



# HISTORICAL NEWS



SAN BENITO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2019

## President's Message

By Anita Kane

### Meet the New Caretakers at the Historical Park!



I hope you all will join me in welcoming Donna Biggs and Frank Rivas, our new Caretakers at the Park, taking over for former Caretakers Don & Deanna Pidd, who are sorely missed by the Society. Donna & Frank are in the process of settling into the Garcia House and getting their "Park" legs under them. They were forewarned that they have big shoes to fill but they tell me they are looking forward to the challenge.

Mother nature has blessed us with plenty of good rain to get the grasses & park critters growing so there Frank and Donna will get plenty of practice on the riding mower. Be sure to stop and say Hi when you see them!

## Research Room Changes Underway

Since 1996 Sheila Prader has given generously of her time and professional skills in the Research Room at the Museum, meeting with researchers, answering research requests and cataloging donations, notably the voluminous Howard Harris Collection. Sheila has used her vast knowledge of genealogy and local history to facilitate and enhance the experience of folks seeking to connect with San Benito County history past through our Research Room.



This Spring, Sheila will be leaving her position at the Research Room to concentrate on organizing her own historical collection and to write about her own regional family history and genealogy. We are so grateful for the service she has provided the Society all these years, and wish her all the best as she embarks on this work.



### Calendar of Events

**March 27, Wed  
7:00pm  
General Meeting**  
at the Museum  
498 Fifth St, Hollister

Join us for a fun evening of "Show 'n Tell": bring an antique item and tell us about it!

**April 19-21  
Brookdale  
Bluegrass Festival**  
at the Historical Village  
See page 4

**June 8,  
Sat 11:30am**  
at the Historical Village:  
**Member's Picnic  
& Presentation**  
"Apricots of  
San Benito County"

**June 15, Sat  
BARN SALE**  
at the Historical Village



**August 10-12  
Good Old Fashioned  
Bluegrass Festival**  
at the Historical Village

**Sept 7-8  
Civil War Days**  
at the  
Historical Village

## Postcards of Michael J. Semas

The vintage postcard collection of Michael J. Semas was the topic of the December General Meeting

Michael brought a very entertaining slideshow which told the story of his passion for collecting postcards.



## Barn Owls: It Takes a Village

“It takes a Village” as they say, and this phrase certainly applies to the new Barn Owl nest boxes awaiting their final installations at the Historical Park. A pair of Barn Owls roosting in the Ferrando Barn were the nucleus for the project, which hopes to increase the number of Barn Owls at the park to help with sustainable pest management practices. Owls eat mice & rats, which we happen to have. A match made in heaven!

The project began last summer when a PG&E donation to REACH San Benito Parks Foundation allowed us to purchase plywood and plans to build eight boxes at the Historical Park McKinnon lumber cut the plywood per the awesomely detailed plans by the Hungry Owl Project plans.



Next, Araceli Rodriguez and Izel Prieto of Girl Scout Troop 23404 stepped up and volunteered to build the boxes for their Silver Award project.



And finally, SBCHS's VP John Wrobel and REACH Director Mark Paxton and mounted the first of the boxes on the Bunkhouse. It will be getting interpretive signage explaining the benefits of raptors such as these Barn Owls in our Parks. An Owl Cam may follow...please consider a donation! Contact Anita at [pres@sbchistoryalsociety.org](mailto:pres@sbchistoryalsociety.org) **THANK YOU to everyone involved for this wonderful project!**

## 2019 Board of Directors

**Anita Kane**  
President

**John Wrobel**  
Vice President

**Hydie McDonald**  
Treasurer

**Kerry Tobias**  
Secretary/Membership

**Becky Thompson**  
Director

**Paul Hain**  
Director

## Research Room Volunteers

**Verona Flint**

**Roya Singleton**

## Museum Volunteers

**Susie Echaore-McDavid**

**Linda Vacarrezza**

**Sharlene Van Rooy**

## Museum Docent

**Leanne Oliviera**

Leanne opens the Museum to the public on Fridays and Saturdays from 10-2 thanks to a generous grant from Community Foundation. Outside her Museum hours, Leanne stays busy being a columnist for the Mission Village Voice, volunteering/ managing the Book Nook at Hazels' Thrift Shop, and being the Book Sorter/Appraiser for Friends of the San Benito County Free Library. **Thanks for all you do for our community, Leanne!**

## Tres Pinos Historical Park Docent

**Katie Silva**

At the Visitor Center Saturdays from 11-3, Katie shares San Benito County history with Park visitors and leads tours through the Historical Village.

## Preservation Campaign Work Continues



Despite wet weather, work continues on painting, patching and protecting the buildings of the Historical Park and the Wapple House Museum.

Historical Preservation contractor Tim Lantz has been tutoring Board members on how to restore 100 year old wood windows in the basement of the Wapple House Museum. "You can feed a person or you can teach him to fish." We have a lot of fishing to do.

Termite work at the Wapple House will follow in the spring. At the Park, Garcia House interior painting was done this winter and roof work is scheduled for the Ferrando House

### Preservation Campaign:

Sincere thanks to our generous donors who have brought the fund so close to the goal:



---GOAL: \$30K  
---SO FAR: \$22,380

## Why we love the Historical Park !



The Preservation Campaign seeks funds to patch, paint and protect the buildings at the Historical Village and the Wapple House Museum. Please consider a donation to our current campaign through the link on our web site [sbchistoricalsociety.org](http://sbchistoricalsociety.org) or mail a check to:

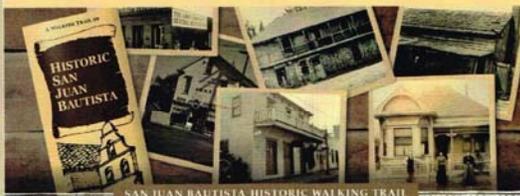
SBCHS

Thanks!

We couldn't do it without you!

### SAN JUAN BAUTISTA HISTORIC WALKING TRAIL PHASE 2 RIBBON CUTTING

YOU'RE INVITED - Saturday, April 13th 9:00 a.m.



EXPLORE SAN JUAN BAUTISTA'S HISTORIC WALKING TRAIL  
[www.historicwalkingtrail.com](http://www.historicwalkingtrail.com)

The festivities begin at the new Downtown Map Kiosk next to the San Juan Bakery  
Masonic Lodge breakfast 9:30am  
Historical sites open house 9:30am



## PARK WORK DAY APRIL 7

9-1 pm Volunteers will meet at the Park for:

- Garden color planting
- Trim trees & add mulch
- Repair broken windows
- Build Porta Potty screen

Hot Dog lunch provided!

Thanks in Advance!!



Community Foundation  
FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

Thank You  
For Your Support in  
2019!

## Correction: Barn Sale #2 is on **JUNE 15**

**If the Lord is willing and the creek don't rise,  
Barn Sale #2 will be happening on JUNE 15.**

This year there will be food, entertainment & bargains galore!

Volunteers are needed the week prior to stage the event, and the day of for, well, *everything*.

Vendor Rates: Dance Hall Inside Booth \$35

Outside Booth \$25

Look for upcoming info on flyer, our Facebook Page and Website for more info as the sale approaches.

To reserve a booth, contact Anita at:  
pres@sbchistoricalsociety.org



## Don't Miss Brookdale Bluegrass Festival April 19-21 featuring Peter Rowan and Blue Summit

The Brookdale Bluegrass Festival will be here April 19-21 for their second year at the Historical Park. The Delbert Doty Community Stage is a great venue for this family event featuring quality music.

A smaller event than the August Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass festival, Brookdale will be sure to please with headliner Peter Rowan & Blue Summit. Contact Anita at pres@sbchistoricalsociety.org if you'd like to volunteer with parking, or help with the Society's booth. **Volunteers get free tickets** and an earful of great music!



**Brookdale Bluegrass**  
Spring Festival 2019  
San Benito County Historical Park  
8300 Hwy 25, Tres Pinos, CA  
April 19-21 2019

**Peter Rowan**      **Blue Summit**

Toby Gray and His  
Harlan County Covey  
Stoney Mountain Ramblers  
The Town Howlers  
Wildcat Mountain Ramblers  
Brookdale Bluegrass Band  
Laura Lind \* BanjerDan  
Tina Louise Barr

Indoor Show  
Camping FREE w 3Day Pass  
RVs Welcome  
Food Vendors  
All Night Jamming  
Saturday Workshops  
brookdalebluegrass.com

**You won't be disappointed,  
and you just might kick up your heels!**



## **San Benito County Historical Society**

498 Fifth Street • Hollister, CA 95023

*[www.sbhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sbhistoricalsociety.org)*

The San Benito County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit, all-volunteer organization (Tax ID #94-2861560). We are solely funded by annual membership dues, contributions, bequests and memorials, grants, and fundraising events.

Please consider becoming a member of the SBCHS. As a member, you will enjoy numerous benefits and discounts while exploring the County's history. Your membership will also help to support our mission to collect and preserve materials pertaining to the history of San Benito County. Visit our website at [www.sbhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sbhistoricalsociety.org).

### **SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP**

A Sustaining donation is a convenient contribution option that provides stable financial support to the San Benito County Historical Society all year long, and allows you the opportunity to break up your annual contribution into manageable monthly payments. Sustaining Donors give through a monthly credit or debit card payment which automatically renews based on your directive. Enrolling as a Sustaining Donor makes supporting your Historical Society easier than ever! Your Sustaining Membership package includes the following benefits:

- All the benefits of a General membership
- Special invitations and discounted tickets to events

Please visit [donorbox.org/sustaining-membership](http://donorbox.org/sustaining-membership) to view options and set up.

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

Your General Membership package includes the following benefits:

- Quarterly Presentations on interesting aspects of San Benito County history
- Access to research archives
- Discounts on SBCHS merchandise and other publications
- Subscription to the Historical Society newsletter

General Membership Levels:

**Individual...\$30   Family...\$50   Organization...\$250   Corporate...\$200**

## San Benito Co. Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal 1/1/2018

To become a member or to renew your membership, please mail this completed application along with a check made out to the SBCHS, to 498 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Thanks!

Note that Sustaining Memberships are done online at [donorbox.org/sustaining-membership](http://donorbox.org/sustaining-membership).

*No need to fill out this form if done online!*

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name:		
Email: <input type="checkbox"/> Check here to "go paperless" & receive publications by email only.		Phone:
Mailing Address Street:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Sustaining Membership: <a href="http://donorbox.org/sustaining-membership">donorbox.org/sustaining-membership</a>	General Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member (check one and see membership levels below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Contribution (See below)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (please indicate your choice of level)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$500

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a special tax deductible contribution (not including membership) for the General Fund. AMOUNT _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing a special tax deductible contribution for the Historical Society's Endowment Fund. AMOUNT _____

*Last, but not least, the final act pertinent to each and every one of us...consider a generous gift to the SBCHS in your estate planning. "You can't take it with you," but you can leave a lasting legacy that will greatly benefit this worthy organization's mission.*

VOLUNTEER SPECIAL INTEREST			
I'm interested in volunteering for one of the following activities:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve as an Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Write Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Set-Up Exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/> Research
<input type="checkbox"/> Inventory & Catalog	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum Docent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			