

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, November 2010

The Holidays are here!

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

My, how the time and the weather change fast! Before we know it we will be planning for Gold Rush Days again! Keep your calendar close this holiday season as we have a lot going on and a lot to look forward to. Activities from Father Christmas strolls and caroling, Theatre of Lights programming, and holiday parties will keep us all in the holiday spirit this year!



Remembering Wanda

Please join us at the Sacramento History Museum on **November 6th at 6:00 p.m.** to honor and remember our friend Wanda Leventin. Bring your memories and a dish to share with everyone. Let me know if you need a serving utensil or access to an outlet.

Volunteer Holiday Potluck Decorating Party: November 19th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

RSVPs are coming in! Don't miss out on this fun night that is really more about the party than the decorating! Join everyone at the Sacramento History Museum for a night of decorations and merriment. Again, if you need access to a plug or a serving utensil, please let me know!

Donate this Holiday Season

Once again the Sacramento History Museum and the Old Sacramento Visitors Center are serving as drop-off locations for Toys for Tots and the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services annual Spirit of Giving food drive. If you have the means to donate a toy or a canned food item, please drop it by either the Museum or the Visitors Center. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season!

From the President

Jill Quinn, President

We have completed another session of highly successful Ghost Tours. The tours seem to be getting more and more popular as we were sold out every night. I would like to thank those that have contributed their time to make Ghost Tours so successful, and a special thank you to Jan Bullard for writing the script for us.

With Ghost Tours behind us for another year, it is time to turn our attention to the holiday season that is fast approaching. Celebrating the Christmas holidays in Old Sacramento is a combined effort of the merchants and other groups that will create many opportunities to get involved and enjoy the spirit of the holidays.

On another note, I would like to welcome all of our newcomers and hope you enjoy the training sessions that will be offered in November.



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

NSLC Anniversary Party

Candi McCarthy Zizek

The request came in to OSLH for period reenactors to greet attendees celebrating a Sacramento company's 100-year anniversary party. But there was a challenge. They wanted a 1910-1920 timeframe, and all my historical attire revolves around 1850-1870 OSLH focus. BUT the North Sacramento Land Company (NSLC), and specifically Bob Slobe, had connections with the Sacramento Theater Company. An appropriate period costume could be loaned from the Music Circus warehouse!

Oh my! I saw an opportunity to ponder the vast racks of musicals gone by—a whole warehouse full of props and music and memories! Fortunately, I didn't quite fit into the wool lavender 1910 outfit from the "Sound of Music" (those young dancers are so trim, you know), but Jill Lane found a cooler summer dress complete with parasol and high top black shoes, gloves, and a country flowered straw hat to top off the historical Greeter persona. The label said I would be wearing a dress from *Oklahoma!*

I arrived early to experience a different world of land developers—and local history. Soon fellow OSLH member Linda Calmes arrived, sporting her own 1927 creation in blue with mauve dot complete with memorable felt mauve hat and black velvet wrap edged in large black velvet pom-poms. The two of us proceeded to greet, reminisce, and mingle with the guests.

Sacramento's history walked in those doors! As I stood greeting the arrivals who had their photos taken at the door, matriarch Carolyn Slobe sat behind me sharing with all newcomers and the video camera her stories of her family company that had been matriarchal for the first 56 years! One could hardly tell she had broken her pelvis two weeks before!

Carolyn told of the time when her mother had died and an older gentleman arrived, saying he knew she couldn't run the business by herself, so he would gladly step in. She kindly said thank you and did it all by herself—very well! Conversations ranged over the past fifty years of Sacramento land

development, as historical maps, posters and artifacts lined the rooms.



Candi Zizek with Bob Slobe



Linda Calmes

On grand display in the entry was a diorama of the dinner service borrowed from 1960s friends to entice then Governor Ronald Reagan to a "boxcar supper." The goal was to encourage the State of California to support a Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Railroad aficionados had assembled a collection in San Francisco storage in anticipation of finding a new home. Today, Sacramento has this sole honor, and California State Railroad Museum is widely regarded as North America's most popular railroad museum! And Old Town has become quite a destination for fun and history! Carolyn's son Bob described his immense pleasure that his mother and NSLC were able to influence the transformation of Old Town from a riverfront skid row into the worldwide tourist attraction of today.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD



Coloma Gold Rush Live!

Miss Lacey (aka Carol Bassoni)

Columbus Day weekend was gold and glorious in Coloma. Mary and I had plenty of help from her family in setting up our gigantic tent on Friday afternoon. Picture this: handmade wooden bed for Mary—with headboard and footboard put together like a puzzle with wooden pegs, no nails—made by Mary’s son. Wood cot for Carol likewise! Beautiful green rug on the floor, tan rug outside under the fly, great oak tree spread out over all. Lace lampshade and quilts on the beds. It was a beautiful setting for showcasing Gold Rush era needlework and lacemaking. Our closest neighbor was the Tehama game room with Ken and Catherine. Someone said it looked like the high rent district.

The crowds were ample and there was lots to see and do. Games for children, music and storytelling. Outdoor cooking over open fires, potluck dinner on Saturday night. The temperatures were mild throughout the weekend. A wedding in the center of camp took place on Sunday morning before church services in the Coloma Episcopal chapel on the hill, circuit preacher officiating for both and musicians playing wonderful music.

As always, our friend Rita was the first one up in camp, arising between 4 and 5 a.m. and making delicious coffee in a big black pot and sharing it with anyone who wanted it, along with her own particular brand of storytelling. We sent all our friends down to her camp to hear her describe how to load a vintage rifle.

Some of the visitors were members of the Columbia docent and interpreter contingent. It was nice to see them taking notes!

The time flew by too fast and soon it was over. Till next year . . .

Ghost Tours: Sold Out Success!

Janessa West

Thank you everyone for a tremendous Ghost Tours experience! We may not have had the best of weather, but we had the best of everything else. Here's to a wonderful cast and crew who kept coming even through the rain! Ticket sales increased this year as people were more familiar with the tour and were better able to purchase tickets 24 hours online. I think we have much to look forward to for next year's tours!



Mrs. Keseberg looks for her dear husband.



Mr. Keseberg tells his tale of woe.

Upcoming Events

November Member Training

Doug Peterson

This fall's new member training sessions are scheduled for Saturday, November 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. (following the monthly membership meeting) and Saturday, November 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Established members are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. If you're new, this will be your chance to get ready for participating in the holiday season in style.

The topics to be covered are:

November 13

- Old Sacramento - the buildings and the history. We'll do a walking tour and later hear about the history of Sacramento and the 1849-1870 period.
- Living History - what it is, how we work.

November 20

- Adopting and presenting a character, and doing research.
- Looking and acting the part - clothing, accessories, characterization, language, and improvisation.

Sutter's Fort Candlelight Tours

Darkness lends mystery to the Fort, a romantic aura that disguises the harsh reality of pioneer life. Candlelit tours offer glimpses into the private lives of those who uprooted their families for a better life in early California. A behind the scenes look at the real faces of those who saw opportunity or possible devastation in their new homes, husbands debating with wives, mothers reassuring their children, tradesmen negotiating business, all surrounded by the night which allows us to truly travel back in time.

Saturday, November 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

\$16.99 per person

Information 916-323-7626 or www.suttersfort.org



Storytelling Program

The Sacramento Public Library is sponsoring a storytelling series on the first Wednesday of every month through May 2011. At 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Belle Coolege Library, adults will be telling stories from life. These evenings offer the opportunity to tell true stories live, without script, from recollection, memory, imagination and plenty of heart. The tales will be a mix of humor and heartbreak, told with honesty, bravery, and wit.

The first program will be November 3, and the theme is “Coming to California.” Future themes will include stories of folly “The Devil Made Me Do It” and stories from nature “A Walk on the Wild Side.”

Come for a rousing good time, and tell a story if you're so inclined. For more information contact Mary McGrath, storytellermcgrath@yahoo.com, 916-447-3557.

Holiday Events

Santa Parade

Janessa West

It's time to make our decision about participating in the Santa Parade. Unfortunately we do not have access to a float again this year. For those who want to walk in the parade, we can certainly do that. Please let me know if you want to participate.

Theatre of Lights!

Janessa West

Once again Old Sacramento will be lighting up the holiday season with its second annual *Theatre of Lights: A Spectacular Symphony of Lights, Sounds & Visual Effects*. The event will kick off at the annual Old Sacramento Tree Lighting on November 24th at 6:30 p.m. Additional performances of the Theatre Lights, featuring our very own Mark Twains and the reading of *The Night before Christmas*, will take place every Thursday-Sunday from November 24th to December 31st at 6:00 and 7:30 p.m., excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

A new aspect of the program this year is to showcase costumed characters mingling with the crowds and a scene on the boardwalk outside the What Cheer House to show miners enjoying an evening of celebration and libations! Our holiday season can get quickly booked, but it is important to show our presence at these holiday events. Specific nights have been designated to be enhanced with living history characters. If you are interested in strolling, mingling, or participating as a character, sign-ups will take place at our November meeting. The enhanced nights are:

- Wednesday, November 24th (Tree Lighting)
- Friday, November 26th
- Saturday, November 27th
- Saturday, December 4th
- Saturday, December 11th
- Sunday, December 12th
- Friday, December 17th
- Saturday, December 18th
- Sunday, December 19th

Costumed Stroll

Janessa West

We have been invited to come and stroll at the *Christmas in the Village* at Town & County Village on the corner of Fulton and Marconi Avenues on December 4th. The management is requesting that we come and show off our beautiful outfits and mingle with the shoppers on this glorious winter day. They have requested that we visit, mingle and stroll for three hours in exchange for \$500 donation! If you would like to come, please let me know. I am sure that carolers would also be a lovely addition!



Holiday Party?

Janessa West

The Pony Express will once again be making an entrance on December 11th as they bring in the Christmas Post and deliver it to the Sacramento History Museum. The riders are expected to arrive between 3:00 and 3:30.

Also on December 11th is a possible holiday ball with members from the Sacramento Ballroom Society and members of the Claudia's Kitchen's Band. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the festivities. Perhaps Father Christmas and the Parlor Singers will make an appearance!?

Dickens Fair

Janessa West

Many of you earned complimentary tickets to the Dickens Fair by participating in the summer Street Theater Program this summer. Some of our members have asked about choosing a day for all to go and meet up at the event. The proposed date is December 18th. If you would like to make that the official Dickens Fair date, please let me know and perhaps we can set up a carpool.

Miscellanea

Librarian's Random Pick

Janessa West

Reminiscences of a Ranger: Early Times in Southern California, by Horace Bell with an introduction by John Boessenecker

This book was recently donated to the library by Skip Baker.

"How few are left of the thoughtless and reckless adventurers who inhabited and roamed over California twenty-eight years ago; and at that time all were adventurers, unless perchance, some of the few of the grave old Spaniards who belonged to a past generation."



From your Editor

Catherine Hanson

All OSLH members are invited to submit items for inclusion in the *Argonaut Gazette*. Articles, letters to the editor, calendar items, and personal news announcements are welcome. The submission deadline is the 25th of the month before publication. Submissions may be modified for length and readability at the discretion of the editor.

E-mail articles to me at:

chanson@library.ca.gov

For those without e-mail access, submissions can be mailed to: 1179 Theo Way, Sacramento CA 95822.



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2010-2011 OSLH Officers

Jill Quinn, President
Doug Peterson, Vice President
Greg Tracy, Past President
Jan Bullard, Secretary
Yolanda Starr, Member-at-Large
Candi Zizek, Member-at-Large

OSLH is sponsored by
the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
November				
6 – Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Remembering Wanda (potluck)	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
9 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
13 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Eagle Theater basement	Jill Quinn
13 – Saturday	1:00-5:00 p.m.	New Member Training	Eagle Theater basement	Doug Peterson
19 – Friday	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Holiday Potluck and Decorating Party	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
20 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	New Member Training	Eagle Theater basement	Doug Peterson
24 – Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Tree Lighting and Theatre of Lights	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
27 – Saturday		Santa Parade	Downtown Sacramento	
27 – 28 Sat. – Sun.	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Dickens Fair	Cow Palace, San Francisco	www.dickensfair.com
December				
7 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
11 – Saturday		Holiday Ball?	TBA	Janessa West
Saturdays & Sundays	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Dickens Fair	Cow Palace, San Francisco	www.dickensfair.com



Flora describes the rising water... or is it some characteristic of Don Jose??

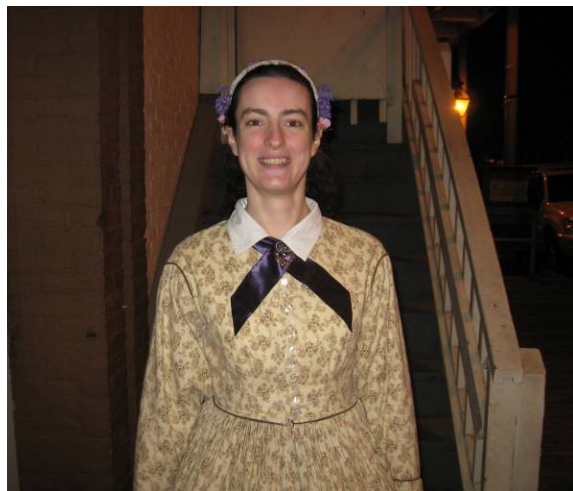


Is that the same plaid in Flora's dress and the Sherriff's waistcoat? Hmmmm...

The Back Page



Pike Swallow and his little friend.



Little Sue Robinson, not singing for the moment.



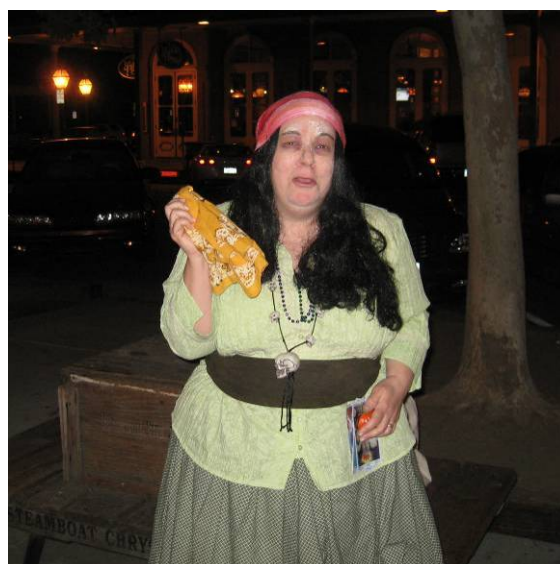
*The ghostly Grunnette brothers,
or "Why can't those guys stand still??"*



"Don't be afraid... but watch your step!"



The legendary Don Jose.



Madam Rose knows all, sees all.