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May 4, 2022 • Volume 24 • No. 6

A Message from the President

Greetings to all:

We had a wonderful opening of the Heritage Center with about 50 people present on 5/1/2022. The St. Helena Fire Department's Art Carr regaled the audience with tales of their department growing from a bucket brigade to a paid professional force. Thanks to Nancy Caffo, Kathleen Coelingh, and Janet Peischel for organizing the refreshments, the program, and the promotion respectively. Thanks to all who attended and those who contributed food and drink.



We have made huge progress in the documentation and display of artifacts of St. Helena history. John Sales led a great team to refinish the rooms. Helen Nelson and Nancy Caffo have been stalwart managers of the collection and Jennifer Garden has been a huge help developing the displays. Mariam Hansen has provided important historical background for that work. The Historical Society Board has committed many hours to developing this resource. We can be very proud of what we have to share with our community. We owe all of

Unfortunately, the work we've done is only the beginning. There are major challenges ahead, the first is documenting the contribution of Spanish speakers to the history of this valley. Hispanic history is complex, and at times uncomfortable. It stretches back to Spanish explorers, through the braceros, organized labor movements and on to winery owners and agricultural entrepreneurs. To tell that story we need more artifacts and people willing to help us present its horror, glory, and nuance. If you are interested in serving, contact me (Stephen@Taplincellars.com). And if you are interested in helping staff the center or develop historical displays contact either Bonnie Thoreen (Bthoreen@gmail.com) or me.

My Best,
Stephen Taplin

Susan Salvestrin Memorial Lecture Series #5 May 18: The Braceros in the St. Helena Area



An in-person event at the Heritage Center--7:00pm

Farm workers from Mexico had been working and settling in Napa Valley for some years, but in relatively small numbers and without official organization. WWII meant that local men went off to war, and the bracero program grew out of the resulting need for field

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When day area volunteers, they saved the grape, prune and walnut crops from ruin.

Ms. Rosaura Segura

Bracero Lecture speaker and a bracero descendant

In 2000, Congressman Mike Thompson recognized Ms. Segura as the recipient of the Napa County Hispanic Network Lifetime Achievement Award. For more than 20 years, she has been a tireless advocate for workers' rights. The Napa Valley College board of trustees elected Ms. Segura as board president for 2020. An Upvalley community leader and longtime member of the St. Helena Catholic Church, Segura has been a St. Helena immigration services provider for 31 years and owns a small vineyard in Lake County.



New Traveling Exhibit: The History of Firefighting in St. Helena

The Historical Society kicked off its new exhibit, The History of Firefighting, on Sunday, May 1, at the Heritage Center at 1255 Oak Ave. Longtime volunteer fireman Art Carr was the featured presenter who shared stories of how a small town develops a fire department that responds to the needs of its community. It took equipment, access to water and the commitment of generations of men—and finally women.



Carr's collection of firefighting memorabilia is the focus of the new exhibit. There are storyboards, old newspaper clippings and photographs, leather fire helmets that date back to the late 1980s, fire hydrants, etc.

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The exhibit will be on display for the month of May at the Heritage Center, Saturdays from noon-4:00pm

Arader Galleries Donates Edward Curtis Print to SHHS



Josephine Arader, SHHS Research Director Mariam Hansen, SHHS Collections Chair
Nancy Caffo

Josephine Arader, of St. Helena's Arader Galleries, donated an Edward Curtis print to the Heritage Center.

The print is a sepia-toned Edward Curtis photogravure print of a Native American woman from the Pomo tribe titled "The Burden-Basket-Coast Pomo." In 1900, Curtis began photographing and recording information about every tribe in the American West. The Curtis print is on display at the Heritage Center now. [Read more](#)



May 18, 2022: Rosaura Segura, The Braceros in the St. Helena Area

June: Cathy Buck--The History of the Cameo Theater

October: The Cemetery Tour is back!

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This year's cemetery tour will feature the Italians who are buried in the St. Helena Cemetery. We're collaborating with the high school drama department, and our students will dramatize the events that motivated settlers to leave Italy and settle here in the St. Helena area.



The Heritage Center Is Now Open Every Saturday! Join us from noon-4:00pm

Explore St. Helena's fascinating past at the Heritage Center
1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574

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Visit the Heritage Center: 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574 •
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