



Museum For A Day

The Collections Committee along with many volunteers staged the Museum For A Day event on May 21.

This year, with the help of our new Board member, Josefina Hurtado, we honored Hispanic families who have shaped so much of our culture and history. Traditional music, food, dancing and crafts added to the entertainment.

Families were represented by Irma Luna, Rosi Leija, Bobby Gastelum, Frank and Margie Espinoza, Henry Escareno, Maria Villegas, John Torres, Luis Hurtado, Oscar DeHaro, Aurelio Hurtado and Josefina Hurtado.

The Ballet Zenoalxochiti and the Gastelum Family Band provided the dancing and music. Tamales from Sara Bernal and tacos from Muchacho Alegre were served.

Special thanks to Susanne Salvestrin for presenting hundreds of images of the Historical Society events and artifacts from our collections.

*Susanne Salvestrin
and dancers*



Historic St. Helena display



The Ballet Zenoalxochiti

Museum For A Day photos by Mariam Hansen



*Aurelio Hurtado,
father of Josie*

*See page 3 for
more photos!*

New Officers Elected

At the annual meeting of the historical society in May, new officers were elected and Board members confirmed.

Susanne Salvestrin was elected President of the St. Helena Historical Society, Skip Lane, Vice-President; Helen Nelson continues as Secretary and John Sales continues as Treasurer.

Board members re-elected are:

Nancy Caffo
Sue Clark
Frank Harrison
Christopher Hill

Josefina Hurtado
John Komes
Shannon Kuleto

With a revision of the bylaws, there are now term limits for officers and a clarification of terms for board members. Since the election, we are sorry to report that Christopher Hill is no longer able to serve. He will continue to be a supportive consultant.

If you are interested in serving on the board, please let Susanne Salvestrin or Bonnie Thoreen know. Contact information for Susanne is: Susanne@salvestrinwinery.com or Bonnie at: bthoreen@gmail.com.



Maria Villegas and friends

YIKES! What do we do now?

How do you empty two 40-ft. long shipping containers full of heavy artifacts and collectables, move them to a safe storage space, transport the shipping containers to another location, and move the heavy artifacts and collectables to the new location...in THREE days?

The answer is: With the help of dedicated and strong people.

The St. Helena Historical Society has had two shipping containers on the Harold Smith & Sons property facing Valley View Street in western St. Helena since 2011. Early this spring we were notified that a neighbor had questioned the propriety of Smith & Sons renting out storage space on their property.

Though we and the owners of Smith & Sons, along with previous owners, tried to find documentation to show that the property has housed storage units for many years, we were unable to convince the city that storage was a legitimate and permitted use of that property.

Finally, in early spring of this year, it appeared that there was no alternative but to move our units. In May we received an eviction notice asking that we remove everything by the end of the month.

Where? How?

Newly elected president of the historical society, Susanne Salvestrin, sent out a plea to our community and members. The response was impressive and gratifying. Within days we received an invitation from David and Nancy Garden to relocate the containers to their property at the end of Sulphur Springs.

We had less than one week to go until we met the May 31 deadline.

Enter a troop of dedicated volunteers. On Thursday morning, May 26, this team emptied the contents of both containers and moved everything safely into containers that Harold Smith & Sons own.

The next day a trucker arrived to move our shipping containers to the Garden property. There were glitches and some humor, but they were moved.

Saturday morning another team arrived to move our collection out of the Smith containers and onto trucks and flatbed trailers to move everything over to the Garden property. Several hours later the collection was securely settled into its old shipping containers/new home under beautiful oak trees and, again, next to Sulphur Creek.

Susanne Salvestrin expressed thanks very well in a letter to the *Star*, thanking not only the Gardens for their incredible generosity, but also to all of the helpers who got the job done.

Special thanks to the Rayboulds at Harold Smith & Sons, Larry Smith, Art and Peggy Carr, David Navone, John Sales, Nancy Caffo, Helen Nelson, Ed Salvestrin and Nick Coy who drove the 1927 Jakse/Ellsworth truck to its new home.



Moving a horse-drawn carriage to the new location.

New Board Member

Meet our newest Board member, Josefina Hurtado. Born and raised in St. Helena, Josefina brings a depth and breadth of history from the generations of her own Hispanic family, as well as her connections to many other Hispanic family founders. Josefina was very instrumental in organizing our recent Museum For A Day, which honored our founding Hispanic families.



Josefina Hurtado

New Acquisition



Pictured here is a horse-drawn wagon recently donated to the society by the Culinary Institute of America. The wagon was part of the Christian Brothers Winery property, but more probably dates back to the earlier days when the property was owned by the Carpy family, prior to the advent of motorized vehicles.

From The President, Susanne Salvestrin:

Happy Summer, All!

As you can see the gavel has been passed on to me! Skip and I have traded places. Many thanks to him for his years of leadership!

We have been very busy already this year preparing and staging our Museum For A Day on May 21 and then the next weekend moving the two containers from Smith & Sons property on Crane Avenue to the Garden property...in two days!

Thanks to the efforts of John Sales, Larry Smith, Peggy and Art Carr, Nancy Caffo, Helen Nelson and David Navone, Bonnie Thoreen, Ed and I, the move was done! We are so fortunate that the Garden's came forward with their offer! Also, a thank you to Ed Salvestrin and Dennis Hansen for moving our new "old" farm wagon back to the Clark storage yard at their home! (This was used by Greystone Winery in the early days and donated to us by CIA at Greystone.)

Our newest gift offer is from the St. Helena High School. In their Media Center they have six display cabinets – oak and glass with cabinet lighting. They were used for the WWI display for several years but now the school has no further need for them. The collections committee went to see them and of course they are just what we need! The High School has tried to give them away but no one wants them. Great for us. However, where are we going to store them? Worse case scenario is we have to rent space unless we can find somewhere to put them. We asked the city if there was any possibility of putting them into the Carnegie building for displays, but unfortunately the answer is "no." So if anyone has any suggestions, please let us know! (The school board approved this at their meeting on June 16!)

On another note, a few weeks ago there was a letter to the Star from Jay Green stating his view on why or why not a community center is needed. He stated that most of the non-profit organizations had places to meet, and some, such as Rianda House and the Boys and Girls Club, even have

their own buildings/centers and were doing fine. Who would use a community center and for what?

Instead of rebutting his letter, Bonnie Thoreen and I met with Jay (at the coffee roasting meeting room) to talk about his letter. He clarified that his intent in writing the letter was to suggest that "community center" needs to be defined. As many of you will recall, the Hometown Harvest Festival started many years ago as a fundraiser for a community center. Jay's letter points out that since then, times and needs have changed.

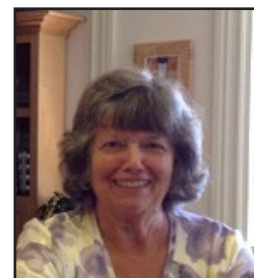
However, we are very clear that the St. Helena Historical Society still has a need for a center. We stated that what we want is a History Center—a place where St. Helena history can be experienced, and a place where the volunteers can work on the collections. We need to continue to articulate this as something specific to the needs of the historical society.

So, you can see we are busy. Coming up is the Cemetery Tour on September 10. Mariam Hansen is heading this up. She has come up with an exciting new concept and will be sending out information regarding this soon!

Also, the Harvest Festival on October 15. We would love to have someone head this up! It is a great way to keep in the public eye and recruit new members.

Our very next item on our to-do list is our very first large fundraising event, our Art Auction on February 11, 2017! Our committee has been working on this for several months already and in our next newsletter will probably devote the whole message to this great event. Feel free to email me or call me at home! susanne@salvestrinwinery.com or 963-3036.

Looking forward to seeing and hearing from you!



*More highlights from
Museum For A Day!*



Irma Luna and Ms. Gastelum