

# HERITAGE SQUARE GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

January 2009

Next General Meeting: January 13, 2009

## President's Message

*(Please welcome our new President, who has already been hard at work, helping us through the Christmas Event, and planning for the year ahead. Come and meet her to hear about both. Editor.)*

The first meeting of the New Year will be devoted to evaluating the Victorian Holiday Home Tours. Please bring your suggestions for next year. We will also discuss how to develop the membership of Support members. Support members are people who attend our functions, are concerned about the future of Heritage Square, and pay dues as do active members. We will look at the 2009 calendar so we can start making plans now.

I am in the Heritage Square Visitors Information Center Wednesdays and Fridays or call me if you have questions, concerns or information that I should be aware of.

*Kay Brainard*

## Looking Back and Looking Forward

Come and be a part of the discussion of this Cinematic Christmas Event. Then, hear some great ideas and possibilities for the coming year, and volunteer to be a part of it. We need active docents and volunteers, as well as supporting members to make the Square be the best place it can be. And remember, your \$10 dues are due and payable now. Final date March 1, 2009.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES for January

**Barbara Hilburn** 1/8

**Gary Blum** 1/22

**Fran Hruska** 1/25

## for February

**Connie Korenstein** 2/2

**Gerry Murphy** 2/19

## Looking for a good \*read? How about a Victorian mystery?

If you're reading this newsletter, you probably love things Victorian. If you also enjoy a good English mystery, then you'll be interested in these two authors I've recently discovered: Anne Perry's series on Charlotte and Thomas Pitt, and the Mrs. Jeffries mysteries, by Emily Brightwell.

There are over 20 titles in the Anne Perry series. Besides giving us a great mystery to solve with clues, suspects



and red herrings, she also provides us with a look at the Victorian way of life and thinking. Charlotte is a feisty and courageous sleuth who rebels against the refined manner in which she was brought up. Inspector Pitt is untidy and ruffled, but always solves the crime. Anne Perry's characters come from a broad range, from the aristocracy to the underbelly of London. Mixed with the murders and the clues are political issues and social injustices of the day, as well as proper English teas and soirees, and usually a little romance. The first of the series is The Cater Street Hangman. It's a good idea to start there in order to understand the relationships that continue to develop in the following books. Caution: If you like the first one, this series is addicting!

Mrs. Jeffries is hailed as the "Miss Marple of Victorian mystery". She is the very astute housekeeper to the bewildered and somewhat slow Inspector Witherspoon. Not only does she solve the crime, but she must be sure that the Inspector does not realize that she is the true detective, dropping clues and hints for him, leaving him thinking they were all his ideas. Emily Brightwell combines mystery and interesting characters in the English countryside. You'll love reading about how Mrs. Jeffries Dusts for Clues!

*Connie Korenstein*

*\*This originally was for a good SUMMER read, but it took me this long to put this in the newsletter! Editor*

## The History of 'APRONS'

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's

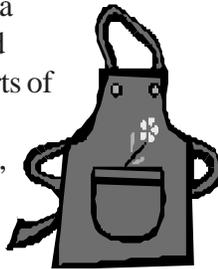


tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.



When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.



It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes...Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

*Someone sent this to my email, and I saved it. But now I can't identify nor remember who sent it. Anyway, Thanks! Editor*

*A Cinematic Christmas 1: top, right, from "Miracle on 34th Street," Santa is contemplating which toy store has the better bargain.*

*A Cinematic Christmas 3: from "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge (Susan Neilsen) with the Ghost of Christmas Present (Andre Koslovskis).*



**What am I forgetting? Oh, yes—need to pay my dues for Friends of Heritage Square. Only \$10!!! Better do that right away!**





*Sally (Laura Harris) and Jack (Ivan Sanchez) brought us a delightful "Nightmare Before Christmas."*



*Three Docents get ready for tours. Ruth Hibbard, Helen Gilbert and Kay Brainard. (Sorry for using my photo but I had it, and ...)*



*Carol Puerto and Miriam Koslovskis were the "Little Women" busy stringing popcorn and cranberries-but the real clue was on the fireplace mantle!*



*George (Raj Narula) and Mary (Narula) were so happy that this Christmas it turns out "It's a Wonderful Life."*

**Heritage Square Gazette**  
**715 South A Street**  
**Oxnard, CA 93030**

---

# HERITAGE SQUARE GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

May 2009

**Next General Meeting: May 12, 2009**

**Candra Coogan from Tranquility Tea Room will talk about the history of afternoon tea and about Victorian tea at the next meeting on different types of teas that people begins at 4PM with a social hour. invited. FOHS needs volunteers to to the meeting and bring a friend.**

[www.heritage square.com](http://www.heritage square.com)



**May 12, 2009. She is also bringing can smell and examine. Meeting Refreshments will be served. Public is help with the Summer Concerts. Come For more information, go to website -**

## President's Letter

Summer is shaping up to be a very busy time for Heritage Square. Volunteers are need for many of the planned events. Please call us at 483-7960, or drop in to sign up.

We are hosting a Tea, May 30th, 2-4 p.m., and need Docents to help pour tea and give tours. On Thursday, June 11, the Ventura County Vitners will host a "Wine That Travels" event. Again, Docents are planning to be there, giving tours and being part of the ambience. These events, others to come, and the usual Summer Concerts on Friday nights will mean a fun, but busy summer. Come to the Meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at 4 p.m., call us at 483-7960, or just drop by to chat with Regina Stevens, our Docent Coordinator—and a Docent herself—or me, to find out how you can be a part of this explosion of activity. Visit the new Wine Tasting Room in the Scarlett house, have lunch at La Dolce Vita, and enjoy the Square. You could even get in on a tour! We are open Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 1-4 p.m., remember.

**Kay Brainard**

*Would you like to get this newsletter by email? Call us.*



## BIRTHDAY WISHES for June

Ginger Roth ..... June 23

## 2009 Summer Concert Season Announced

Celebrating 17 years, Oxnard's favorite summertime tradition has been the Friday Night Concerts at Heritage Square. Held for ten weeks June 12th through August 14th from 6pm-8pm, the outdoor concerts are Oxnard's best place to hear live music. The concerts offer entertainment to suit every musical preference—styles range from Reggae to Big Band and from Latin Jazz to Rock. Table seating is available by reservation at \$40-\$60 per table, with seating for six. General admission plaza seats are \$5, and limited lawn seating is free.

Special concert menu from the onsite restaurant *La Dolce Vita* is available by calling 805.486.6878. Continuing this year will be post-concert entertainment in the intimate *La Dolce Vita Lounge and live theater at the Petit Playhouse*, immediately following the concerts. New this year, will be wine tasting at the Rancho Ventavo Wine Cellars at Heritage Square.

A special holiday concert has been added on Saturday, July 4th at Plaza Park from 1PM-3PM. The band will be *Age of Aquarius* performing late 60's rock and roll, sponsored by the Downtown Oxnard Management District.

The Heritage Square concerts are sponsored by the City of Oxnard and other community businesses. For a concert seating plan or info go to [www.HeritageSquareOxnard.com](http://www.HeritageSquareOxnard.com) or call 805-483-7960 for more info.

## 2009 Summer Concert Bands

Date	Band	Type of Music
6/12	Irie Smile	Reggae
6/19	House Arrest	60's-80's Dance Band, R&B
6/26	Incendio	Latin Guitar Fusion
7/3	The Wonderelles	Classic 50's & 60's Revue
7/10	Spice	R&B, Latin & Smooth Jazz
7/17	Myst	Rock 'n' Roll
7/24	New West Symphony	Big Band Jazz & AFM-581
7/31	Midnight Train	80's Dance Band
8/7	Ruben Estrada and the Estrada Bros.	Latin Jazz
8/14	The Chico Band	Latin, Oldies, Rock
<u>Special added Holiday Concert</u>		
7/4	(Saturday 1PM-3PM at Plaza Park)	Age Of Aquarius Late 60's Tribute

## History Groups Meet at Stagecoach Inn

### Notes from the Association of Historical Societies & Museums of Ventura County Meeting at Stagecoach Inn Museum-Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Mary Schwabayer, Association President, opened the meeting by asking for our emails. The association will no longer be mailing the newsletter, so if we want to receive the newsletter, we must send her our organization's email address at mary\_schwabayer@hughes.net

The association is working on a new brochure that will include the website and email address for all locations that are members of the association. They will be double-checking that information with everyone within the next two weeks. They are also planning to develop a website that will link to other museum and organization websites of members.

There is an opportunity to market our museums/ organizations at the Strawberry Festival. The association will have a free booth and possibly a second one if there are enough organizations interested in manning the booth. We must submit a form with names of the volunteers. I have copies of the form and will mail it to Kay this week at Heritage Square. There is a mandatory meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> for any volunteers. It will be held at the Performing Arts Center in Oxnard at 7PM in the Ventura Room. The Strawberry Festival is May 16 and 17. In addition to this opportunity, on May 13<sup>th</sup> there is a hospitality trade show

for the hotels in Ventura County in the Channel Islands Harbor. We can have a table with our brochures for \$50. Future meetings of the assn: next April at Rancho Camoulos.

The organizations attending each gave an update of upcoming events. The following is a list of some imminent events. For a complete calendar, contact the location you are interested in seeing.

May 17-4<sup>th</sup> Camarillo Ranch annual Rebozo Festival

Seabee Museum  
New museum will be built. Groundbreaking after July 4. Grand opening hoping in 2011.

June 7 Dudley House Lavendar Festival in Ojai benefits the Dudley House

May Fillmore Historical Museum  
In May, they will have a display of wedding dresses

Olivas Adobe  
May 17-Murals and Roses exhibit, 20 painted murals  
June 14-Living History Day

Rancho Camulos Open Wed, Sat, Sun 1-4.  
Interested in having docent groups come for tours.  
May 19 Event for artists and photographers  
July 31-Aug 1 Partnering with the Balloon Festival

Simi Historical Society  
Book-Letters from the Strathern Family will be available with a book signing in May. This book is a companion to Simi Journey Through Time

Ventura County Museum  
Museum under renovation. Temporarily located in a store-front on CA St. Archives are at the museum location and can be accessed by appointment.  
April 4-July 5-Exhibit is the Magic of Children's Books

Murphy Auto Museum  
Weekend of June 28 will have Italian motorcycle exhibit

Stagecoach Inn  
June 13-Pioneer Day  
July 18-La Fiesta del Triunfo  
July 11,12,26 & Aug 15-Shakespeare at the Inn

Stagecoach Inn did a Living History performance with groups of 10 attendees each, to tell the story of the Inn. They involved members of the group in the living history as visitors at the Inn. It was very well done.

**Paula Bass**

April 12, 2009

Editor, Heritage Square Gazette

Dear Editor,

I always try and take a few minutes to keep up with the Friends by reading the Heritage Square Gazette. I know putting these things together, even if only a few pages, is a lot of work.

However, I must write with some disappointment about items in the current newsletter. First, the President's message in which she compared LA's Heritage Square unfavorably to ours shows a lack of understanding and inter-organizational support. If I understand correctly—and Gary could verify this—the maintenance of the grounds of our Heritage Square is funded by fixed fees to the property owners and by the City of Oxnard, and each building is maintained by individual property owners. This is not the case with LA's Heritage Square. It is a self-sustaining museum (not a business park). The museum, I believe in partnership with affiliate organizations, raises funds for all work done at the site – everything from landscaping and maintenance to new roofs and building restoration. If the Friends of Heritage Square were fiscally responsible for the maintenance and restoration of our square, how would we be doing? Rather than smugly declaring us “the best and biggest Heritage Square in Southern California,” we should be grateful for the sweetheart deal we have, and sit down and come up with an inter-organizational strategy to help our L.A. namesake raise some money.

I was also perplexed by the “Did you know...?” story and what is, or is not, appropriate to include on the tours. While I certainly believe in one “making the tour one's own,” and I definitely believe all the Friends should be the best informed Oxnard historians to be found anywhere, this article suggests that docents are allowed to “cherry pick” information they will and will not include on a tour. I hope, for the visitors' sake, this is not the case. Docents should be engaging and well-informed, and they should follow the script which is laboriously assembled and taught during your training!

Finally, I would suggest steering clear of computer advice, hardly what one turns to the Heritage Square Gazette in search of. There is lots of historical filler in the world – how about reprinting something from the Oxnard *Courier*?

Again, I do sympathize with the person who had to put this together; not an easy task. I look forward to better reading next time.

*Jill Dolan*

**Reply from Editor,**

We were pleased to receive this letter, even though it is criticism. Kay's ebullient remarks about “our” Heritage Square showed her pride in what we do and our good fortune. We do have good relationships with other groups and Kay's remarks were not really meant to undermine that fellowship.

Fundraising is a special and difficult task and I, for one, am glad we don't have to do it. That's not the role of docents, and I, for one, would be no good at it. There are advantages and disadvantages of the homes being owned by businesses, but we are very grateful for the beautiful setting and excellent upkeep of the homes.

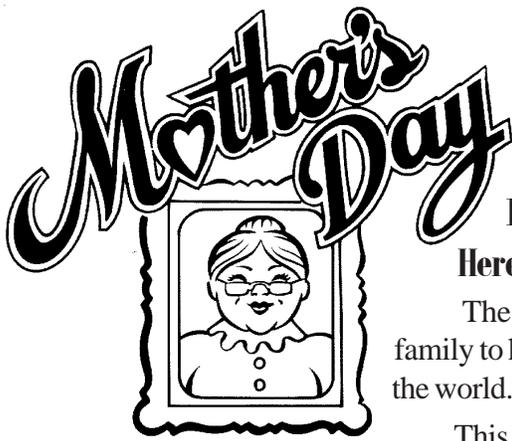
The role of all volunteers, but especially tour-giving docents—is to tell the story of the place and people where they are working—to inform, to educate but also to entertain. If our tours are not fun they are not educational at all. All volunteers at Heritage Square attend classes giving the history of the city of Oxnard and surrounding areas, the history of the houses and the people who had them built and lived in them. However, we are not ever given a set script and told that is the only thing we can say. In fact each Docent is required to write their own script, using the details, facts, small stories and even myths and rumors. Of course we always mention if we don't know for sure if something is true, and we are careful to give enough facts to make a framework. Our intention is always to bring the real story of the houses and the area alive for even a few moments. The serenity and beauty of the grounds and the houses help us do this, and we are grateful for that. Research can bring us new information, and we then incorporate those new facts and stories into our tour.

**NO DOCENT COULD EVER GIVE THE SAME TOUR EVERY TIME.** So, every time we give a new tour, we are indeed “cherry-picking” what to say, and how to present the facts to make a good story—a real story, but an entertaining one. Of course, there are some facts we all give, probably every time. But, for the visitors' sake, each Docent is giving a slightly different tour, and for the Docents' sake, each time is a fresh chance to tell a story the visitor will remember.

The suggestion to include items from the *Courier* is good. Letters to the editor are always welcome, as are articles of travel to other historic places, or information gained from reading—especially, but not only—historical books, newspapers or even novels. I look forward to hearing from any Friend of Heritage Square.

*Ruth A. Hibbard, Editor*

*New Gazette deadline: last Friday of every month*



**Mother's Day will be celebrated at the Square with a special brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. preceded or followed by a tour with a costumed Docent.**

**Here are some historic facts about Mother's Day around the world.**

The modern Mother's Day holiday was created by Anna Jarvis as a day for each family to honor its mother, and it's now celebrated on various days in many places around the world. It complements Father's Day, the celebration honoring fathers.

This holiday is relatively modern, being created at the start of the 20th century, and should not be confused with the early pagan and Christian traditions honoring mothers, or with the 16th century celebration of Mothering Sunday, which is also known as Mother's Day in the UK.

In most countries the Mother's Day celebration is a recent holiday derived from the original US celebration. Exceptions are, for example, the Mothering Sunday holiday in the UK.

Different countries celebrate Mother's Day on various days of the year because the day has a number of different origins.

One school of thought claims this day emerged from a custom of mother worship in ancient Greece, which kept a festival to Cybele, a great mother of Greek gods. This festival was held around the Vernal Equinox around Asia Minor and eventually in Rome itself from the Ides of March (15 March) to 18 March.

The ancient Romans also had another holiday, Matronalia, that was dedicated to Juno, though mothers were usually given gifts on this day.

In addition to Mother's Day, International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries on March 8. ( Wikipedia)

## Spelling

*(also from Wikipedia)*

In 1912, Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrases "second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day", and created the Mother's Day International Association.

"She was specific about the location of the apostrophe; it was to be a singular possessive, for each family to honour their mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world."

This is also the spelling used by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in the law making official the holiday in the U.S., by the U.S. Congress on bills, and by other U.S. presidents on their declarations.

Common usage in English language also dictates that the ostensibly singular possessive "Mother's Day" is the preferred spelling.

## Dates around the world

Mother's Day is celebrated on different days throughout the world. Examining the trends in Google searches for the term "mother's day" shows two primary results, the smaller one on the fourth Sunday in Lent, from the British tradition of Mothering Sunday (it is also called ladies day and women's day), and the larger one on the second Sunday in May.

The extent of the celebrations varies greatly. In some countries, it is potentially offensive to one's mother not to mark Mother's Day. In others, it is a little-known festival celebrated mainly by immigrants, or covered by the media as a taste of foreign culture (compare the celebrations of Diwali in the UK and the United States).

(Editor's note: a list of which countries do and do not celebrate is on the Wikipedia web site, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s_Day) By the way when I Googled Mother's Day, I got over 65 million possibilities.)



## Makeup 1900 (from Googling Makeup 1890 and 1900)

Many an Edwardian society hostess in middle age was in urgent need of the help of cosmetics and by 1900 face enamelling was once again beginning to be accepted among society ladies. The Edwardian society hostess's complexion, ravaged by age, a high carbohydrate diet, spasmodic exercise, combined with living in a dirty polluted atmosphere was far from radiant. Queen Alexandra flaunted her make-up and shocked and amused observers. But she epitomized the feminine ideal of the Naughty Nineties. Ladies were more discreet and despite a gradual acceptance of make-up in the 1890s, it was still considered 'not nice' to admit to its use. ...They loved cosmetics as much as we do today, but acquiring them was a little more difficult.

**Rouge:** Although it was frowned upon, women constantly concocted their own "blush" from ingredients that they found in their own gardens.

There were cream versions available that looked quite different from what we have become used to. It was embedded in pieces of silk on the end of a stick. This could then be dipped into water and applied to the face.

**Lipsticks:** Rouge was not the only thing to be frowned upon, lipstick was equally considered in poor taste. But colorless lips did not help your appearance, so thought the Victorian ladies, and they often "kissed" pieces of rose colored crepe paper for a little added color.

**Complexions:** Pale and delicate. A lot of cosmetics were being made at home as noted above and they were often contained dangerous ingredients. Women in the 1890s were as interested as we are today in eliminating blotchy skin and wrinkles, not to mention small pox scars.

## The House of Cyclax

Ladies of society liked to preserve the myth of being naturally beautiful. A Mrs. Henning, who owned a beauty salon in South Molton Street, London, which later became the House of Cyclax, had a special back door for embarrassed clients. Heavily veiled, a lady would hurriedly alight from her carriage and disappear into the discreet entrance.

Initially Mrs. Henning sold creams plus three shades of rouge. Hostesses also used 'papier poudre' (still available from Avon and at some make up counters today). 'Papier poudre' came in books of colored paper and pressed against the cheeks or nose, the leaves of powder removed shine. Burnt matchsticks were used to darken eyelashes, and geranium and poppy petals stained the lips.

## Helena Rubenstein Cosmetics

She was born Chaja Rubinstein, the eldest of eight children,...For a short time, she studied medicine in Switzerland. In 1902, she moved to Australia, opened a shop there a year later, and changed her forename to Helena. She mixed so-called medical formulas and ointments that she claimed were imported from the Carpathian Mountains. They were, in truth, concocted from an impure form of lanolin whose odor was disguised with scents of lavender, pine bark, and water lilies. With such primitive cosmetics as [those available] it was inevitable that those who could afford it would flock to Helena Rubenstein's salon when she opened in London.

'She did not have to wait for customers. They came veiled, and no lady carried money with her. But they were prepared to pay considerable sums.'

By 1909 Selfridges opened in London's Oxford Street and they openly sold cosmetics. Cosmetics displays were openly visible to the customers and were no longer hidden under the counter. **Contributed by Kay Brainard.**



**Heritage Square Gazette  
715 South A Street  
Oxnard, CA 93030**

---

**Next Meeting: May 12, 2009  
Heritage Square Hall**

**4:00: Refreshments and conversation**

**4:30: Business Meeting**

**5:00: candra coogan from Tranquility Tea Room**

# HERITAGE SQUARE

## GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

www.heritagesquareoxnard.com

June 2009

**Next General Meeting: June 9, 2009**

**Tom Deckrow will talk about his work on the Petit House glass, and his extensive collection of beveled glass. He has other glass collections as well.**

### President's Letter

There are still opportunities for volunteering at the Friday night concerts. See page two for a description of duties for those who volunteer. Salsa Festival is not too far away, and we have school tours and Outreach programs being requested, as well. Call the Visitors Center at 483-7960. Or, check out our web site to see other special events coming up.

Connie Korenstein and Ruth Hibbard gave tours for Mothers' Day, with most guests enjoying a brunch at La Dolce Vita, too. Rancho Ventavo had a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 28th to open their business in Scarlett House. (See photos at right.)The May 30th Tea and Fashion Show for the Red Hat ladies was a great success.

Come and be a part of the great time we have as Friends of Heritage Square. Tell your friends, too! We would love to expand our group, and share the fun.

*by Kay Brainard*

*Ruth Hibbard showing two visitors around Scarlett House with the Petit buffet in the lobby.*



Would you like to get this newsletter by email? Call us.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES for July**  
Debra Hardin ..... 7/17

*Connie Korenstein giving tours on Mothers Day. Next two photos are of Rancho Ventavo's Grand Opening on May 28.*



## 2009 Summer Concert Bands

Date	Band	Type of Music
6/12	Irie Smile	Reggae
6/19	House Arrest	60's-80's Dance Band, R&B
6/26	Incendio	Latin Guitar Fusion
7/3	The Wonderelles	Classic 50's & 60's Revue
7/10	Spice	R&B, Latin & Smooth Jazz
7/17	Myst	Rock 'n' Roll
7/24	New West Symphony	Big Band Jazz & AFM-581
7/31	Midnight Train	80's Dance Band
8/7	Ruben Estrada and the Estrada Bros.	Latin Jazz
8/14	The Chico Band	Latin, Oldies, Rock

Special added Holiday Concert  
7/4 (Saturday 1PM-3PM at Plaza Park)  
Age Of Aquarius Late 60's Tribute

## Summer Concerts Instructions

### Docents & Volunteers

There are generally four Docents up front to greet and direct guests.

Docents should arrive at 5pm (concerts start at 6pm) in costume with name badge.

Docents will stand at the entrances to the Plaza greeting all guests.

You may ask if they have a ticket to show you. Some will not have a ticket, as they are guests of a sponsoring organization. CLUE: they may be carrying a picnic basket so welcome them to the square. Most guests will know where their table is.

If guests wish to purchase a ticket to be seated in the plaza, direct them to go to the south entrance and proceed to the ticket table. Do not let them cut thru the plaza to purchase a ticket.

During the concert you may pass out tickets for the half time drawings to all the guests seated on the lawn surrounding the plaza. (People who obtain tickets or have tables already have their drawing tickets). Take pencils with you and after passing out tickets, you may pick up the tickets and pencils and put the tickets in the drawing box.

Say, for example: We need your name so that you may be entered into the FREE drawing at half time. If you

want to give an address we will add your name to our mailing list, unless we already have it. They may want to know what they can win so it is a good idea to check at the ticket table to see what the prizes are for that evening.

Other information that you may tell guests is that their entry tickets are used to send them schedules of future events to be held at Heritage Square.

You will be given a basket at intermission (usually around 7pm) to collect money for the band. Each Docent will be assigned a section of the square to pass the basket for donations. Turn the basket into the ticket table when finished.

There will be a drawing for the door prizes that two of the Docents may help with. After the drawing, the Docents are free to leave or just enjoy the rest of the concert.

In addition, there is a table at each concert set aside for Docents who want to come, whether they are working that concert or not. Reservations required by Tuesday, June 9, since there are only six chairs each week.

*by Flora Bea Stratus*

## Docent Fashion Book

*by Ruth Hibbard*

Recently, Paula Bass showed a beautiful photo book of several of her costumes done on photo paper. Flora Bea commented that we should take photos of our costumes and put them on a DVD which we could have continuously running in the office of the Visitors' Center. So, I am throwing the idea out to you: does this sound like a fun project? Some of you have either bought or created some great costumes, some of them authentic historic clothing, even. We could arrange them chronologically or at least group them according to the general era they would have been worn.

Send me a note or an email if you would like to take part. This may take some time. We would have the docent either submit a digital photo or come to the square and have the photo taken. It is easy to put photos on a DVD. Then, we would have to find a DVD player that we could use in the office. Another option is to save them on a flash drive and buy a digital picture frame. Once we have the photos, we could start saving them, editing if necessary. Then, we need to find a place in the office, which is a bit crowded with our new retail items. But, this could be a draw to bring people into the office, and may attract attention to the retail items. They would not be for sale, just for viewing. My email is ruthhi@roadrunner.com.

## Second Annual Ventura County Wine Trail Celebration is June 11th (Volunteers—docents or others—still needed)

A year after launching the first ever Ventura County Wine Trail map, several local wineries are enjoying the fruits of their labor. With a unified goal of getting Ventura County 'on the map', so to speak, several local wineries joined forces in 2008 to produce the first ever Ventura County Wine Trail map. A benefit for visitors and locals alike, this year's map features ten local wineries clustered around a pictorial map of the area, as well as local restaurants, hotels, shuttle companies, as well as local attractions and annual festivals.

The map was designed as a full-service tool for tourists, highlighting some of the best the county has to offer. They can plan an entire trip in the area, complete with a shuttle-led wine tasting trip, hotel stay, and dining suggestions. The Ventura and Oxnard Convention and Visitors' Bureaus have also joined in on the project, offering visitors a more complete resource for information on what to do in the area.

The 2nd Annual celebration showcasing these local wineries and restaurants is scheduled for Thursday, June 11th, at historic Heritage Square in downtown Oxnard, (715 South 'A' Street, Oxnard). The event will be held from 5:30-8 pm and advanced purchase tickets are available online at [Ventura County Wine Trail Celebration](http://VenturaCountyWineTrail.com). Tickets are \$12 per person and many of the participating wineries and restaurants will be on hand to provide tastes. The event is open to the public, and is a wonderful opportunity to sample delicious wines and appetizers from the area. The map will be distributed at numerous locations throughout Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, including all participating partners on the map, as well as other hotels, restaurants, and informational locales. The website was just recently launched and can be found online at: [www.venturacountywinetrail.com](http://www.venturacountywinetrail.com). The website provides a full-service trip planning tool, complete with maps and calendar, for anyone planning a trip to Ventura County.



## Heritage Square Party Opens Wine Tasting Room

by Lisa McKinnon, *Ventura County Star* reporter

Ventura County's newest winery tasting room — yes, there's more than one — officially opened Thursday night with the snip of a blue satin Oxnard Chamber of Commerce ribbon.

After that, the vino flowed freely as George Gilpatrick and Faye Hawes of Rancho Ventavo Cellars stood behind a newly constructed bar in the former drawing room of the historic Scarlett House in Heritage Square, pouring samples of their 2005 Paso Robles merlot, 2006 Central Coast petite sirah and 2005 Santa Maria Valley pinot noir. The take-home, per-bottle price on the latter had been reduced to \$24 in honor of the occasion, which was more than two years in the making.

A grinning Gilpatrick dressed for the party in a T-shirt printed with the words "Drinks Well with Others." Hawes sparkled in a black tee studded with crystals in the shape of a glass of red wine.

Fellow Heritage Square tenant Michelle Kenney, owner and chef of La Dolce Vita, was so eager to have the winemaking couple as her neighbors that she pressed husband Greg Kenney into service as the builder of the aforementioned bar. And on Thursday, her restaurant kitchen was the source of the wine-pairing party foods, which included rosemary flatbread studded with red grapes and, for dessert, pound cake layered with blueberry cream cheese and ganache.

The partnership will continue: If you buy a bottle of wine at the tasting room and walk it over to La Dolce Vita, restaurant staff will waive the corkage fee. Conversely, if you spend \$60 or more on your meal at the restaurant, you can skip paying the tasting fee at the winery. And

when the Heritage Square summer concert series opens on June 12, you'll be able to book a table for four on the Scarlett House porch, with wine, appetizers and music included in the \$25-per-person price.

Regular tasting room hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. The tasting fee is \$10, including the glass; return with the glass on a subsequent date and pay \$5 (741 South A St., 483-8084).

**Heritage Square Gazette**  
**715 South A Street**  
**Oxnard, CA 93030**

---

**Next Meeting: June 9, 2009**

**Heritage Square Hall**

**4:00: Refreshments and conversation**

**4:30: Business Meeting**

**5:00: Tom Deckrow**

**Beveled Glass and the Petit House Restoration**

# HERITAGE SQUARE

## GAZETTE

Oxnard, CA

www.heritagesquareoxnard.com

August 2009

### Next General Meeting: August 11, 2009

**Tom Deckrow will talk about his work on the Petit House glass, and his extensive collection of beveled glass. He has other glass collections as well.**

**This edition of the Gazette is dedicated to Ruth Hibbard and Wilma Skeen, since both are moving away this month.**

#### President's Letter

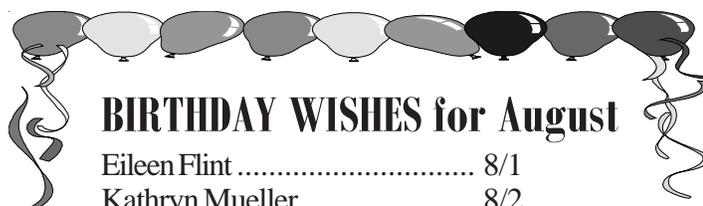
We have had a very busy summer so far with Summer Concerts, Salsa Festival, school tours and Outreach in addition to the weekend tours on Saturday and Sunday. I am so impressed with all the time everyone puts in to help. I see the same people at each event and working long hours at the event. I can not begin to **Thank You** enough. I hope you are enjoying your self as you give your time. Please come to the dinner on August 21 so we can officially thank you. See article for information (time, date and place)

I am so going to miss Ruth and Wilma. Ruth was my mentor when I first became a Docent. I have learned so much from her, especially about dresses worn between 1880's and 1910. Wilma has been our Treasure for so many years that it will take time to adjust with out her taking care of the checks.

#### Ventura County Fair

When you are at the Fair be sure to go to in the Agriculture building and walk to the back of the building, on the right hand side to see our display. While you are there, see if you can find a real sugar beat.

*Would you like to get this newsletter by email? Call us.*



#### BIRTHDAY WISHES for August

Eileen Flint ..... 8/1  
Kathryn Mueller ..... 8/2  
Flora Bea Stratus ..... 8/11

#### THANK YOU DINNER

You are invited to a potluck dinner 8/21/09 in the Rose Garden if you have worked during the Summer concerts, Salsa Festival and/or County Fair. We will provide barbeque tri tip and chicken, wine and soft drinks. Please bring something to add to the dinner. We will have a sign up sheet at the general meeting in August.

#### Luncheon for Wilma and Ruth

Come join use to say good by to Ruth Hibbard and Wilma Skeen on August 15, 1PM at La Dolce Vita

Restaurant, \$15.00 includes tax and tip, drinks are extra. Both Women are leaving the area at the end of August. We will miss them very much. Please see the articles in this newsletter about what they have contributed to the expansion of Heritage Square.. Call the Information center, 483-7960, to make a reservation for the luncheon by August 11, 2009.

#### New Newsletter Editor

Connie Korenstein has volunteered to be the newsletter editor, since Ruth is leaving. She has done a newsletter at her school, using Publisher. She will be grateful for any articles or photos contributed, as these are what make the newsletter newsy and interesting. Her email is: [Bernieconnie@aol.com](mailto:Bernieconnie@aol.com)

#### BIRTHDAY WISHES for September

Ruth Hibbard ..... 9/1  
Modenia Kramer ..... 9/8  
Wilma Skeen ..... 9/12  
Heather Behrens ..... 9/19  
Bree Lopez ..... 9/20

## A Friend Who Will Be Missed

Our friend, Wilma Skeen, was born in Powell River, British Columbia a few decades ago. She came to California in 1952 and went to work as an Accountant in Downey. Alternating between work and vacations, her travels took her to many countries. She cruised on the Nile River in Egypt and visited the Valley of Kings and the Valley of the Queens. She toured by plane to see the Aswan Dam. Her travels included Turkey, the Greek Isles, Italy, China and Brazil. She saw The Phantom of the Opera and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street while in London and also visited Wales, Scotland and while in Ireland saw River Dance.

There were many cruises, one to the Panama Canal with stops in Venezuela, Aruba and Costa Rica. Shorter weekend cruises were enjoyed by Wilma traveling to Mexico with stops in Cabo San Lucas, Matzatlán and Puerto Vallarta.

Upon retirement, Wilma moved to Florida and continued to travel up the East Coast of the United States into Nova Scotia. She also took cruises to the Western Caribbean and the Southern Caribbean. After living in Florida for five years, she decided to come home to California where she resides in Hueneme Bay.

Wilma's first visit to Heritage Square was to see an eye Doctor. She stopped in the Visitor's Center and talked to Ginger Gaynor, a Docent, who happened to be volunteering that day. Ginger was the mother of Laurie Gaynor, our Docent Coordinator at that time. They told her all the reasons that she should become a Docent. After Wilma brought some friends to the Square a few times, she did decide to become a Docent! That was the beginning. Wilma gave tours and also worked with the Hands On program for the school children. The Holiday Tours were one of her favorite times to volunteer. She has served as our Treasurer on the Executive Board until resigning this past month.

Wilma loves to read usually into the wee hours

of the morning. Sidney Sheldon is her favorite author. She has a collection of his books and is starting to read them—the 2<sup>nd</sup> time around! Her favorite movies are musicals. Her many hobbies in the past have included skiing and golfing.

She says she will miss all of her friends that she has made at the Square but will keep in touch by email. She will be residing with her daughter, Nadine and son-in-law, Charles in Little Rock, Arkansas come September. She plans to spend time also with her 3 great-grandchildren who also live in Little Rock. I know that all the Friends of Heritage Square will miss Wilma but we wish her the best of health and happiness!



*Group of Docents at Bard Mansion. Wilma Skeen is in second row on left.*

## Farewell, Ruth: We Hate to See You Go!

Ruth Hibbard is one of our most valuable friends and docents at the Square. She is known for her excellent touring skills, her beautiful costumes and being the Editor of this newsletter, as well as volunteering for just about every committee that needs help here at the Square. Ruth has taken on leadership roles since becoming a docent in 2004, as FOHS president, helping out with training new docents, planning events, school tours and much more. We will miss her tremendously as she will be moving to Chandler, Arizona at the end of August.

I found out some interesting things about our friend Ruth while interviewing her recently. Ruth grew up in a sparsely populated, rural area of northern Wisconsin (Brrrr!) with lots of snow. Her childhood life was spent in a small town that most of us can only imagine, a place that served as a quiet resort area in the summer with fishing in summer and deer hunting in winter. She attended school in a 3 room school house. Ruth and her best friend were the only two students in her grade level! She remembers that when she graduated high school in 1962, it was the period of the USA's "race for Space", when technology was at a high point and there was lots of encouragement for students to get interested in science. Many of us will remember that time as one of the most historically significant periods in our lifetime. She began college in Wisconsin, but her sisters and brother told her about the golden opportunities here, so California, Here she came!

Ruth met her husband in San Francisco, where they married. They moved to Southern California where they had their first baby, attended college and lived in "married student housing".

No one who knows Ruth will be surprised that she majored in history! So it was a natural progression for her to become involved in the League of Women Voters when she came across their booth at the Ventura Street Fair one day. After that, she joined the Ventura County Museum of History and Art, where she led tours, was the volunteer Education Director, and helped start their Rancho Outreach program.

Ruth and her husband moved to Oxnard when the kids grew up. At this point in time, she was just beginning to dabble in the internet, so she did a Google search and (fortunately for us) found Heritage Square. It was the ad in the paper with the picture of the costumed docent that really piqued her interest, and the rest, as the say, is history!

In typical Ruth fashion, she is looking forward to her new adventure in Arizona with a positive outlook. Chandler, Arizona is a growing community in a valley southeast of Phoenix, where some of Ruth's family members live. She already did some

research and knows that the community started in 1912, and that there is a Heritage Square in Phoenix as well as a historic house museum. In other words, Ruth will have someplace to wear her marvelous costumes and share her wonderful docent talents!

Our Oxnard Heritage Square won't be the same without Ruth. She has made major contributions to the FOHS organization and her positive- "can-do" attitude has gotten us through many a difficult time in the past 5 years. Someone once said she is three docents rolled into one!

Please come to honor and to say goodbye to Ruth, along with Wilma Skeen, on August 15 at La Dolce Vita Restaurant at 1 PM. For more information, call Kay at 483-7960.



*Ruth Hibbard in 1895 Walking Suit. As more women began to go outside of the home to go to school, work, travel, suits became very popular; in America, especially.*

**Heritage Square Gazette**  
**715 South A Street**  
**Oxnard, CA 93030**

---

**Next Meeting: August 11, 2009**  
**Heritage Square Hall**  
**4:00: Refreshments and conversation**  
**4:30: Business Meeting**

# HERITAGE SQUARE GAZETTE

[www.heritagesquareoxnard.com](http://www.heritagesquareoxnard.com)

805-483-7960

November/December 2009

## Meet LINDA LIVINGSTON Our New Docent Coordinator



LINDA LIVINGSTON

SAG/AFTRA/AEA

We are excited to welcome Linda Livingston to the circle of Friends of Heritage Square. Her creativity and expertise are already working in our direction!

Linda graduated from UCSB in Communication Studies and is pursuing a Masters in Theatre Education. Primarily a stage actress, director, and teacher, other jobs have included radio announcer, public service director; traffic school instructor and public relations associate. She worked at the Coalition To End Domestic and Sexual Violence for a number of years, as Community Educator. She was also a crisis counselor for victims of rape and domestic violence.

Linda was one of the founding members, writers and the 10-year artistic director for Santa Paula's annual *GhostWalk*, the largest fundraiser of the year for Santa Paula Theatre Center. As an actor, she has worked all over the country and was nominated for an L.A. Ovation award. She just finished a run of *DOUBT* in the role of Sister Aloysius at the Santa Paula Theater Center.

## Mark your calendar! Important holiday events

- Taste of the Season: Dec, 6, 5:00PM
- Gingerbread House Contest Dec. 11-13
- Christmas Storybook House Tours  
December 12 and 13
- Holly Trolley Tours December 15 - 17



## New Events This Christmas At Heritage Square

### A TASTE OF THE SEASON

The public is invited to ring in the holidays with A Taste of the Season. This new event is a progressive dining experience, which takes visitors inside several of our houses to journey back to the turn of the century and enjoys samplers of Victorian-inspired fare and libations, from La Dolce Vita and Rancho Ventavo Wine Cellars. This culinary adventure, complete with live entertainment, will take place on Sunday, Dec. 6th from 5-8 pm, and costs \$49 per person. We are asking all Friends of Heritage Square to help spread the word by passing out flyers and sending invitations to people you know. For tickets, more information or to volunteer your time, please call 483-7960 or visit the website.

*If you haven't already stopped by the Visitor's Center to pick up your invitations, flyers and posters, please do so soon.*

*Office open Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10:00-4:00, or call for special pick-up arrangements. We need your help!*

**Calling All Friends of Heritage Square  
HELP NEEDED!**

We need your help getting the word out to the community about the new events this holiday season at the Square. Please stop in at the Visitor's Center or call Kay or Linda at 483-7960 to pick up some flyers or folders for this year's events.

We also need your help with decorating, guiding tours and volunteering on all of these dates/events:

- Decorating the Square, Saturdays in November and December 5
- Taste of the Season: December 6, 5:00-8:00
- Gingerbread House Contest December 11-13
- Christmas Storybook House Tours
- December 12 and 13
- Holly Trolley Tours December 15, 16, and 17

## President's Message

Kay Brainard

I had a wonderful trip and am so thankful to those who filled in while I was gone. I bought a cameo in Naples, a parasol in Venice and Moreno glass beads. It is time to think of Christmas. The Christmas committee has been meeting all year. We want the decorations to be better than ever. We are asking each homeowner in the Square to put lights around the inside of their windows to make the Square come alive at night. This is the time of the year each of you come to the Square to help decorate. The effect is not possible without your effort. Please mark your calendars beginning Saturday, November 7 to come and help. We will be decorating every Saturday in November (11/14, 11/21 and Thanksgiving weekend, Friday, 11/ 27 and Saturday 11/28, and Saturday December 5. *If you can't come to the meeting to sign up, please call and leave a message to let us know what day and time you can help.* House captains will put you to work any time you can be available from 10 to 4. If you have a couple of hours during the week after decorating begins we can find something for you to do.

### Birthday Wishes

**October:** Kate Crandall 10/1, Barbara O'Leary 10/31, Rachel Sandoval 10/27

**November:** Laura Harris 11/10, Linda Livingston 11/11, Miriam Lozlovski 11/23, Paula Bass 11/28

**December:** Susan Neilsen 12/02, Angela Whitecomb 12/8, Susan Dirrim 12/31

Heritage Square

## First Annual Gingerbread House Contest

This year marks the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gingerbread House Decorating contest at the Square. Gingerbread House entries will be on display during the Christmas Storybook House Tours on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> to Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place for each category: youth, amateur and professional. The gingerbread houses will be judged on overall appearance; originality; creative impression; and difficulty. The public is invited to vote for their favorite gingerbread structure in the "People's Choice Award" with the purchase of a tour ticket. Entry forms containing rules and contest divisions can be downloaded from the website or picked up at the Square.

## Storybook Christmas Theme for Tours December 12 and 13

This year, in addition to the delightfully decorated Victorian Houses, visitors will also glimpse characters and images from some of our most beloved stories. Each house will be assigned a storybook, and will be decorated in theme to match the story. All gingerbread house entries will be displayed for the public to enjoy and cast their vote for the "People's Choice" award. The storybook tour days are Dec 12 and 13 from 11-4. Ticket prices are \$10 adults and \$5 kids. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in The 16th Annual Heritage Square Victorian House Tours. To find out more about how you can help out or to enter your own gingerbread house, call 483-7960 or visit our website.

## Important Announcement!

**Tour Docents:** It is very important that you speak to a live person if you are not able to get to the Square for a scheduled tour shift. **Please:**

- 1) Call Gerry Murphy 647-6016
- 2) Call Heritage Square 483-7960
- 3) Call Kay 483-1617



## DOCENT FIELD TRIP to Banning House

Diane Suskin

On Saturday, Sept. 12, a group of 12 of us made our

way to Wilmington, about 85 miles south of Oxnard, to visit the Phineas Banning Museum. It was a glorious, if a bit warm, day and a beautiful drive down PCH with a delicious lunch at Huston's in Manhattan Beach. Those who traveled were Connie, Bernie, Flora Bea, Diane, Rachel, Laura, Ivan, Omar, Paula, and her two guests.

*Editor's note: What follows is an account, by Diane, of the historical content we learned on the tour. In the next column, is Flora Bea's account of what we learned about tour giving,*

Our docent, Inge, gave us a brief history of the house, a 23-room mansion built in 1864 in the Greek Revival style. Phineas Banning left home at the age of 13 and walked 30 miles with 50 cents in his pocket to begin working in his brother's Philadelphia law office. By the time he was 21, he decided to go west to California via the Isthmus of Panama. When he arrived in the San Pedro area, he became involved in the stage coach freight business and made his first fortune hauling goods to and from Los Angeles. He recognized the need for a deep water port and eventually won approval to create the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, a muddy, shallow location. He created commercial routes that had originated as Indian trails. His vision changed forever the Los Angeles basin and made possible its prominence in the world of trade.

Our docent was very knowledgeable about the Banning family and the house itself. We spent time in all the main rooms of the house, some of which were very hot and humid due to the lack of air circulation, but still enjoyable from an historical perspective. Each of the main rooms had a mannequin dressed in authentic period finery, ranging from the 1850s to about 1906. As we strolled from room to room, our docent talked about Banning's first wife, Mary and their children, only three of whom survived (all boys) to adulthood. Mary died soon after giving birth to their youngest son, and Banning eventually remarried and later had two daughters. Mr. Banning's two youngest sons lived in the house for a time, with their respective families, after his death. Our tour docent was quite good and did a respectable job of bringing the rooms and the family alive. However, we were only able to get a peek at the carriage house and stables. All in all it was an enjoyable and educational day.

## **THE OTHER SIDE**

Flora Bea Stratas  
(with Editor's Notes)

Instead of us giving a tour, we were the recipients of a tour of the Banning House and Museum,

thus putting us on the "other side".

We were met by two docents, our house guide and the stable and carriage house guide. Inge, our house guide, was very gracious in keeping us in the shade, as the weather was quite warm. Her voice was clear and articulate. She was knowledgeable and enthusiastic about her information, but she forgot the rule about *finding out what your group is most interested in and choosing the most important information to share.*

We ascended many steps to the upper floor so we really appreciated Inge giving us the opportunity to sit on the balcony as she told us some history. As we proceeded from room to room, she waited for everyone to arrive before speaking, but sometimes it was hard to hear her, especially for those in the back of the group. *The rooms upstairs were smaller and there was not enough space for us to all stand up close. Oops! She forgot to ask her guests to move into the room more to allow everyone to see and hear.*

I noticed that another Docent from the museum began to follow us, *with keys dangling*, turning off lights, closing the windows etc. We were the last tour of the day and I had the feeling that they were a little anxious.

They said thank you and goodbye to us in the kitchen and sent us out the door. We remembered that the barn and carriage house were included in the tour, so we asked about it. After leaving us waiting for a few minutes, the lady with the keys came out and abruptly told us that she'd been there since 8:00 that morning and was tired, so she'd unlock the door and we could just have a quick look. She wouldn't tell us anything about the barn because she wanted to go home, and she wasn't impressed with the fact that we had a 170 mile round trip drive. I respect their wishes but I know that our Docents from Heritage Square would never share that information with our guests. *We were the last group there, it was late in the day and the first docent probably talked longer than anticipated. But they scheduled us for a 3:00 tour, and it wasn't our fault that it was the end of the day!*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Flora Bea's advice from "the other side":* Speak clearly and loudly enough for everyone to hear you. Do not turn your back on your guests and keep smiling. Inge passed all of these criteria as our guide.

*Editor's Advice:* Curb your enthusiasm to tell your guests everything you know! Be gracious, and appreciate that guests have come to learn what you have to share, especially if they have traveled a distance.

**HERITAGE SQUARE**

**GAZETTE**

**715 SOUTH A STREET**

**OXNARD, CA 93030**