA will host the annual **Jazz Concert** on January 31st, featuring doRiaN Mode vintage jazz ensemble.

For all these events, consult [petalumamuseum.com](http://petalumamuseum.com) for more details, including tickets.

Here's what we've been doing since our Summer/Fall newsletter:

Family-friendly events included **Family Movie Nights** and Story Time under the Oak, to the delight of young folk.

In August, the Petalumans of Yesteryear led another successful "**History Trails**" walk, enlivening our understanding of our local history.

September brought Leadership Petaluma's **History Day**, an all-day immersive event designed to educate tomorrow's leaders about Petaluma's history.

The Board of Directors thanked the many PMA volunteers with a **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** in the Garden Court.

October's **Sonoma County Archives Crawl**, including our Research Library, introduced history buffs to local resources for historical research.

**Elizabeth Walter's piano concert** on September 22nd was a Museum fundraiser, and a superb display of her virtuosity. Beethoven fans are still swooning.

The PMA hosted **Petaluma Readers Theater** series for six shows, featuring fine literature in spoken form.

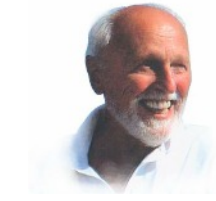
Next year we will celebrate **the 100th anniversary of American Women's Suffrage**. With a flurry of excitement, curators are already working on an exhibit and event extravaganza to commemorate this historic event, with a slant toward local suffragists. If someone in your family participated in the effort to bring women the vote, please see the notice on page 15.

The board is currently in the process of selecting a new board president. At this time, the duties of the president are being fulfilled by the Governance Committee and an interim president. PMA members will be informed as soon as a new board president is identified.

Your Board of Directors, including some talented newcomers, urges you to meet us in person at the PMA Holiday Party. Hope to see you there!

We wish you and your families a warm and wonderful holiday season and hope you include the Museum in your plans.

—Clint, Debbie, Drew, Elece, Elizabeth, Erica, Freyda, Jamieson, Kate, Katie, Kathy, Kit, Madeline, Marshall, Megan and Rob



## Petaluma History & Commentary

by Skip Sommer, Historian

### ***Petaluma Medical Practice In 1909***

**O**NE HUNDRED AND ten years ago, the average life expectancy for American men was just 47 years. Only 14 percent of Petaluma homes had a bathtub (and NONE of them were on stilts). The average U.S. wage in 1909 was just .22 cents an hour. And more importantly, nearly 80 percent of doctors had NO university education and they made, at best, about \$4,000 per annum. In Petaluma, the three leading causes of death were: 1.) pneumonia, 2.) tuberculosis and 3.) diarrhea.

In 1909, canned beer had not yet been invented, but marijuana, heroin and morphine were all available over-the-counter! In fact, one Petaluma pharmacy advertised: "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind and regulates the bowels." Ninety-five percent of local births occurred at home, even though the Petaluma Hospital provided "a first class operating room" and offered actual "licensed physician care for maternity @ \$25 per week."

One local ad proclaimed: "Dr. H. Ehrlick, the eminent eye, ear and throat surgeon, will visit Petaluma July 14th, at the Continental Hotel. Deafness positively cured!" And our Petaluma Daily Courier carried an ad for Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound,

which would "absolutely cure female trouble and make a well woman of you." (I'm guessing that its 82 percent alcohol had something to do with that "well woman" feeling).



1909 Tonic Wagon

Here are a few more examples of quick cures of the day: Doan's Kidney Pills were available here at



Main Street in 1909

Clark's Drug Store for "dull back pain, headaches, dizzy spells or a tired, worn-out feeling." Hall's Catarrh Cure offered a "\$100 reward

for any case of catarrh (clogged-up mucus) that cannot be cured" and Burdick's Blood Bitters "makes the blood rich, thick, red and pure." ("Thick blood" is good?) And doctors had no ethics problems in advertising their services in 1909. Dr. H. Lorentzen, on Kentucky Street, offered: "Special attention given to diseases of women and children including electric treatment and thermal light ray." ("Thermal light ray"?)

Meanwhile, the City of Petaluma was very busy in 1909. The steamer Resolute ran from Petaluma to San Francisco daily. The Pacific Gas Company was laying a gas line on English Street "with a large force of men" and the Daily Courier newspaper was conducting a "Petaluma Popularity Contest." The grand prize being a "REO automobile, with genuine acetylene lamps... A \$750 Value!" After a spirited six weeks, that grand prize was awarded to Mrs. W.F. Bachelor and the runner-up was Mrs. E.W. Young. Interesting, in that, at the time, there were only

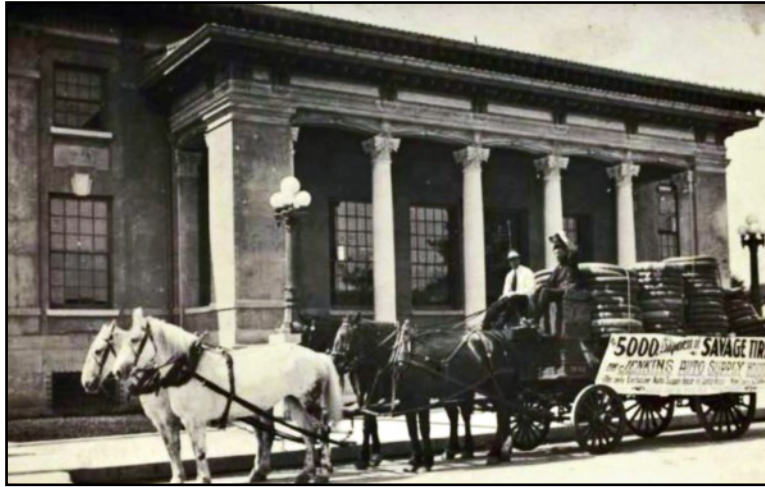
seven automobiles in town and NO women drivers, as yet. In other news, the Hill Opera House was offering "High Class Vaudeville" and a man named J. Cory had

been arrested for “selling liquor to the Indians” and then this: “3 drunk Indians were arrested for disturbing the peace of the Barlow berry pickers.”

In wider focus, the first oyster beds were planted in Tomales Bay in 1909 and novelist Jack London had just returned to Glen Ellen after two years of travel. It was noted that: “He has abandoned ideas of a round the world trip on such a vessel as the Snark.” (High seas, small boat.) And this news really surprised me: “For the first time, oil production actually outstripped gold production in California!” Speaking of gold, the Bank of Santa Clara Valley was robbed at gunpoint of \$7,000 in gold; the paper said: “The outlaws escaped in an auto machine, at full speed, down the road.” (“Full speed” was likely 25 miles per hour.)

In 1909, William Howard Taft was President, Admiral Peary had just been the first to reach the North Pole, the FBI was just getting organized, something called “plastic” had been invented and the Ford “Model T” was the hot auto at \$875. What could go wrong?

In New York City, millionaire playboy Harry Thaw was undergoing an exam for his sanity. Thaw claimed the jury would acquit him of his murder charge, on account of their belief that victim Stanford White “deserved his fate.” You see, Mr. Thaw’s wife, the beautiful actress Evelyn Nesbitt, was engaged in an affair with Mr. White, the architect who designed Madison Square Garden. Mr. Thaw, who knocked-off Mr. White with three perfect shots to (what was called)



1909 tire company using horses to deliver

“the lower stomach,” was subsequently committed to an insane asylum. The case, dubbed “The Trial of the Century,” made international news for months.

Locally again, L.H. Stone, who “for



Ford Model T

many years has been filling a position at the McGuire Pharmacy left for Berkeley, to enter a course for medicine.” And “P. Sweed, the local capitalist” (think Sweed School) “contracted with Brainerd Jones, the local architect (think Petaluma Museum) in the creation of a modern brick building at Main and Fourth, for the Rex Mercantile Co.” (think Rex Hardware now). Also this: “12 loaded lumber schooners are laying in wait in the stream (think Petaluma Slough) to berth at Camm & Hedges yard” (think Grocery Outlet Center now). I can’t imagine 12 schooners

anchored in our narrow river all at the same time. These craft had beams of 25 feet and and there was NO turning basin in 1909. It would have been fascinating to view those maneuvers. Backing-up was not an easy option. Cussing, I imagine, was a good option.

And, this local tidbit from 1909: “Dr.

*Smith McMullin is moving his furniture from 418 Washington to 28 Main Street, where he is fixing himself up very cozily. He likes to have things just right.”* One hopes that some of the things the doctor also had “just right” were some medical skills.

Those practicing physicians at that time were just as busy as physicians are today, but most made their calls by horse and buggy. To facilitate that, they had to maintain stables at their offices, as well as at their residences. 1909 was a pivotal year for the medical profession to move to the automobile from the horse and buggy, and most of those first auto owners were in fact doctors, and they had to be good mechanics too, thus creating the added possibility of greasy hands. Often, the cry of “GET A HORSE!” was heard from anxious patients, awaiting their doctor no-show. The times, it seems, were a-changing rapidly. ■

**Note:** The museum has a display located upstairs that has a variety of pharmaceutical artifacts and medical tools. Check it out on your next visit.

## A letter, from John Augustus McNear, father, to John Augustus McNear, son 1/8/1857

### I ABOUT THE LETTER

I have spent the last year, as a weekly volunteer immersed in a treasure-trove of McNear family letters, donated to this Museum/Library all the way from their home in Texas, by generous members of the disparate Petaluma McNear clan. Think: Original letters. Spidery handwriting on thin paper. Carefully saved for 160+ years. Having taken, likely, months to reach their recipients in the mid-1800's. For me: what a joy this year has been--along with a lot of work!

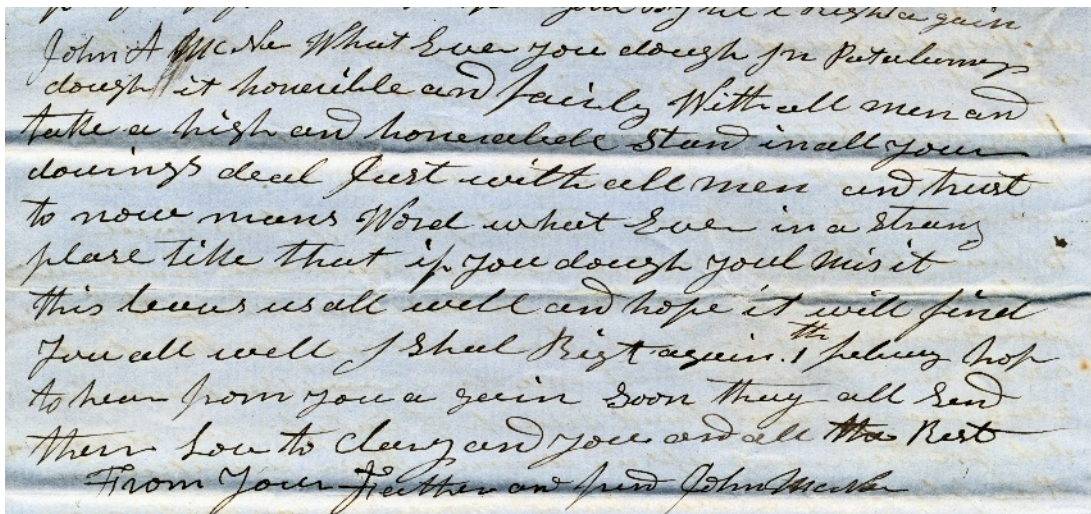
Excerpts I quote here are from only the first letter: from 1-8-1857, from father to son. In 1857, there was not universal education in Wiscasset, Maine, or anywhere else in this country. Public Libraries were virtually non-existent. In fact: can we pause to appreciate the impact our 1904-built public Carnegie Library made for Petalumans, 47 years after this letter was written by a father's hand clearly un-tutored in writing, living in a young country? It is in this beautiful building, that I've sat to read, appreciate and transcribe these letters.

This has been embarrassingly slow work. Each letter opened up a plethora of questions beginning with, in this letter alone: "Who is Wilson?" "Who is Elias?" "Is Clary 'Clarinda' and when did she die in relation to this letter?" "Who is the grandmother to which he refers?" and "Where actually does this sentence begin and end and what the heck is this WORD here?" Hours have been spent drawing and re-drawing a workable family tree--replete with Georges, Johns and Marys. Surrounding all of that work, are important cultural

questions such as: "who already lived in Petaluma then?" as these pioneers from the East were arriving in increasing numbers, leading to the obvious next query: "Who among us has other archival materials to help us with the answers?" I certainly don't have answers to all of the questions.

But, regarding this first letter between McNear father in Maine and McNear son in various locales: we DO know the end of their story. The son John Augustus McNear born 1832 in Wiscasset Maine DID indeed end up settling in Petaluma. To this day we see many visible traces of him around us: the name on one peninsula, one elementary school, one restaurant, one community of homes built next to Petaluma River at the site of what was a large McNear family home, and much more. But this letter precedes all this "knowing the end of the story." And therein lies the beauty and mystery of "original archives" and the profundity of a gift like this, to our Carnegie, continuing to do its work of promoting a broader "literacy" in us all.

Such a letter bestows two monumental gifts. 1) First, a delightful specificity: direct, private communication between one John Augustus McNear, father, born ~1782 in Maine, a native son for several generations, a man of the sea. To one son John Augustus McNear, born 1832 in Maine, who was off himself sailing the seas and setting foot on many lands. 2) Secondly, and simultaneously: an undeniable universality, relevant to us all. As author John Gardner is quoted as saying, "There are really only two stories: 'A Person Goes on a



Scanned image of an excerpt from the original letter dated 1-8-1857

Journey' or 'A Stranger Comes to Town.' Which is, of course the same story, just turned inside out." This letter--and the ones which follow-- portray universal human relationship-amidst-distance. The lure of the secure homestead vs. the siren of Somewhere New. The parental difficulty of keeping up loving advice yet appropriate support, from so far away, while sick with worry. And for the offspring?: the challenge of how to communicate with respect to one's elders, how to explain oneself from far away on a journey from which one may never turn back. With neither sender nor recipient in this case yet knowing which way it will go.

II EXCERPTS FROM THE FIRST LETTER 1-8-1857 [ptb: note that for this article's letter excerpts, for ease of reading, I edited spelling, capitalization and punctuation. For the public copies of these letters, to go into the Carnegie collection for all to read, my intention is to have: a) color copies of each original b) an exact transcription of each letter as-is, c) an "edited" copy--like these excerpts--if necessary, for ease of reading.]

The father from Wiscasset, Maine, begins with -- and Reader, note the breadth of geography mentioned here in one sentence: *"I received a letter from you from the Isthmus and 2 from Petaluma and should have answered them before but I waited until Wilson arrived from New Orleans..."* Following up with family news: *Old Mr. Carlton and Wife's uncle died within 5 weeks of each other. Old Sady died first--this June. Hilton is dead. Your grandfather Bailey is at Elias Bailey's, boarding this winter...He is quite smart. Elias is miserable. Your grandmother and Ruby are as well as usual ..."* And then the subtle beginning of the plea to his son: *"Mr. Grover's folks... live in hopes that Mr. G.B. Williams [ptb: the son's father-in-law and cousin, b. 1809, Maine] will get sick of California and come back to the old stand or somewhere near. They don't think that his wife is contented out there nor ever will be contented so far from her friends...I think you had better persuade George B to sell out and go to Pascagoula [ptb: in Mississippi] ....and live there. Then they will be more together. His mother feels bad to have her children so far apart."* Interspersed with a fatherly reminder of his son's seemingly neglected duties at home: *"I have to furnish your grandmother with all her supplies for the last 3 or 4 years. You promised me you would be back in 2 or 3 years."* And then the direct plea: *"I don't think much of California nor ever did, for there are ups and downs there as well as in other places. If a man has got money, he can make money anywhere. .... I hope you all will sell out and come back to your native place among your*

*friends. John, I should be very careful how I spend money out there. There are so many ups and down in life we hardly know whom to trust all around us to make money."* But then the signing- off, in which we glimpse more about this man, the father: *"Perhaps you have made up your mind to settle down for life in Petaluma. If so, I hope you will prosper...Whatever you do in Petaluma do it honorably and fairly with all men and take a high and honorable stand in all your doings. Deal justly with all men and trust to no man's word whatever, in a strange place like that. If you do, you'll miss out. This leaves us all well and hope it will find you all well. I shall write again. The family hopes to hear from you again soon. They all send their love to Clary and you and all the rest."*

*From your Father and friend John McNear*

What does the son say in return to "father and friend?" Well, I shall keep ploughing on.

References used:

1. McNear-Sias letters from John Augustus McNear b~1782 to John Augustus McNear b 1832: letters dated 1/8/1857, 12/28/1857 & 1/31/1858;
2. New Yorker Magazine 9-2-2019 "The Mail" letter to editor by Aimee Loiselle, describing a previous review of a book "The Mosquito: A human History of our Deadliest Predator" by Timothy C Winegard which noted that "singular-factor histories often suffer from myopia."
3. New York Times, 9-30-2019, Book Review by Parul Sehgal p. C6 Re: The Penguin Book of Migration Literature: Departures, Arrivals, Generations, Returns, editor Dora Ahmad.

***With great thanks to the Sias family who donated these letters to our Carnegie Library/Museum in 2018. It is a privilege for me to be part of documenting them for the public. You who are reading this article may also have knowledge to contribute to this unfolding of McNear family history. Or from your own family's history. Or, you yourselves may be preserving archival letters, that you too may wish to share with others. Each of us and our ancestors before us have made our town what it is today; all our stories count!***

***Patricia Tuttle Brown,  
Petaluma Historical Library & Museum Volunteer  
707-762-9290***



## Notes from Heritage Homes & Landmarks



### Popular Tour Slated for December 8<sup>th</sup>

The Holiday Lighted Parlor Tour returns to the delight of its many eager fans. It will spotlight three vintage houses decorated for the holidays and lit up in festive style for the evening. Plan to take the whole family for this lovely event to kick off the season of merriment.

The tour is Sunday, December 8, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets will be available in November on the PMA website, [petalumamuseum.com](http://petalumamuseum.com). All proceeds benefit the Petaluma Museum Association.

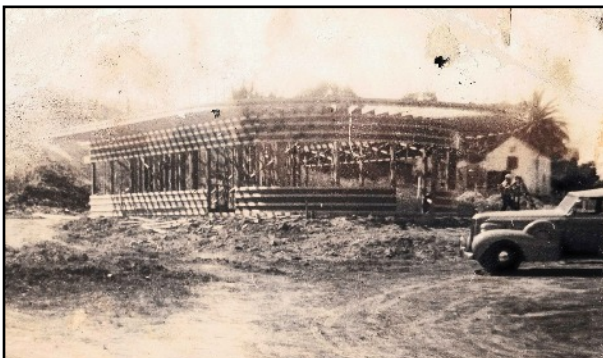
**Docents**—Heritage Homes seeks docents for this event; we will need about thirty in all. Each docent will serve a one-and-one-half hour shift at one of the houses; others will sell tickets and serve cookies at the Museum. All will be entitled to visit the other tour houses for free. For easy sign-up, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0844A5A62CA0FF2-holiday>

### Follow up of Petaluma Drive-In Restaurants

Petaluma native and member, Steve Jensen, contacted the museum regarding the Summer/Fall 2019 article about drive-in restaurants in Petaluma. His mom, Wilma Jensen was a carhop at the Roost Drive-In in 1949 and also was a short order cook for Hollie's Drive-In from 1951-1953. He said his dad, Edward Jensen helped build the Roost Drive-In. His dad was a close friend of DeVere Baker who financed the building of the Roost. DeVere Baker was known for the Lehi Rafts he built to sail across the Indian and Pacific

oceans. Baker's wife Nola also worked at the Roost Drive-In as a carhop. The Baker family lived in the apartment above the Roost.

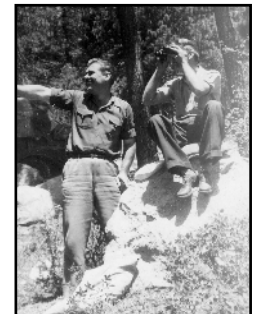
Steve was born in 1944 at Petaluma General located at 6th & I St. He said his family moved to Utah from 1947-1948 but his dad disliked the winter there and they moved back to Petaluma. Steve shared some photos that were taken of the Roost Drive-In being built and of his Mom, Dad, and DeVere Baker.



*The Roost Drive-In under construction*



*Wilma Jensen at back and front of the Roost.*



*Pictured at top right is DeVere Baker on left and Ed Jensen. Bottom rt is Ed on right with a neighbor.*







The music of Haydn, Brahms, Dvorak and Ginastera will resound in Petaluma's "Carnegie Hall" as the 11th Annual New Years' Eve Gala concert, presented by Sky Hill Cultural Alliance and the Petaluma Museum Association, kicks off the New Year!

Each year's "Gala Concert" has been a sensation and has become a New Year's Eve tradition, not only for Petalumans, but also for residents of nearby towns wishing to ring in the New Year with inspired artistry and great "live" classical music.

Violin virtuoso and Sonoma native Nigel Armstrong returns this year as well as Dr. Kayleen Asbo, acclaimed musician who many are familiar with from her inspiring Musical Mondays series at the Petaluma Museum and her role as Cultural Historian to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

Other performing string players are beloved high-caliber musicians from the San Francisco Symphony: Yun Chu - violin, Shu-Yi Pai - cello, and Nancy Severance - viola, as well as Elizabeth Walter pianist - the series creator and coordinator. They have been performing at this venue since the series' inception in 2009. This ensemble has been acclaimed for their insightful interpretation and marvelous cohesion.

Seeing the need for local high-quality classical music events, Elizabeth Walter, in conjunction with Sky Hill Cultural Alliance and the Petaluma Museum Association, have provided the community with many outstanding and inspiring concerts.

Admission includes complimentary wine and cheeses; balcony guests also enjoy fine wines, champagne and chocolates.

We encourage you to get your tickets early, as this event SELLS OUT!

Don't forget the ever popular Viennese Ball following the concert. Call 707 583-3340 for more information about the ball, or visit [skyhill.org](http://skyhill.org).

See you there!

**Time: 6-8 PM**

**Main floor**

**\$50 on or before Dec. 22/\$60 after**

**Balcony with Elite Beverage Service**

**\$70 on or before Dec. 22/\$80 after**



**Available now at the Museum Gift Store!**

19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial 2020  
 Woman Suffrage Calendar  
 \$15/includes tax

## GRANT NEWS!

Solange Russek and Teresa Saltzman worked together to apply for a grant with the County of Sonoma's Community Investment Fund Program and are pleased to announce that their efforts were successful in obtaining a \$3000 grant for 2019-2020 fiscal year. The funds will be used to revamp the museum's Coast Miwok exhibit and set up an educational program for use with the 3rd grade classes.

# MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

## History Trails Walk

The Petalumans of Yesterday had their Fourth Annual History Trails Walk on August 25. It is a great way to learn about our historic town and the influential characters from the past. The tour concluded with refreshments in the Museum Garden Court.



## Volunteer Luncheon

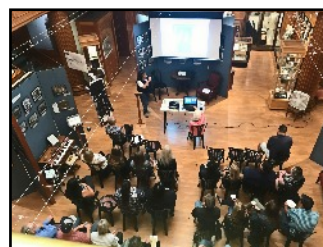
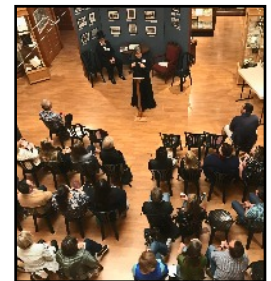
It was a pleasantly warm day for the annual luncheon to thank all the museum volunteers for their generous gift of time and talents. All enjoyed the delicious barbequed chicken and sides and the friendly conversation.



## History Day at the Museum

On Sept. 17 we hosted Leadership Petaluma's History Day with a lecture from John FitzGerald, on the history of Petaluma, that centers around the river covering prehistoric times to the 1950s. Solange Russek, curator of the current exhibit, *Joe Wayne-The Artist's Eye Behind the Lens*, followed with a talk and slide show about receiving the wonderful donation of the glass negatives from Joe Wayne's years as a photographer in Petaluma, the history of the Wayne-Weldon family, Wayne's photographic style and his post photo studio life.

The morning concluded with an appearance from some of the Petalumans of Yesteryear, who always delight with a presentation about the history of our town.





## Benefit Recital at the Museum

Elizabeth Walter performed a Benefit Recital at the Museum on Sunday, September 22, proceeds of which went towards both the Petaluma Museum Association as well as Sky Hill Cultural Alliance. The afternoon began with her performance of Mozart's lyrical B Flat Sonata, K. 333 and included two other Sonatas; Beethoven's early C Minor Sonata, Op. 13 ("Pathetique") as well as Ravel's Sonatine from 1905. The afternoon highlight was Ms. Walter's performance of Ginastera's Op. 22 Sonata. In a review published by Terry McNeill on the Classical Sonoma website regarding her Ginastera performance, ". . . four

movement work of exceptional force. Ms. Walter rose to the occasion with the requisite contrary double octaves, heavy damper pedal and often-breathless potent speed. She caught the mystery of the rhapsodic *adagio molto*, and drove headstrong into the *ostinato* that concludes a wild sonic ride over fifteen minutes." Regarding the recital itself, "Ms. Walter's pianism in this recital was secure and often forceful, and she eschewed histrionics and wayward realizations in favor of careful attention to the score and letting these majestic works unfold convincingly."

## Community Events held at the museum



### Musical Mondays at the Museum

Kayleen Asbo, Ph.D an acclaimed cultural historian, musician, writer and teacher, continues her salon series with live performances on the history of Classical music and how composers and artists have been inspired. Schedule of classes on the community events page at [petalumamuseum.com](http://petalumamuseum.com)



**Petauma Readers Theater** performing *Under Milkwood* by Dylan Thomas. Check our website community page for future performances.



**Family Storytime Under the Oak** always draws a large group of delighted children and parents.

## Upcoming Exhibits & Events Schedule



### Wednesday Dialogues at the Museum Nov. 20, 7-9 pm

Presented by the Petalumans of Yesteryear, in a program about Fred Wiseman. Bicycle builder, race-car driver, adventurer and early pilot. Petaluma can't claim Fred as its own, but he did make the first airmail delivery! Learn Fred's story, complete with "Magic Lantern" show. There will be time for questions and refreshments available at intermission.  
**\$5 suggested donation at the door**

Stories ♡ Songs ♡ Fun ♡ Free

**Family Storytime Under the Oak**  
**Thursday, Nov. 21, 10am - 11am**



### Scotch Pairing/Fundraiser

**Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 P.M.**

A professionally guided tasting tour of single malt scotches (from Scotland), accompanied with notes and anecdotes on the spirits' related region and aging process. Each selected scotch will be accompanied by a plate specially prepared by Preferred Sonoma Caterers to complement that spirit.

Featured Scotches will be: Aberfeldy 12, Auchentoshan 12, Aultmore 12, Craigelechie 13, Laphroig Triple Wood

**\$60/Members & \$75/Non Members**  
**petalumamuseum.com**



### Members Holiday Party Friday, Dec. 6, 5-7 pm

The holiday season gives us an opportunity to express our deep thankfulness for our members' generous and continuous support. We invite you to a night of friendship, warmth, food and drink.



### Holiday Lighted Parlor Tour Sunday, Dec. 8, 5-8pm

More details about this very popular tour on page 8



### New Years Eve Gala

More details about this annual concert at the Museum's own Carnegie Hall on pg 9



Quilt by Ethel Bonetti Bruschini  
Circa 1940

## Quilt Exhibit

### *The Threads that Connect Us* January 4-26

Over 30 quilts will be on display along with antique quilting machines and tools on loan from Parkside Sewing Centre.

Your child can design their own quilt on the black felt boards at The Children's Table and color in the quilt line drawings.

Our exhibitors will lead scheduled tours on weekends.

See schedule below for the two Wednesday Dialogues scheduled during this exhibit.

**Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7:00pm**

#### *"If These Quilts Could Talk"*

Short talks by some of the exhibitors about their quilts, who made them and how they came to be in Sonoma County.

**Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7:00pm**

#### *"Sarah Zander, Spreading the word about the history and resurgence of Crazy Quilting"*

Sarah Zander has taught and presented about crazy quilting and other historic embroidery techniques for EGA across America for 15 years, and more recently virtually on line. Her work has been published in *NeedleArts*, the quarterly publication of The Embroiderers' Guild of America She will have on display prize-winning crazy quilts, in-progress quilts, an assortment of materials used in their creation, and Victorian 'Cigarette Silks' from her collection.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Concert Friday, Jan. 31 at 6:30pm

Celebrating black history month, the local vintage jazz & blues group, *The doRian Mode*, with Dorian Bartley

bass/vocals, Bob Jones, piano/coronet, David Scott, sax/flute and Tony Blake, percussion.

More details and tickets available soon at [petalumamuseum.com](http://petalumamuseum.com)



## Black History Exhibit

### *Remember, Educate, Celebrate* February 6 - March 15

A black history timeline will be on display along with highlights of major events and people in Black History.

African Americans and the Vote - 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) which gave black men the right to vote. It also marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. On display will be pictures and information about the black men and women who have been a part of the struggle for the vote, and obstacles that still exist today.

We will celebrate the legacy of those who have recently died and will also share two black holidays - Juneteenth and Kwanzaa

[petalumamuseum.com](http://petalumamuseum.com) for more details on upcoming events for this exhibit.

## Board of Directors Meeting

Every second Monday of each month  
at 6:00 pm

**Note: Nov. Meeting will be on Nov. 18th**

Location: 20 4<sup>th</sup> St.

Open to the public

(Please enter through back door)



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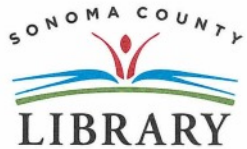


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### Help the Petaluma Museum Association Celebrate Women's Suffrage

Did anyone in your family participate in the women's suffrage movement? Do you own photographs or other mementos documenting their participation? If you do, please consider loaning your artifacts for display in the Petaluma Museum Association's upcoming exhibit celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage.

If you are willing to share your treasures, please contact Paula Freund at [paula@petalumamuseum.com](mailto:paula@petalumamuseum.com).



**Petaluma Museum Association**  
Preserving the unique history of Petaluma and providing educational & cultural services to the community  
Petaluma Historical Library & Museum, 20 Fourth Street, Petaluma, California, 94952-3004  
707-778-4398, [petalumamuseum.com](http://petalumamuseum.com)



### Musical Mondays at the Museum Join Kayleen Asbo, Ph.D for "Conversations Across the Centuries"

10:30 am-12:00pm

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## HISTORICAL NEWS OF PETALUMA

by Solange Russek & Michael Slade

We would like to acknowledge the California Digital Newspaper (CDN) Program of UC Riverside and Newspapers.com as a our source for this feature.

*Petaluma news snippets from the Russian River Flag Newspaper 1872-1874*

The *Crescent* desires the City Fathers to close up all disreputable houses in Petaluma.

Petaluma contains fifty-six vacant houses; so reports the School Census Marshal.

The *Argus* reports the schools of Petaluma as being in a very prosperous condition. The attendance is larger now than at any time previously, while the number of children of that place is not so large as it was two or three years ago.

Disreputable houses, vacant houses, fewer children—Was there a connection?

Two sons of Mr. Rikert, while bathing in Petaluma Creek, on the 12th instant, came near being drowed by going into deep water. When taken from the water they were apparently dead, but were brought to by the application of restoratives.

*A shot of hard liquor was often the nineteenth century restorative of choice; and, of course, its restorative powers are well known!*

"Pie de Bully" is the name given to chicken pot-pie at a Petaluma hotel.

An attempt at sophistication perhaps. "Bully" equals "Poulet"?



## Membership

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Stephen Turner, Pamela Williams

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### DONATIONS

Christa Bechler, Maggie Carlson, Gayle Sarlatte

In memory of John Pedroni: Rick & Paulette Gomes, William & Kimberly Jensen, James Sweeney

In memory of Ron Larsen: Ron & Lupe Malnati, Baldwin, McGaughey & Co., Rick & Maureen Rudder,  
Donald Hesse, Kathy, Emily & Spencer Larsen, Robert Hesse

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If you prefer, you can join online at [petalumamuseum.com](http://petalumamuseum.com), or call 707-778-4398

**Petaluma Museum Association**  
**Petaluma Historical Library & Museum**  
**20 Fourth Street**  
**Petaluma, CA 94952-3004**



## Museum Collection Update

by Solange Russek  
Museum Collections Manager

### Fall 2019 New Donations:



**Carol Cook**, daughter of Lewis Barber, Petaluma's sign maker donated 14 water color sample signs that Lew created for local businesses. The water color sample picture at left was for a 4'3" x 6' 3" Illuminated Plastic Sign.



**Carol Preston** donated her childhood 1930's metal-petal push car that rode up & down Western Ave in the 1940's.



**Shannon McDowell**, daughter of Carol Grant McDowell donated her mom's 1956 wedding dress from Sak's Fifth Ave in SF. Carol Jean Grant married William James McDowell "Jim" on October 27, 1956 at the Methodist Church in Petaluma and had the reception at the Woman's Club. They were married 60 years until Jim's passing just following their anniversary on November 10, 2016. Carol was 18 years of age, and he was 20. He always said his parents had to sign something allowing him to get married before his 21st birthday. Their engagement announcement was in the paper while Carol was still in high school. They lived in Petaluma their entire marriage, embracing full time dairy life while raising 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. Also included is an 1880's purple dress that belonged to Carol's mother's friends the "Montessori" family. (Shannon only had that spelling). The dress was worn by Shannon's grandmother in the 1958 Centennial Parade. (Shannon is looking for a photo)



**Cathy Casazza** donated her mother Anna Casazza's get away outfit which Anna wore 75 years ago when she left on her honeymoon. Anna is a long time resident of Petaluma and is a cousin to the Volpi's, owned the Tivoli Hotel and recently celebrated her 75th wedding anniversary. The outfit is a dark blue serge suit/skirt complete with the shoes, handbag, gloves, blazer and even the handkerchief. Sadly, Anna's husband recently passed.



**Clifford Chandler** donated his uncle's WWII memorabilia. Clifford Petersen grew up in Petaluma, graduated PHS and was killed in 1944.



**Ann Nisson** donated her great grandmother's black cape that was worn by a Petaluma Suffragist, Abigale Ainsley Goodwin.

**Lisa Colb** donated her Aunt's 1950 WAC uniform that belonged to Anita Rose who served in Korea and in Germany. Anita lived in Petaluma. The museum does not have any WAC uniforms from that era. The uniform was packed in moth balls and is currently being treated with a non-toxic product called "Smell- Eze" to remove the strong camphor smell.



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**Black History Exhibit**  
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**February 6-March 15, 2020**