



**Petaluma Historical
Library & Museum**

Petaluma Museum Association

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

Quarterly Newsletter



Local Girl Gets Her Wings

"A Chicken Rancher's Daughter Takes Flight"

A PMA Exhibit Opening April 4

Winter/Spring 2020

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

On the Cover

by Solange Russek



Lt-rt: Bruce (Betty's son), Solange & Betty Andresen
On the front cover collage Betty is pictured on the left
with her co-pilots

Local Girl Takes Flight: A Chicken Rancher's Daughter Gets Her Wings! A retrospective of Powder Puff Derby Racing Pilots

Meeting Betty Andresen Vander Heuvel this past May of 2019 will be a day I will never forget! Betty was the first women pilot I had ever met. To hear and read her stories confirmed; this Petaluma Native's story must be shared!

Betty's story is shared by her two children Bruce Foster and Brenda Foster Vassel. Here's the abridged version:

Sophie Elizabeth (Betty) Andresen while helping her mother hanging laundry, looked up mesmerized as a small plane would fly over their Petaluma chicken ranch at low altitude tipping its wings. It was her older cousin Gottfried, taking flying lessons. An opportunity came up when a fancy Ford Tri-motor was giving rides at the local airport. All excited, she and her older brother, Clarence, went and found that the rides were \$5! They only had enough money for Clarence to get the ride of a lifetime. Betty was, of course, disappointed but the impressionable memories never left.

During the time Betty's children, Bruce and Brenda were in elementary school the dream of flight beckoned the soul of Betty. In 1963 she took the initiative and started taking flying lessons at the Petaluma Sky Ranch. She plunged herself into learning all there was about aviation with the guidance of a great instructor who was both a WWII pilot and perfectionist. The instructor determined that she was such a natural that she was given the opportunity to fly solo in short order. She expressed to her kids that it was absolutely exhilarating! After several cross country flights along with all the required ground schooling, she acquired her private pilot's license.

In 1965 Betty had the opportunity to meet with Phyllis Cantrell, a well-known female pilot from Santa Rosa. Phyllis recruited Betty to

(con't on page 15)

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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 April 1, 2020

Petaluma Museum Association
20 Fourth St.
Petaluma, CA 94952



Clint Gilbert
PC: Charles Earthman

President's Message

Being asked to serve as your President is both a great honor and great weight, and I'm looking forward to enjoying both.

While not yet visible in the forefront of Museum life, I have made myself known behind scenes. For the last few years I have served as Chair of our Programming Committee, helping to create our program of exhibits and events. Maybe you spied me focusing lights for an exhibit or working at a special event. I also designed the suspended lighting system under our stained glass dome. Most recently, with the help of Barbara Confer, I curated my first exhibit, "The Threads that Connect Us: a Collection of Local Vintage and Antique Quilts."

I want to express a huge debt of gratitude to our outgoing president, Kathy Fries. It's to her credit that we are strong and solvent and ready to move into this new decade.

It takes many people in many different jobs to keep your Museum growing. We have a talented and motivated Board of Directors along with an experienced and professional staff in the office as well as in Collections (artifacts). We have some amazing volunteers that serve in many roles here and around town. I'll be offering you a peek into the worlds of some of these folks in future issues.

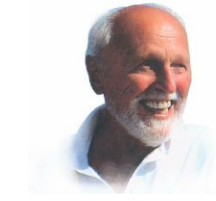
We have an exciting year of exhibits and events in store for you. We will begin with our annual black History Month exhibit in February, followed by a retrospective of Powder Puff Derby Racing Pilots. In June our major 2020 exhibit will focus on the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. Our amazing Museum Gala returns on March 28 as "A Night at the Museum," complete with food and drink, a history hunt with prizes and much more. Please visit our website often for exhibit and event schedules and updates. In our Permanent Exhibitions upstairs, our Coast Miwok exhibit has had a major update; be sure to check it out the next time you visit.

As we begin 2020, I'd like to bring our museum more fully into the cultural life and daily fabric of our city and hope to improve our digital literacy resources, especially for our renewed school programs. If you have thoughts or suggestions about these or other issues please get in touch by email or phone. I look forward to connecting with you.

I have saved our greatest asset for last: our PMA members. You are what powers our Museum! Besides your continued visits and interest in our local history, please consider upgrading your membership or making a monetary donation. One of the simplest ways to make a planned gift to the Museum is through a bequest in your will or a provision in your living trust. I'm happy to discuss these and other options with you.

See you at the Museum!

Clint



Petaluma History & Commentary

by Skip Sommer, Historian

100 YEARS AGO IN PETALUMA AND THE WORLD

THE TIMES WERE to be called the “Roaring Twenties.” The “Great War” had come to an end, the Nineteenth Amendment had allowed women’s suffrage, and the Mexican Revolution on our southern border had ended. But consider this: 1920 was also the beginning of prohibition, Warren Harding had been elected President, the Russian Civil War was raging and in Germany, the Nazi Party was formed! Add inn “Flappers,” “Speakeasies,” new morals, women openly smoking and drinking, bobbed hair and plucked eye brows . . . Well, okay, but what could go wrong?

A big question then, in the now “dry” Sonoma County, was: would the wine industry go down in flames? Wine was then a four-million dollar crop here, and most Sonoma folks believed the Eighteenth Amendment “experiment” would only last a few months. Forty-two thousand acres were planted in wine grapes with three million gallons of wine already in storage. Also (get this) 8,000 county residents were making either wine or beer in their own homes! The price of wine grapes actually went-up in 1920 and the grape crop was



Prohibition and Federal Agents

215,000 tons! Some wine was sold to Asia and some wineries, out of necessity, had shifted over to “ceremonial and medicinal wines.” Gaye Le Baron in her book, *Santa Rosa, A 20th Century Town*, quipped: “Many people in Santa Rosa had sore throats and were asking pharmacists for wine gargles.” For a while, it *almost* seemed that prohibition may be good for the grape biz here. But, long term, it became disaster.



Horse drawn carriage of Lace House Linen

An interesting scheme in Petaluma that year had been started by Homer Wood, editor of the *Petaluma Morning Courier*, who thought Petaluma, with a population of 6,200, should be *THE* County Seat, *NOT* Santa Rosa. (Petaluma had never really gotten over Santa Rosa stealing that honor.) And anyhow, there were lots of reasons

why we should secede from Sonoma County and start up a new one, maybe even join with northern Marin? Some said we had more in common with northern Marin County, than with northern Sonoma.

And new streets and roads were issues too, primarily because of the emergence of the automobile. Instead of car parking, most businesses, shops and schools still had hitching posts out front. Northern Marin ranchers wanted better roads into Petaluma, Marshall and Point Reyes Station. Our common interests included... *chickens!* They said: “Nature’s boundary lines must be followed.” Better shipping was important, as well. Petaluma had shipped over 22 million dozen eggs that year. We had 19 hatcheries, nine feed mills and a river port. “Let’s get it

all together," the Marinites said.

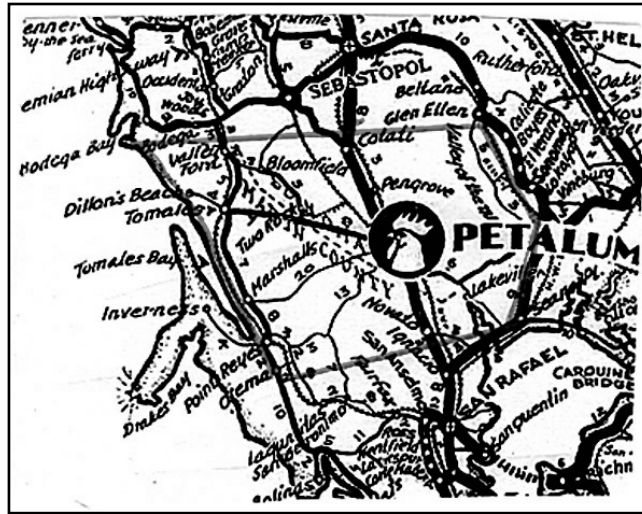
Who wanted "IN"? Well, Cotati, Penngrove, Bodega and Novato did, but Bloomfield and Sonoma opposed it. The approximate new county boundaries were to start just north of Cotati, then westerly through Valley Ford to the ocean, then south along the shore to Olema (omitting what has now become the National Seashore Park), then east through Nicasio Valley, south of Novato, to the Napa County line and back to the beginning. The new county would be about 600 square miles in size. "We have wearied of being the tail piece of Santa Rosa's kite," complained the Courier, and they meant it.

Of course Santa Rosa and San Rafael threw tantrums over the whole idea. The Press-Democrat, wryly complained:

"Petaluma is hatching a new court house. A Chicken County, of their very own. Men, women, morals and events are in flux! Women are wearing trousers. Everybody wants something they never had before. Petaluma is plumb silly."

(And *that* got a bunch of Petaluma feathers all fluffed-up).

So, what to name the new county? Suggestions such as Marinoma, McNear, Novato, Petaluma, Liberty and (ready for this?)...*Leghorn* were afoot.



Approximate outline of proposed new county 1920

Ed Fratini, chair of the Petaluma Chamber that year, suggested "San Antonio County," for the creek running through it. That seemed just right, and several thousand petitioners signed up. But alas, their petition was turned down by the Supreme Court and, soon after, the whole idea was scrubbed. It had been an interesting thought, though and it "had brought us together for a while," said the Courier.



Measuring bathing costumes at Russian River beach 1920

But 1920 kept on a-rolling. Hollywood became the center for the film industry, the League of Nations formed, the first radio station debuted AND the wash-

ing machine and vacuum cleaner were invented!

But hold on, you won't believe this: Right here in our county, the Sonoma State Hospital actually began *sterilizing* women who were considered to be "sexually delinquent, with records of being passionate, immoral or promiscuous." (Huh?) And along those lines, a Deputy Sheriff was assigned full-time, to measuring bathing suit hemlines to be no higher than 6 inches above the knee (!) at all Russian River beaches. (It was said the deputy liked his work, but was this *really* necessary?)

In lifestyle news of 1920, it was the year Scott Fitzgerald published *This Side of Paradise*, George White's "Scandals" was a Broadway hit and "Mark of Zorro" the hot film. Irving Berlin's "After You Get What You Want,

You Don't Want It," was the top pop song and Art Deco debuted in architecture. Other names in the news that year were: Pancho Villa, Ernest Hemingway, Francisco Franco, Mary Pickford, Ezra Pound, Gloria Swanson, Marion Davies and J. Edgar Hoover. 1920

was, indeed, a year of great change, opportunity and "All That Jazz." A "bees knees" kind of year.

Upcoming Exhibits & Events Schedule



Black History Exhibit ***Remember, Educate, Celebrate*** **Feb 8-March 15**

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment which gave the right of black men to vote following the Civil War. It also marks the centennial of the Nineteenth amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement.

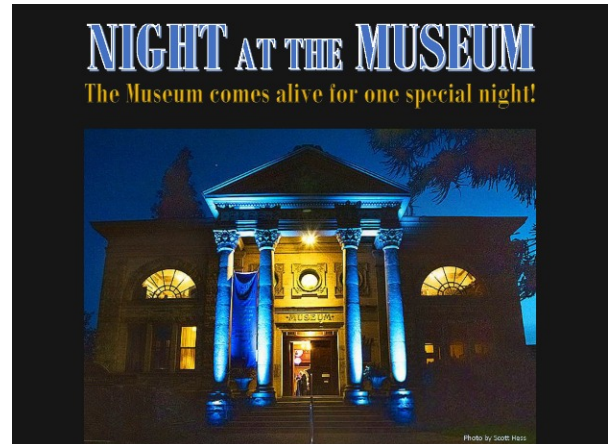
Remember— pictures and information about the black men and women who have been a part of the struggle for the vote, and obstacles that still exist today.

Educate – a timeline with major events in American History about and by African Americans highlighted

Celebrate – the legacy of African Americans that have died recently (Tony Morrison, Diahann Carroll, Elijah Cummings)

Activities in the community (free to the public):

- Annual Gospel Hour – Choirs from local churches, Sunday February 23, 4pm, Petaluma Christian Church, 1160 Schuman Lane
- 42nd Annual Black History Program, Saturday February 29, 5:30pm, New Life Christian Church Auditorium, 1310 Clegg St., Petaluma



Night At The Museum
Saturday, March 28th 7-11pm
\$60 before March 6, 2020
\$70 after March 6, 2020
Tickets: petalumamuseum.com or
call 778-4398



Local Girl Takes Flight:
“A Chicken Rancher’s
Daughter Gets Her Wings!”
April 4 - May 17

Meet Betty Andresen Vander Heuvel, pictured above in the forefront, at the *Women Pilots Forum* on April 11, 2020 at 1:00 - 3:00 pm.



Good Egg recipients from previous years on the museum steps, 2019.
pc: Jim Johnson

Butter & Egg Days Good Egg Award April 18, 12:00 noon at the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum

The Petaluma Downtown Association invites you to join them as they honor Petaluma's 2020 Good Egg and 2020 Parade Grand Marshal at a ceremony at the museum. You can learn all about the upcoming festivities planned for the 39th Annual Butter & Egg Days Parade on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at noon.

Museum Member Swap Weekend May 2nd & 3rd

Mark your calendar for this wonderful member opportunity. The Petaluma Museum along with other participating museums will extend free admission for up to 4 people accompanying anyone with a membership card to the museums listed below:

California Indian Museum & Cultural Center
Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center
Children's Museum of Sonoma County
Luther Burbank Home & Garden
Museum of Sonoma County
Pacific Coast Air Museum
Petaluma Historical Library & Museum
Sebastopol Center for the Arts
Sonoma Valley Museum of Art

Board of Directors Meeting

First Wednesday of each month
at 6:45pm

Location: 20 4th St.

Open to the public

(Please enter through back door)

You can get free admission to these local & Bay Area museums with a NARM level membership



Become a Business Sponsor, Company Sponsor or Corporate Sponsor and enjoy the many benefits at those membership levels

Business Sponsors will have their cards appear in the newsletter four times a year.

Company or Corporate Sponsors will have their logo appear in the newsletter four times a year. Please check out the membership brochure on page 18 of this newsletter for more details.

Support your local museum!

The Petaluma Museum Association is proud to be a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). Our membership in NARM allows us to offer our popular **Supporter Member** level, which provides two membership cards that can be used to gain free/member admission and member benefits at 1100 museums across North America! Visit their website at narmassociation.org to learn more.



Notes from Heritage Homes & Landmarks



Tour-goers got to step inside this Queen Anne Victorian on B Street in 2019

A Memorable Holiday Parlor Tour

ON A WINTRY evening last December, a merry throng of tour-goers visited three marvelous vintage Petaluma homes. Inside, they thrilled to living and dining rooms filled with greenery and all manner of festive adornment. The PMA thanks homeowners Bonnie Spindler, Mike and Angela Sarmiento, and Terry and Alena Kosewic for hosting the tour-going public and generously opening their doors for a good cause. Thanks too, to the over 30 docent volunteers who guided the tour-goers, sold tickets, and served refreshments.

Sponsored by the Heritage Homes & Landmarks committee, this event directly benefited the programs of the Petaluma Museum Association. HH&L is proud to announce the tour netted close to \$9,000. This recent tour comes on the heels of the 2019 Garden & Parlor Tour in May. Two successful back-to-back tours indicate a real public interest for such events, and the HH&L committee will endeavor to ensure future tours. For that we need the help of our community.



This vintage farmhouse on D Street opened its door this past December.

ranch styles. HH&L will consider anything over 50 years old.

If you don't own a vintage home yourself, perhaps you have a friend or neighbor who does. Advocate for the PMA and ask them if they'd like to show off their property for a good cause. We're counting on our membership to help us find just the right houses.

To give you an idea of how rewarding and fun it is to place your home on tour, we offer two testimonials from homeowners who have put their homes on tour:

"We so enjoyed being part of the Heritage Homes Tour. The team was delightful to work with and when the tour ended every last thing was in its place. It was also an excellent motivator for us to finish a few lingering house projects before tour day. We enjoy going on the tours so it felt good to give back."

—Madeline & Daniel Backman

"Having our home on the Heritage Homes Tour was so rewarding and enjoyable. The Heritage Homes Committee made the process so simple, so preparation for the tour was easy . . . All the visitors were so respectful and happy to be there, and I learned a lot about the history of my home in the process. We would definitely do it again!"

—Caroline Hall and Brad Villeggiante

Please contact Madeline Backman at 707-367-2782 or email Heritagepetaluma@gmail.com if you would like to nominate your house—or someone else's—for the May 9th Spring tour or the December 6th Holiday tour.

Seeking Homes for Spring Tour

Last May's first-ever Spring Garden & Parlor tour was so well received that we are planning its successor right now! The date is set for Saturday, May 9, the day before Mother's Day. To that end, the HH&L committee is seeking vintage houses with pretty gardens to feature on the three-hour afternoon tour.

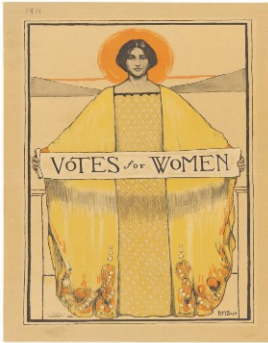
What qualifies as a vintage home? Obviously, Victorians come to mind first. But Petaluma is full of many 20th-century architectural marvels as well: Transition, Craftsman, Mediterranean and Spanish Revivals, Colonial Revival, cottage and bungalow styles and even one-of-a-kind postwar

Petaluma's Participation in the Women's Suffrage Movement, A Celebration of Democracy

Petaluma Historical Library & Museum, June 6 - August 23, 2020

Joining our Nation's centennial celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, this exhibit is a commemoration of our community's efforts to ensure women the right to vote.

Mark Your Calendars With the Exhibit's Activities & Presentations



Harvard University Schlesinger Library on the History of Woman in America, W221.79.1
The exhibit & its associated activities & presentations are free.

Opening Reception, Saturday, June 6, 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Paula Freund, "A Gallery Tour of Petaluma's Women's Suffrage Exhibit," Sunday, June 7, 2:00 pm

Petaluma Readers Theater, "The 19th: Journey to Ratification," June 13 & 14, July 11 & 12, August 15 & 16, (Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 5:00 pm)

John Sheehy, "Women's Suffrage & Prohibition: The Good, the Bad, & the Unintended," Wednesday, June 24, 7:00 pm

Jessica Litwak's one-woman play, "50,000 Mice: The Selena Solomon Story," Saturday, June 27 & Sunday, June 28, 7:00 pm

Jeff Elliott, "The Unsufferable Mr. Sanford: A Visit With California's Powerful State Senator Who Led the 1911 Fight Against Women's Rights," July, day TBD

Petalumans of Yesteryear, "A Conversation Among Petaluman Suffragists," date TBD

Latest Updates to the Museum's Upstairs Exhibits



John "Fitz" Fitzgerald pointing to maps.

"Birds Eye View Maps of Petaluma-1855-1930"

Come to the museum and view how the city grew and expanded over 125 years as shown on maps. Follow the "arrows" and find the blue and yellow dots locating the 'D' street draw bridge and the museum on thirteen of the exhibit's maps. If you have any questions or comments speak with the "Map Man", John FitzGerald.



Teresa Saltzman and Solange Russek standing in front of Miwok exhibit

New Coast Miwok exhibit opens.

Thanks to a grant from the Sonoma County Community Investment Fund, Teresa Saltzman, M.A. archaeologist, has updated the exhibit on the local Coast Miwok Indians. Photographs, pictures, cultural items, and descriptions of the Coast Miwok are displayed.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS



Downtown Annual Trick or Treat

On Thursday, October 31 the Museum participated in the Downtown Assn's Annual Trick or Treat Trail Program. As is our tradition we set up a table on the steps/landing in front of the museum. Our table was manned by regular volunteers Elizabeth Hart and James Cohee, who were lightly disguised as Pirates.

We had thousands of children stop by to pick up a treat (We gave out approx. 3,000 pieces). The Museum stayed open after hours so that parents with children who wished to stop in and see the museum could do so.

Another successful fundraiser with the Scotch & Food Pairing Event

The Petaluma Museum Association held it's popular guided tasting tour of single malt scotches paired with food catered by Preferred Sonoma Caterers on November, 21, 2019. Each tasting was accompanied with notes and anecdotes on the spirits' related region and aging process.



Members Holiday Party

We celebrated the holiday season with drinks, food and good company. Many of the PMA board directors were there to introduce themselves to our members, who play such a vital role in the success of fulfilling our mission statement. Thank you for your support.



Concert News



NYE Concert

Each year's New Year's Eve Gala Concert has been a sensation and a sell-out, and this year's event was no different. The evening sparkled with the music of Haydn, Beethoven, Schumann, Dvorak and Ginastera. Each piece was played masterfully by local musicians Dr. Kayleen Asbo, Nigel Armstrong, String Players from the San Francisco Symphony Yun Chu - violin, Shu-Yi Pai - cello, and Nancy Severance - viola. They were joined by our own resident pianist Elizabeth Walter. Guest vocalists students/interns from Sonoma State provided riveting vocal renditions of classical favorites;

Thanks to all who attended for making this year's concert an especially magical event. As the concert sells out each year, we encourage you to purchase your tickets early for the 2020 Concert.

Beethoven Concert

On Sunday, January 12 the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum hosted the Trinity Alps Chamber Players in their performance of 'Beethoven 2020: Beethoven's First and Last Words'. This concert was the official opening of our 2020 series celebrating Beethoven's 250th Birthday. Look for more Beethoven presentations during this year!

The Trinity Alps Chamber Players presented a concert experience that explored Beethoven's First Piano Sonata, Op. 2, No. 1, alongside his final work for piano, the Six Bagatelles, Op. 126 and his last major composition, the String Quartet in F Major, Op. 135.

Ian Scarfe was joined by violinists Ellen McGehee and James Keene, violist Stephen Fine, and cellist Charles Akert, all regular members of the Trinity Alps Chamber Players. The musicians also shared stories of the history and context of Beethoven and these works and offered the audience a kind of listening guide to help follow these strange and wonderful masterpieces.



Quilt Show: "The Threads That Connect Us"

Antique and vintage quilts were on display at the museum this January. An evening presentation titled "If These Quilts Could Talk" was held on Wednesday, Jan. 8th. It brought out many of our exhibitors to relate the family history, anecdotes and stories about the quilts in the show and other related quilts brought in for the evening. On Jan. 15, Sara Zander gave a presentation about "Crazy Quilting". She lives just around the corner from the museum but is known internationally for her quilting skills. Sara showed us all about *Crazy Quilting, Then and Now*. Later after her talk she offered her thoughts about conservation and repair for specific quilts from attendees.

(Con't on pg 13)



A Special Thank You To Our 2019 Annual Appeal Donors

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Sonoma County 2020 Women's Suffrage Project by Freyda Ravitz

On December 8, 2019, Sonoma County launched a yearlong celebration honoring the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution with an event sponsored by the Sonoma County 2020 Women's Suffrage Project. Paula Freund and Katherine Rinehart, Manager of the History & Genealogy Library of Sonoma County, co-curators of our upcoming exhibit showcasing Petaluma's participation in the women's suffrage movement shared a table at the event. Faith Ross, curator of our current exhibit, was part of a panel that afternoon. Check out the PMA web-site and www.socowomen2020.org for other events throughout the year.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Deanna Kastler

Deanna was born and raised in the Cleveland, Ohio, suburbs, and through a job at an airline she transferred to Honolulu where she lived for about eight years. She enjoyed traveling to many parts of the world, the most historic was the "Romantic Road" in Germany, and the most exotic was Bali, Indonesia.

She enjoys history and art, and has combined these interests in leading walking tours and writing history articles about San Francisco where she lived for 40-plus years until she moved from San Francisco's Presidio, a National Park, to Petaluma in May 2019

Deanna had researched her own San Francisco neighborhood of Laurel Heights, sharing the information

through her walking tour which she called "Old Tombstone Tales: A Cemetery history of Laurel Hill, Jordan Park, Lone Mountain, and the Columbarium." Another walk she created was called "Stairways of the Gods to Mount Olympus" in the Buena Vista Park area.

Her most enjoyable volunteer positions for the last eight years have been leading walks of the "Presidio: From Military Post to Earthquake Refuge to National Park" and "Art Deco Marina" for San Francisco City Guides. People from all over the Bay Area and around the world attend the walks. What has been personally rewarding is researching the neighborhood of the walk and expanding her knowledge of its history, architecture, art and heritage. She has also been a docent in the Presidio's Officers' Club, a historic building since the 1790s which has been turned into a museum with exhibits telling many the of Presidio's stories.

Over the years Deanna has become an avid Scrabble player, and has collected ice skating post cards from the turn of the last century with images of lovely ladies in long dresses gliding across the ice and to add some whimsy, Santa Claus on ice skates. They are quite rare as Santa didn't seem to do much ice skating.

Since arriving in Petaluma, Deanna has learned a lot about the town through her explorations and by volunteering as a docent in the Petaluma Museum. She likes the friendly, small town atmosphere, and looks forward to expanding her horizons by visiting other historic places and other towns in Sonoma County.

Museum Highlightsfrom page 11

8th Annual Jazz Concert

Guests attending the annual jazz concert to kick off Black History Month were once again treated to a special night of vintage jazz and R&B performed by The doRian Mode. This event is co-sponsored by the Petaluma Museum Association and Petaluma Blacks for Community Development. The black history exhibit, *Remember, Educate, Celebrate* is on display from Feb 8-March 15.



Faith Ross welcomes guests to concert.
photo credit-Scott Hess



The audience joins The doRian Mode in singing the Negro National Anthem.
Photo credit-Scott Hess



The doRian Mode
photo credit-Lukas Hess



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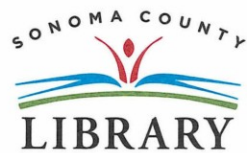
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SUMMIT
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Local Girlfrom pg 2

be her co-pilot and navigator in the 1965 Powder Puff Derby, an "All Women's Transcontinental Air Race" based on time performance.

***Women's Air Derby was the first official women-only air race in the United States, taking place during the 1929 National Air Race. Humorist Will**

Rogers referred to it as the Powder Puff Derby, the name by which is the most commonly known. Nineteen pilots took off from Santa Monica, CA. on August 18, 1929.

You will have a chance to meet Betty on April 11th, 2020 at 1:00 - 3:00 pm for the *Women Pilots Forum*.



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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.

Daily Alta California, Volume 84, May 22, 1891

Notes From Petaluma.

PETALUMA, May 21st —The Petaluma Fruit Packing Company commenced work for the summer this morning on cherries. They expect to put up during the season 75,000 cases.

Fruit trees of all kinds are loaded down, and the orchardists have to thin out much fruit to save the trees and get better fruit.

Haying is in progress in this section. Over one hundred mowers are running in sight of town. Hay and all other crops are very promising.

The Petaluma Preserve Company has leased the old stone steamboat warehouse, at the foot of B street, and will have machinery in and ready to make pickles and preserves in a short time.

*A window on some of
Petaluma's fruitful past
agricultural activities.*

The Sonoma County Journal, Dec. 22, 1855

Petaluma Library Association.

The next Regular Meeting of this Association will be held at the School Room, on Monday evening, Dec. 24th. Question for discussion—"Ought Secret Political Societies to be Encouraged?" A. P. BOUTON affirmative Disputant, and J. KENDALL negative do. All interested, are cordially invited to attend. Per order, O. T. BALDWIN, Sec'y.

*What was the point
of secrecy?*

Russian River Flag, Volume XVI, April 17, 1884

A little boy in this city, son of one of our prominent physicians, inquired of his father, "if he wouldn't be a doctor when he grew up and have his office and all the bottles and boxes." "I hope so, my boy, but where will I be?" "Out in the cemetery, I guess," was the encouraging reply.

*The simple directness
of a child*

Membership

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Acton, Kimberlee Barcewski, Christine Bennett, Renee Cathala, Christina Dumlao, Marsha Hansen
Jules Howard-Wright, Gary Lyman, Ernest Ongaro, Dara & Kaylee Peloquin, Michael Shapiro
Linda & Randon States, Victoria Webb

RENEWALS

Pamela Aares & Bruce Bochte, John & Pam Agnew, Catherine Alden, Madeline & Daniel Backman, Baddeley Family,
Erica & Elliot Barlas, Steve Bosshard & Carolyn Carswell, Jon & Vina Breyfolgle, Jean Brian, Dan Brown, Lyndi Brown,
Linda Buffo, Paula Butterworth, Barbara Russell-Cambra, Lynn Camhi, James & Patricia Carr, Nino & Elaine Cerruti, John
Cinnamon & Susan Makovkin, Suzanne Clarke, Jodi Clinesmith, Clark & Susan Coolidge, David Davies, Judy Davis
Don & Sue Deal, Peter DeKramer, Pat Donegan, Sue Edwards, John & Libby FitzGerald, Dan Fix, Vivienne Frost, Paula
Freund & Paul Heavenridge, Aldo Garibaldi, Sandra & Ken Garber, Joanne Goebel, Katherine Hall, Haroldine Hansen, Kay
Hardy, Kate Hawker, Alice Healy, Colleen & David Heaney, Elece Hempel, Cindy Hendrix, Tina Hittenberger, Barbara
Holleran, Carole Hyman & Peter Taines, Mari-Ann Gibbs Rivers, Deneane Glazier-Ashcraft, Jim Johnson, Kathleen Greaney
& Alice Van Ommeren, Karen Howard, Alan Jaroslovsky, Stephan Jensen, Camille Jordan, Susan Powers Kane, Kate Keaton
Kathleen Ketron, Ronald Kincaid, Susan Kraemer, Kathy Larsen, Amy & Joel Levine, Steven Lovejoy, Hector & Nadine
Luevano, Rebecca Hawk Lynch, Leslie & Dave Malloy, Nancy Maynard, Gary Martz, Garnet McClure, William & Vicki McDill,
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Petersen, Steven Peterson & Peter Jaret, Karen Poehlmann, Jerry Pozo, Greg Ramos, Gayle Reid, Valerie & Greg Reisinger,
Susan Repki-Rice, Jared Reser, William Reser, Barry & Ellen Richter, Timo & Frances Rivetti, Janet Rodd, Adrienne & Martin
Rodgers, Faith Ross, Mary Rowe, Rich & Susan Rodkin, Steve & Kit Schlich, Kathy Schmidt, John Sheehy, Patricia Smith,
Valerie Stannard, Virginia Stevens-Johnson, Loretta Stoddard, Till & Karen Stoeckenius, Suzanne & Alex Tanalski, Cathy
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Kingsbury, Alison Williams

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Market, Michael & Elaine Von der Porten, Mary Renner & Linda Vourlogianes, Marcie Waldron, Ruth Walker, Olga Walker,
Judy Walters, Jan Widdowson, Lauren Williams, Sarah Young, Scott & Meredith Young, Nick Zaillian, Ruth Zveinieks



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- Discounted admission to temporary exhibits (admission to the library & permanent exhibits is free to all)
- Reserved seating at the Butter & Egg Parade
- Subscription to and acknowledgement in the **PMA** newsletter
- Personalized membership card
- 10% off Museum store merchandise
- 10% off gift memberships
- Invitations to previews & receptions

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

All membership dues are valid for one year beginning the month of enrollment and are tax deductible as provided by law.

If you prefer, you can join online at petalumamuseum.com, or call 707-778-4398



Museum Collection Update

Solange Russek
Museum Collections Manager



**The Evening Cape of Petaluma Suffragist,
Abigail Goodwin Haskell (1819-1884)**
A Significant & Timely Donation to the PHL&M Textile Collection
by Paula Freund

Ann Nisson recently donated an exceptionally fine Victorian evening cape to the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum's textile collection. Dating from the second half of the 19th century, it is an exquisite garment reminiscent of the work of the haute couture master, Charles Frederick Worth (1825-1895). The garment's label is sewn onto the center of the collar, and it reads, "Déposé Paris". This French design patent was used most commonly on jewelry, and it proclaimed a registered monopoly on the design.

Replete with the fashionable details of the time, the black silk cape is highly decorated with ruffled lace at the collar, neckline, and cuffs; glittering, arabesque beadwork on both front and back; and spiral cloth beads on the edge of the scalloped hemline. The interior of the garment contains beautifully designed straps to hold the waist and arm sections in place, and the front of the garment is secured by numerous, hidden hook-and-eye fasteners.

A most significant aspect of the donation is its sterling provenance. Ann Nisson is the great-great-granddaughter of the cape's original owner, Abigail Goodwin Haskell (1819-1884). Abigail was a distinguished Petaluman suffragist. She held many prominent positions in county and state suffrage associations and delivered a significant and lengthy address to the California State Legislature in 1870 petitioning for women's right to vote.

Abigail's cape and many other artifacts pertaining to her life will be on display at the Petaluma Museum Association's upcoming exhibit, "Petaluma's Participation in the Women's Suffrage Movement," scheduled to open June 6 and to close August 23.



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\$60 before March 6, 2020 • \$70 after March 6, 2020

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