

# GOLETA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

RANCHO LA PATERA & STOW HOUSE EST. 1873

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## Spring 2009

### PRESIDENTS CORNER

We kicked off the New Year with the annual meeting of the general membership. The meeting took place once again at the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge on Kellogg Avenue. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner with the feature presentation "Soldiers in Agriculture: The Bracero Program in Santa Barbara County." The presenter, Richard B. Wolf, is a native of Santa Barbara, and a Doctoral Candidate in United States history at UCSB and an adjunct professor of U.S. history at Santa Barbara City College. In addition, three new members from the community were elected to the board of directors, and along with a new year comes a new tradition of honoring a Society volunteer. **The 2009 Volunteer of the year is Joan Rakowski!**



Joan has been a dedicated volunteer for the past 16 years. When asked how her volunteer career at Rancho La Patera & Stow House began, Joan pointed out, "I always said I would volunteer as soon as I retire." And that is just what she did. Joan retired after 25 years as a Special Education teacher for the Goleta Union School District and quickly began volunteering for GVHS.

When asked how she became interested in helping out Joan said, "I would bring my own family to events such as the 4th of July and it seemed like a great group of people." During her 16 years, Joan served in many roles, including on the board of directors as president of the Ladies of Stow House League, events support, and as manager of collections. She says that her favorite ways to help are "arranging displays in the Stow House and cataloging the collections, especially the historic wedding gowns." Thank you Joan for all you do!

### WELCOME NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Debby Aceves** is a newly elected Board member who will serve as Corresponding Secretary and Membership Committee Chairperson. She is a ninth generation native Santa Barbaran, who has lived in Goleta for over 25 years. Retired from the Santa Barbara School District, she has been on a number of non-profit boards such as the Junior League of Santa Barbara, CALM, Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center and the Native Daughters of the Golden West. In addition to the

GVHS Board, she is a member of the Human Services Commission of the County of Santa Barbara and sits as the Goleta representative to the District Library Advisory Committee. She is very happy to be part of the GVHS.



**Catherine G. Cavaletto** has agreed to serve as the Society's Historian during her 3 year term on the Board. Catherine is a native of Goleta Valley having grown up on a lemon and avocado ranch. She attended local schools and was active in the Goleta 4-H Club. Later she completed undergraduate work at UC Davis and earned a M.S. in Food Science at University of Hawaii at Manoa. In 2003 she retired from the faculty of

University of Hawaii where she was a researcher, department

chair and interim associate dean. In her role as a researcher, she worked on processing and quality aspects of tropical food crops such as macadamia nuts, papaya, guava, breadfruit, coffee and mango. Following retirement, she returned to once again live in Goleta Valley where she has deep roots. Catherine is descended from grandparents who immigrated to the area in 1892.



**Russell Llewellyn** was also elected to a term and will serve as Treasurer. Russ is the Vice President and Manager of Montecito Bank & Trust, Goleta Branch office. He attended Santa Barbara City College and lives in Santa Barbara. He is an active member of the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, a member and former board

member of Leadership Santa Barbara County, past president of Toastmasters - White Hatters Ovation Club and a member of the Goleta Noontime Rotary.

Thank you for your interest in local history and your participation in the Society.

## NEW DIGS



The Visitor Interpretive Center has received some new digs. After a long year of research, design, and fabrication the model of the Stow's ranch is complete. This model is a replica of the heart of the ranch and gives visitors a glimpse of what the property looked like, circa 1932. The model creators are Steve Carr and Paul Fairweather.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### **Kudos.....**

**Patricia "Tricia" Krout**, associate with McGowan Guntermann has been our *behind the scenes* accountant for GVHS for a number of years. We would like to take this time to thank Tricia for all the hours she has donated working with the Board and the Finance Committee.

McGowan Guntermann has committed ½ % of its revenue to be allocated by team members to support local charities and encourage community involvement. For 2008, MG team members provided over 600 hours of community service to local organizations of their choice and MG has contributed over \$15,000 to support those efforts.

Thank you again Tricia for your dedication towards the betterment of the Goleta Valley Historical Society, and thank you McGowan Guntermann for supporting the good work of your staff.

### **Another New Face.....**



Please welcome the newest member of our team, Events Intern **Madeline Fauntleroy**. Madeline, a student at Santa Barbara City College, will be working on various projects including upcoming events, social networking websites and marketing. After spending her freshman year in southern Spain, Madeline speaks fluent Spanish.

### **Volunteer Opportunities.....**

**Ranch Hosts** welcome and interact with guests visiting the Rancho La Patera Visitor's Center & Museum Store.

**Round Ups, Hoe Downs & Shindigs** - help with behind the scenes preparation, staging and support during events.

**Ranch Docents** lead educational tours of historic Stow House and the Ranchyard.

**Wranglers** guide and assist children in the Pioneer Days Program, an educational program for third graders.

**Deputies** help protect, preserve and organize the collections.

**Greenhorns & Tenderfoots** - just for you interns.

Come join our team. The rewards are incredible.

Contact **Linda Foster** to get in the loop. Phone 964-4407 or email [fosters@goletahistory.org](mailto:fosters@goletahistory.org).

## EVENT HAPPENINGS

Mark your calendars for the **Goleta Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Rancho La Patera**. Enjoy delicious BBQ, local wines and a great opportunity to network or connect with friends: **Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**.



2008 Co-Chairs, Dacia Harwood, Rhonda Henderson & Joanne Funari

Viva La Fiesta! The second annual **Fiesta Ranchera** is scheduled for the evening of **Thursday, June 25**. Enjoy appetizers from local restaurants, a performance by the Spirit of Fiesta, live music by Spanish guitarist Tony Ybarra and dancing under the stars with Area 51.



Special thanks to Founding Sponsor, Cox Business.

**Stay informed!** If you haven't already, sign up for our "E-News Letter" for emails about events, lectures and other news on the Ranch. You can also visit our newly designed website, [Goletahistory.org](http://Goletahistory.org) OR visit us on Facebook and Twitter. [Tell a friend!](#)

**Do you enjoy our unique community events** such as the Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July and our Music at the Ranch free concert series? Please consider contributing by becoming a sponsor. Sponsorships begin at \$250 and are a wonderful way to contribute to the museum and your community. Please contact me for more information about underwriting entertainment and other costs involved in bringing our events to you! Dacia 681-7216 or [Dacia@goletahistory.org](mailto:Dacia@goletahistory.org).

## CAPERS FROM THE COTTAGE



I recently noticed a police car in the driveway in front of the caretaker's cottage, and went out

to investigate. It turns out that someone had discovered the Stow family's garbage dump that is located on the path leading to the foot bridge. When it rains, shards of broken china and animal bones are brought to the surface. The police were called because a park guest had found some bones, and thought perhaps there had been foul play. Mystery solved!

In the Stow House kitchen are two shadow boxes put together by Joan Rakowski that display broken china and tiles. There is something compelling about chips and fragments, and guests often inquire about these remains from the past. It gives us the opportunity to talk about where the family disposed of their trash.

Over the years Ron and I have collected a bowl full of treasures mostly found along the path to the foot bridge. We have picked up various bits of china and pottery, bottle stoppers, old nails, and a fair number of bones! It is always exciting to find a piece of Blue Onion Meissen which was the Stow's family china, and extra exciting to find an onion! It is hard to walk in that area without having your eyes peeled to the ground, especially after a good rain!

Linda Foster

## MEMORIALS

We would like to recognize donations received for the Goleta Valley Historical Society's Memorial Fund in honor of these wonderful people who are no longer in our presence:

Margaret V. P. Love

Noma E. Parry

Phillip Walker

Dr. John "Jack" Rutten

Please consider a donation to the Goleta Valley Historical Society's Memorial Fund when remembering the passing of a loved one or friend. Donations help us to fulfill our mission to *collect, preserve, interpret, and foster research of the Goleta Valley's history through exhibits, programs, and stewardship of the historic Rancho La Patera, home to the Stow family.*