



ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE ELECTROLIER
Illuminating St. Helena's History

March 2024 • Volume 22 • Issue 1

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE HERITAGE CENTER, 1255 OAK AVE.

- **March 13:** Pioneer Families: The Taplin Family
- **April 3:** The Exploits of Gabriel Moraga
- **May 18:** St. Helena Heritage Gardens Tour, in partnership with Napa County Landmarks
- **July 20:** "Dinner at the Museum" Fundraiser

PIONEER FAMILIES: THE TAPLIN FAMILY

March 13 @ 4pm | Heritage Center

Dr. Stephen Taplin will talk about his family's fascinating history--a journey that took them from England to Vermont and finally to their destination in St. Helena.



THE EXPLOITS OF GABRIEL MORAGA

April 3 @ 4pm | Heritage Center, 1255 Oak Ave.

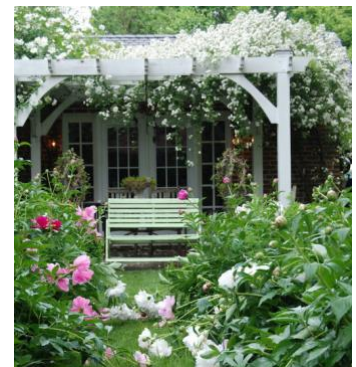
Dr. Damian Bacich, professor at San Jose State University, will give a lecture on the exploits of Spanish explorer Gabriel Moraga, an early explorer of Northern California and the Central Valley. In 1806 Moraga led an expedition to scout potential mission locations and report on the area's native people.



ST. HELENA HERITAGE GARDENS TOUR

May 18 | Heritage Center, 1255 Oak Ave.

This is the first garden tour since 2002. In partnership with Napa County Landmarks, we'll be touring an estimated ten gardens. The tour will begin at the Heritage Center, where participants will get tickets and maps. A majority of the gardens are clustered in the western part of town, so it's very possible to walk through the tour. There will be vendors and volunteers to act as guides. Each house will have a docent who can answer questions about its history.





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DINNER AT THE MUSEUM

July 20 @ 5:30-8:30 | \$150/person @ [Eventbrite](#)

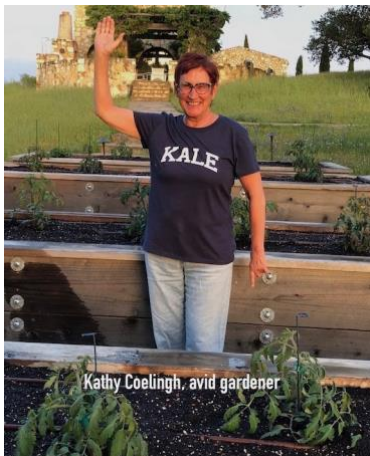
We'll be hosting a benefit paella dinner in the Heritage Center

Tapas • Salad • Paella • Dessert • Napa Valley Wines

\$150/person. Look forward to a Flamenco guitarist and a silent auction
 1255 Oak Ave.



NOTES FROM VP KATHLEEN COELINGH ON THE "CITY OF IMMIGRANTS" EXHIBIT



Kathy Coelingh, avid gardener

Plan to join us on March 13 for the program on The Taplin Family @ 4pm. After the program, we'll be opening the doors to the "City of Immigrants" exhibit. The new exhibit was a joint effort between the St. Helena and Napa County Historical Societies, funded by a grant from Arts Council Napa Valley.

The exhibit documents a 100-year period (1820-1920) during which the Napa Valley experienced mass immigration and migration of historic proportions. During this period sequential waves of immigrants and migrants arrived, beginning with migration of Californios (Hispanics born

in California before 1846), Americans from the Midwest and East, Europeans, Chinese and ending with the Italians and Italian-Swiss immigrants.





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The west offered land and new opportunities

Each group had unique circumstances, but many were fleeing poverty, famine, political unrest, or religious persecution in their native lands. The west offered the opportunity to own land and start a business. Many came for the Gold Rush and the possibility of a better life. These new immigrants laid the foundation and rich cultural diversity of our area.

An Advisory Committee was led by Napa County Historical Society's Sheli Smith

She spent months teasing out immigrants' common themes. Thus, our exhibits (installed in the Napa County Historical Society's Goodman building in Napa and in the St. Helena Historical Society Heritage Center) explore the cuisine, businesses, religions, community organizations, leisure activities, and tourism brought from far-flung regions of the world. In addition, the St. Helena exhibit highlights sixteen pioneer immigrant families who made unique cultural contributions.

This is our first special exhibit in the Heritage Center

It was a fun learning experience for our team of hardworking volunteers. We played to our strengths:

- Mariam Hansen contributed her vast knowledge of St. Helena history and a collection of vintage photos.
- Janet Peischel designed and created the room's many posters and timeline.
- Nancy Caffo, Helen Nelson, Marilyn Coy and Sandra Price curated the artifacts.
- Pam Wieben made sure the English language was used properly.
- Kathleen Coelingh was the superb project manager who kept the project on track through design and installation.
- A special shoutout to Sheli Smith for her guidance and patience and to everyone who helped with the installation!



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VOLUNTEER FOCUS: KATHY CARRICK

Kathy grew up in San Francisco, graduated from SFSU with a BA, a secondary teaching credential and an MS in Municipal Recreation & Parks Administration.

She moved to St. Helena in 1980 to take a job as Recreation Director, a position she held for 30 years.

An early supporter of organizations that are still providing critical services to the St. Helena community

“When I came to St. Helena in 1980, the town was a small rural farm community. Clothing stores like Mel's carried blue jeans and rubber boots. Vineyard owners met for breakfast in one of our two coffee shops. I thought it was charming. The only downside to St. Helena in those days was the total lack of good coffee. One of the happiest days of my life was when Napa Roasting Company opened up right across the street from my office.



Kathy was a founding board member of the Boys & Girls Club, Rianda House, Soroptimist Sunrise and UpValley Family Center.

It was important to work together so we weren't duplicating services

“As Recreation Director, I believed it was important to be involved with organizations that were serving the community. The activities at the Boys & Girls Club, the Family Center, and Rianda House affected our programming; it was important to work together and not duplicate services. After I retired I devoted free time to Napa Valley State Parks Association and St. Helena Historical Society--both organizations close to my heart.”



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CHINESE IMMIGRANTS



Unidentified Young Chinese

Manca 1890

Photos courtesy of St. Helena Historical Society



Jung Ten (Charlie Gluyas)

ca. 1922



Chinese Immigrant labor fueled the wine industry

The wine industry in the Napa Valley from 1870 through 1900 was built predominantly using Chinese immigrant labor. The Chinese population rose from 20 in 1860 to nearly 1,000 in 1880. Not eligible for citizenship, they were largely confined to local Chinatowns. The Chinese worked in vineyards and wineries, quicksilver mines, on farms, for local railroads and as shopkeepers.

Chinatowns sprung up all over the Napa Valley

St. Helena's Chinatown was a self-contained community on West Charter Oak Avenue. It had a Cantonese restaurant, Daoist temple, and stores catering to the needs of its 400 residents.

UPDATE ON THE CHINESE MEMORIAL

From 1870s to the 1900s, hundreds of Chinese people were a significant labor force in the vineyards, farms, mines, road-building and hop fields. There was also a sizable anti-Chinese movement in California and here, so the workers began moving away. The St. Helena Chinese Monument Committee was formed to place a gravestone in St. Helena Cemetery for Chinese who were buried there in unmarked graves in the 1800s.

Napa Marble & Granite Works has received the black granite from India and is finalizing the design. A GoFundme has been established for additional expenses related to the memorial and plaque installation. Our partners at Napa County Historical Society are helping manage the funds. Donate at the [GoFundMe website](#).



THE NIEBAUM FAMILY



Gustave Niebaum, ca 1890. Courtesy, Inglenook Vineyards

A young entrepreneur

Gustave Niebaum was born in 1842 in Finland. He sailed to Alaska at age 16 on a fur-trading ship and rose to the rank of Captain. He founded the Alaskan Commercial Company, which traded seal skins in San Francisco. The company's success made Gustave a multimillionaire.

The Inglenook purchase

Gustave married Susan Shingleberger, and the couple began to purchase first-rate vineyard land near Rutherford, including the Inglenook property. By 1887 they owned more than 1,000 acres. Gustave planted the area's first Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. In 1887 Inglenook's Chateau Winery was completed, featuring gravity-flow, a grape-sorting table and a bottling line.

LEISURE



G & G (Goodman & Galewsky Theater), ca 1915. Courtesy, St. Helena Historical Society

THE KRUG FAMILY



Charles Krug, ca 1881
Carolina Bale Krug,
ca 1875
Courtesy, St. Helena Historical
Society





THE DE LATOUR FAMILY

The de Latours and Andre Tchelistcheff blending wine, ca. 1945. Courtesy, St. Helena Historical Society. 

The early years

Georges de Latour was born in France in 1856 and immigrated to California in 1883. Fernande Romer was born in California in 1875. They married and visited the Napa Valley in 1900.



On an outing to Rutherford, they first saw what would become their first vineyard property, prompting Fernande to exclaim "Quelle beau lieu", or "What a beautiful place!" That translated into their vineyard and winery, **Beaulieu Vineyard**, which they expanded by hundreds of acres to produce a premium French-style wine that would rival the finest.

RESTAURANTS



Kelper's Restaurant, ca 1925. Photos courtesy, St. Helena Historical Society. 

THE ST. HELENA STAR RECORDED THE LIVES OF THE AREA'S IMMIGRANTS



St. Helena Star Building, ca 1918. Courtesy of St. Helena Historical Society. 



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VOLUNTEER AT THE HERITAGE CENTER!

Open the first Saturday of the month from noon-4pm

We're looking for volunteers to help staff the Heritage Center on the first Saturday of the month. Noon-4pm shifts. Contact shstory@shstory.org, 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574



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JOIN ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



On our [website](#) you can download a membership form or pay online. Membership is critical to the Historical Society's success! [Please join us!](#)

SUPPORT THE ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit the Heritage Center: 1255 Oak Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574 • SHHS Mailing Address: PO Box 87, St. Helena, CA 94574 • shstory@shstory.org • 707.967.5502 • shstory.org • 501(c) 3 Nonprofit Organization • Tax ID#: 30-0087096

