



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071  
November 2008

**Please Attend: World War I Exhibit Opens November 7; World War II Panel and Exhibit, December 7; Open House November 28**

## New War Exhibit Opens

Continuing with the theme of "Saratogans Remember Wartime"—two new exhibits will open in the coming months: The Great War—World War I will open November 7 and World War II will open December 7.

The exhibit features memorabilia loaned by local citizens as well as that owned by the museum. Poppies, a universal symbol of World War I will be part of the display.

Few veterans are around who remember World War I. But the memories of those veteran's valor remain alive as friends and family bring forth their precious possessions to participate in the exhibit.

Longtime Saratogan **Willys Peck** shared photos, sheet music, magazines and posters from this time period. Colorful wartime posters urge civilians to be careful in conversations so as not to reveal confidential information.

**Amy Jorgensen** loaned her husband's uncle's World War I uniform and bronze star medal. The all-wool uniform is in pristine condition, complete with leggings. Alfred Tomlinson was a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps during the war.

A helmet belonging to Al Merritt, **Ron Hagelin's** uncle is also on display. Merritt was in the infantry and stationed in France. According to Hagelin, his uncle was gassed twice with mustard gas during the war. Hagelin can recall his uncle describing the trenches and how deep they were.

**Lynne Denman** loaned her father's scrapbook — containing his war experiences. Patrick Devine was a member of the Rainbow Division of the US Seventh Army. The division's name was coined by Chief of Staff Major



Douglas MacArthur because he said that the division "would stretch over the whole country like a rainbow." This was because

the division was formed from National Guard units from 26 states. The division fought in many of the bloodiest battles of the war.

**Sing Kee**, the most decorated Chinese soldier was awarded the Croix de Guerre and feted with a parade in San Jose when he returned to Saratoga. A scrapbook of his war experience is on display along with a letter written by Kee to one of his teachers during the war.

Be sure to come by and look at all of the new items added.

## The Second World War—December 7

The World War II exhibit will open on December 7—be sure to see the new items including the following:

**Michael Whalen** brought in his father's draft card — George Whalen was the first man to have his draft card drawn in the lottery and to be drafted in this area.

**Barbara Borthwick** was living in Hawaii at the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. She brought in money bearing a "Hawaii" overprint used during World War II to insure identification should they have fallen into enemy hands.

Also on loan is a piece of silver that once belonged to Adolf Hitler's silver service set and was removed from the Eagle's Nest in Germany. Many more items have been loaned to make the exhibit highly informative.

## Veterans Talk About World War II

Don't miss the panel discussion held December 7 at 1 PM at the Museum. SHF Historian **Ray Cosyn** will moderate as veterans from World War II recount some of their memories.

Participating in the panel will be **Els Welch**, Lt. Cdr. in the US Navy who served on two Navy destroyers during WWII. His first destroyer, USS Johnston, was sunk by a Japanese Task Force on October 15, 1944 in the Battle of Samar during MacArthur's invasion of the Philippine Islands. Also participating will be **Lyle McCarty**, a navigator on a B-24 bomber in Italy. He flew 35 combat missions and wrote a book on the history of the 459th Bombardment Group entitled *Coffee Tower*. **John Monjar** participated in the D Day invasion as well as in the Okinawa invasion. He served on five different ships during the war.

We'll be adding a few others to the panel as well as opening it to the audience to add their experiences.

Light refreshments will be served.

## Save the Date

January 19 marks the first program of the year— "Coastal Defenses of the San Francisco Bay" by Warren Riley, a National Parks Service Ambassador.

## On The Trail With the Mayor

Recently Mayor Waltonsmith dedicated the new Orchard Loop Trail in the Central Orchard. The following is her description of the walk.

"I want you to notice special points about this trail--when you walk off of the city street in the middle of suburban Saratoga, you are into the city's rural past. The visuals, the sounds, the smells and the feel of the historical past rush over you.

### Using all senses

When you are on this trail in this orchard, you: See the shapes of an orchard--not one fruit tree like in your backyard but the symmetry of identical trees lined up in order, the swirl of the good earth after plowing. You see the deep green in the summer, the pink blossoms in the spring, the multicolor leaves in the fall and the gnarled brown limbs in the winter. Near the stream, you see the California oaks and California buckeye standing guard.



Hear the rustle of leaves, the sounds of birds, and water in the stream in the winter.

Smell the living leaves in summer, the aroma of blossoms in the spring and overall, you receive the smell of rich fertile earth.

Feel the heat of the day and the dryness in the summer and the moisture in the winter.

### Remembering Valley of Hearts delight

Before Santa Clara County was nicknamed Silicon Valley, it was nicknamed the Valley of Hearts Delight. That was for the fantastic farms and orchards that abounded here due to the deep fertile earth that we are standing on. This earth would and still does grow anything.

#### Connecting to Saratoga history

It is important for our children, grand children and ourselves to stay connected to the history of our beautiful Valley and particularly Saratoga's history. This

### Saratoga Historical Foundation Officers

*The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community.*

#### Executive Committee

Chuck Schoppe, Pres., Technical Systems Dir.  
Jack Mallory, Vice Pres., Community Relations  
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary  
Bob Himel, Treasurer

#### Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please e-mail to:

[annette@saratogahistory.com](mailto:annette@saratogahistory.com)

#### Museum

The Saratoga History Museum is open from 1-4 Friday through Sunday. Stop by and see the many exhibits. Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

trail will play a major part in the education of ourselves and our youth. The trail is a vital demonstration to all about the history of rural Saratoga. This trail has no comparison anywhere in the rest of the Valley. The orchards are gone and with the loss of the orchards comes the loss of historical knowledge for citizens and their children. This orchard and this trail add historical knowledge back into our education.

### Walking all four sections of the trail

To be more specific about the trail, here is what I want you to focus on: I urge you to walk all four sections of the trail since they are different.

There is: The stream section, with cherry trees along the path; The orchard section, by Sacred Heart, with apricot trees along the path; The Saratoga Avenue section, with the wavy trail and apricot trees and prune trees along the path. The Fruitvale section, with wide views of the Library (built to look like a fruit drying shed) and prune trees lining the sidewalk.

### Eroding hills

As you start out on the path, notice the piles of rounded river rock. All those came out of our orchard as the earth has been plowed over the years and were stored over here at the edge of the creek. Prior to the plowing, that river rock slowly came out of our hills behind us. Over the millennia, the hills have been eroding, and the displaced stones rolled down the gushing river beds in the winter to end up here in the flat lands.

So keep your eyes and ears and nose open as you walk this trail. You can learn a lot about Saratoga's history."

--Mayor Ann Waltonsmith

### A Little Help From My Friends

The Museum garden and area in front of the McWilliams House recently received some tender loving care. Armed with a lute, clippers, rakes, wheelbarrows and Ben Gay, a hardy crew of SHF members showed up to clip plants, water and spread tan bark. Scott Company donated the tan bark. Be sure to ask Michael Whalen what a lute is! Helpers included Chuck Schoppe, Michael Whalen, Carmel Moody, Nancy Anderson, Doug Anderson, Ann Waltonsmith (not shown), and Annette Stransky (not shown).





## Save These Dates!

- Nov. 7 World War I  
new exhibit opens at the Museum
- Nov. 24 Decorate the Museum 10 AM—  
open to all volunteers
- Nov. 28 Open House at the Museum 5:30-8:30PM  
see the special gift items!
- Dec. 7 A Panel of Veterans Discuss WWII  
1-4 at the Museum  
WWII—new exhibit opens at the  
Museum
- Jan. 9 Korean War—new exhibit opens at  
the Museum
- Jan. 19 SHF Program: Coastal Defense of the  
San Francisco Bay by Warren Riley  
Immanuel Lutheran Church at 6:30 PM

## Looking Back in Time

**Like many of the buildings on Big Basin Way, The Plumed Horse restaurant has a colorful past.**

Supposedly in the 1800's, a tinker or man who mended pots and pans built a livery stable on the site of the present restaurant for his horse. On cold days, he would ensure the horse was covered with a blanket. And in the spring, he would decorate his horse with a hat of fresh flowers and an ostrich feather plume—creating a jaunty look.

As the town prospered and grew, the Old Swiss Hotel was constructed and shared the site with the livery stable. The hotel survived until 1900 when it was destroyed by fire. It was at this time that the main structure of the Plumed Horse was built—recycling the lumber from the stable and Old Swiss Hotel.

The building was first open to the public as a junk shop, later became the American Antique Store and then an antique store and tea house in 1940.

About 1952 marked the year that the Plumed Horse adopted the name from the past. Since 1972 the Plumed Horse Restaurant has enjoyed its prestigious reputation in dining. This early rendition of the Plumed Horse hangs in the Museum.



## Newest Member

**This year's membership drive kicks off in November with the enclosed membership form. If you joined during August or later, you will not be receiving a request for renewal.**

**Your membership funds the activities of the Saratoga Historical Foundation. It helps keep the Museum and the McWilliams House open to the public.**

People join for many reasons. One of our newest



Israel.

members, Corey Goldberg (age 12) writes: "The reason I joined the Saratoga Historical Foundation is that I love history and the museum is a great way to learn about my city. I liked some of the old pictures and old items in the museum. I liked the fancy old bicycles I saw there. I also liked old cars like the ones I saw at the Mustard Faire." The photo shows Corey standing on top of a tank in

## Achievement Won by Hagelin



Linda Hagelin recently received a certificate of achievement from the Santa Clara Valley History Symposium. The event was held in October at the Santa Clara County office and was attended by personnel from over 30

local museums in the Santa Clara Valley.

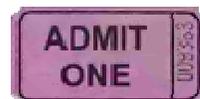
The event launched October as History Month and included the opportunity to recognize historical organizations, community historians, and demonstrated leadership in local history.

Linda Hagelin, Saratoga Historical Foundation Education Programs Director, was recognized for developing the education program for the Foundation. Hagelin developed the curriculum for teaching the lifestyle of the 1800's for third and fourth graders as well as for adults using the local historic McWilliams House. Hagelin and a group of volunteers teach the program to public and private schools in Saratoga and Cupertino. Anyone interested in participating in the program can contact Hagelin at 408-867-4311 or

[Linda@saratogahistory.com](mailto:Linda@saratogahistory.com)

## Recession, Depression.....

According to Walter Warren in the book "Los Altos



Reminiscences"... "during the Depression it was possible to obtain a lot in Los Altos for the price of a motion picture theater ticket. During

the Depression of the 1930s, the Los Altos Land Company hit on a unique method of promoting the land. Los Altos lots were offered as one of the prizes at 'dish night' in the San Francisco movie houses. The winner, whose lucky ticket was chosen from a drum, was offered a choice between a set of dishes or a lot in Los Altos."

## Catching Up With Linda Hagelin



### Is it true SHF member Els Welch was your teacher at Los Gatos High School?

Yes, it is true! Els Welch was a wonderful chemistry teacher, sprinkling our classes with stories of his Navy adventures. I remember his mantra: "It is not a BOAT, it is called a SHIP"! We tried to veer him off into stories whenever possible.

### How long have you belonged to SHF?

Ron and I have been with SHF about 20 years. We joined because we thought (correctly) that we would learn more about our own village and local history. It has been so much more than that! We have made wonderful friends, met interesting people, and learned more about our area than we imagined.

### Tell us about the SHF Education program!

The SHF education program was something that sparked my imagination. I have taught school at all levels for at least a thousand years, and the idea of being on the ground floor of a program to share our interesting history with students really got me excited. I tapped every retired teacher, (including my husband, Ron!) every friend who I knew was interested in history, and even some new friends to "give it a try" as an education docent. I told them they didn't need to know anything because we were all learning how to do this together.

We broke the possible class visit into stations, with a couple of docents each taking a station to research. What was it like when the McWilliams girls went to school? How did the family entertain themselves in that tiny parlor during long winter evenings? What are all those kitchen gadgets for? How did they do a wash in that tiny cottage? These kinds of questions were asked. The docents came back with research, we shared ideas, and decided what was possible. The McWilliams House Furnishing Committee, particularly Peggy Schoppe, was an enormous help in finding toys, dolls, props and appropriate materials for our program. We are learning from each other and making adjustments as we go. It really is a team effort to put this program together.

We also offer classroom lessons, such as "Postcard Stories", using antique postcards from the Museum collection, a popular in-class program. The "Saratoga Trunk" lesson is for classes that can't come to visit the McWilliams House, and we take a trunk full of artifacts to the class.

### What's the most interesting experience you've had in the program?

Both children and adults really have no sense of what life was like 100 years ago. They don't know how a wood stove works, they can't guess how some kitchen tools are used, they don't know how a family might entertain themselves without radio, TV (or computers!). But, they universally love to play with the old-fashioned toys we provide.

The children love to jump rope; they play "toss the washer in the bucket". They are intrigued by jacks, spinning propellers, and Jacobs Ladders, and so are adults.

We will include such toys as paper dolls and hop-scotch this year. We heard from the local schools that after the classes visited, they started jump rope on the playground! We docents realize that playground games really didn't change much during the years most of us were growing up. But now few children have ever heard of playing jacks or paper dolls.



### What else do you do with SHF?

Ron and I both are docents at the museum once/month, and are on the SHF Board.

### Any other volunteer work?

I work with the local elementary schools when a teacher needs some help with a science lesson. Both Ron and I have tutored our friends' and neighborhood kids in math and science.



### What do you get out of volunteering?

I enjoy volunteering because you can work on exactly what interests you, and it is very rewarding to find out that your efforts are helpful. Our schools need the extra help we can provide.

### Any other hobbies?

Birding, nature walks, anything about the ocean. I help develop curriculum and present programs to teachers of all levels at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. During the summer I am there for weeks at a time to present Teacher Institutes, and during the school year I work many weekends. I have been involved at the Aquarium since it opened, more than 20 years ago, and they can't get rid of me!

Les Landin of the Skillet Lickers noticed Ron and I both love to sing cowboy songs, and decided we would be good "backup singers", with me banging the tambourine. We love it! Whenever we can, we join the Skillet Lickers for various "gigs" around the area, putting on our cowboy hats and having fun getting folks to sing along with us.



### What did you do before retirement?

Before I retired, I was teaching preservice teachers at San Jose State University in the College of Education. As I told my student teachers: "Teaching is a wonderful profession. When your hair gets gray, you are considered wise!". I am getting wiser by the year, and it's great!

## At Your Service With Ron Hagelin



Ron Hagelin has been a member of the Saratoga Historical Foundation (SHF) for over 20 years. With a smile and a twinkle in his eye, he recently recalled his first encounter with the organization around 1956 when he had just gotten out of the military service. He saw an advertisement in the Saratoga newspaper about a meeting for learning more about local history held in the home of a local resident. He went to the meeting and found

out it was the home of Florence Cunningham! Of course, Cunningham is the one who provided the seed money for the museum as well as the research for the book, Saratoga, “The First One Hundred Years”.

Hagelin has held several jobs in the SHF organization including being on the existing board of directors as well as docent duty at the museum. He notes that one day about five years ago a young couple came to the museum while he and his wife, Linda were on duty. They started talking to the couple and exchanged information. The young couple turned out to be Peggy and Chuck Schoppe (Chuck is the present president)—or as Hagelin says fondly, “my best recruiting effort.”

Hagelin is a “people person”. Five minutes of conversation with Ron and it is as if you have known him for many years. And the next time you meet, Hagelin will have remembered everything talked about. Linda says, “Besides being a great listener, Ron has a wonderful memory. He can recall conversations and detail which makes him a great friend.”

Hagelin says “volunteering makes me very happy—it’s satisfying and worthwhile.”

In addition to his work with the Saratoga Historical Foundation, he’s worked with the Boy Scouts; as well as volunteered in an outdoor program for canoeing and kayaking for children. Every three months he takes fellow veterans to the Travis Air Force Base where they get prescriptions filled and have a good time together.

Hagelin counts fishing, travelling, singing and photography as his favorite hobbies. He especially enjoys fishing for halibut with his son in Alaska. “Halibut in Alaska,” he says, “can grow up to 400 pounds. They are called a “barn door” fish because they are flat. Typically the fish is 5 foot long and 6-8 inches in the middle.” He also enjoys fishing for trout and salmon.

Ron and Linda just returned from Newfoundland which he says was “Super exciting—everyone should go.”

Both Ron and Linda are involved in the Skillet Lickers, a local country and western singing group, for over 40 years. Fellow Saratogan Les Landin founded the group. Hagelin says there are about 10 people in the group and they sing at the Saratoga Senior Center and many other places. They practice as part of a larger sing-along group once a month at Vince and Jane Garrod’s ranch in Saratoga.

Hagelin has lived in Saratoga for 52 years. His parents moved to Saratoga from San Jose while he was in the service. After college he went into Naval Aviation active duty for five years. He served during the Korean War and returned to Saratoga after the war, remaining in the Naval Air Reserve at Moffett Field for 27 years. Hagelin got a teaching credential and taught math at San Jose State for one year and then later at Buchser High School in Santa Clara. He says he applied his naval experience of “shape up or ship out” when teaching. He taught mainly trigonometry, geometry and calculus and says he always had “great kids.” Linda adds, “Ron goes back to some of the reunions and his former students are always walking up and saying, ‘thank you.’”

## November 28—Shop At the Museum!!

The Saratoga History Museum Gift Shop has a wide range of gift items including new items just for Christmas selected by Peggy Schoppe, SHf Gift Shop Manager. Open from 5:30-8:30 on November 28 as part of the Village Open House, the museum will have holiday music by the Skillet Lickers as well as light refreshments.

New Saratoga-related gift items include t-shirts, bookmarks, books, videos, and jewelry. Two new designs in t-shirts will be available in a variety of sizes featuring a heritage oak tree or historic buildings. Or choose a laminated bookmark from four Saratoga-related designs including “vintage vehicles with the Saratoga Model A fire truck; Saratoga treasures covering special sites; Pioneer McWilliams House and family; and Saratoga women.

A special assortment of children’s wooden toys has also been added including finger tops, puddle jumpers, and yo-yos. Adults sometimes find these toys a great stress-reducer.

The Museum Gift Shop has a wide range of books including “Saratoga Fire—A Century of Volunteer Firefighting”, “Saratoga Foothill Club History”, “Saratoga’s First Hundred Years”, “Vineyards in the Sky” - covering Martin Ray and Paul Masson, and “The Browns of Madronia”. And if you know a train buff, be sure to give them the new DVD, “One-Horse Railroad”.

Lovely Saratoga heritage jewelry for charm bracelets or necklaces are available featuring some key Saratoga sites.



And for stocking stuffers—all under \$5--a hand printed walking tour map of Saratoga, Saratoga-themed note cards, themed writing pen or a handsome book, “They Called it Saratoga”.

If you can’t attend the Open House, be sure to stop by during normal museum hours from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday.

## BBQ Fun(d) Raiser—Big Success

The annual SHF barbecue and silent auction is the largest event held by SHF with this year's attendance topping 120 people. It is a means of fund raising for the organization—with monies financing future activities. Held at the historic Garrod ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate winery on September 21, some of the highlights included:

Long time resident Vince Garrod sharing stories of early day life on the ranch including how wells were dug by hand.

Bill Cooper gave a brief tour of the Garrod Stables and an overview of the Cooper-Garrod Estate winemaking.

The first annual Louise Cooper Memorial Award was given to Freshman Jennifer Chiang at Saratoga High School for her research as part of Living History Week.

Silent Auctioneer Extraordinaire Jim Sorden kept the auction lively with his commentary.

Wine tasting some of the Cooper-Garrod libations was a rousing success as well as the tasty tri-tip dinner.

The Skillet Lickers kept the mood mellow with their cowboy crooning.

## Shhh Silent Auction-- A Hit!

The second annual silent auction held in conjunction with the barbecue was enjoyed by all. Silent Auction Chair Laurel Perusa doubled the number of items offered this year. And people took home some great items.



A special thanks is extended to all the donors providing auction items, including: Paul Conrado, Hong's Gourmet, Ann and Rick Waltonsmith, Venz Fine Photography, Jackie Welch, M.E. Benson's Antiques, Benton Family, Lupretta's Delicatessen and Catering, Nancy Anderson, Jenni Taylor and Laurel Perusa, Cinnabar

Tasting Room, Big Basin Café, Jill Hunter, Bella Saratoga, Lynne Denman, La Mere Michelle, Saratoga Chocolates, Ron and Linda Hagelin, Saratoga Oaks Lodge, Ann Johnson, The Book-Go-Round, The Basin Restaurant, "Karen's Kookies", Gene's Fine Foods, Safeway, Ristorante Da Mario, Joseph George Wines, Saratoga Historical Foundation, The Village Jeweler, Brenda Kashuba, Marilyn Marchetti, See's Candy, and Bob Gilmore's Flowers And Home Accessories.



## World War II Remembered

By SHF Historian Ray Cosyn

One of the most heroic actions ever taken in the history of naval warfare occurred in the Pacific at the battle of Leyte Gulf. The battle was fought in support of General MacArthur's landing at Leyte and lasted for seven days. During the course of the battle Admiral William "Bull" Halsey's 3<sup>rd</sup> fleet was lured away from the landing area by a Japanese feint which proved to be quite successful as it left the beachhead to be defended by a small group of ships whose task it was to support the landing. The sailors that manned these ships soon had an opportunity to face the cream of the Japanese navy that had assembled in a task force that included four battleships (Including the Yamato, the most powerful battleship ever built with its 18" guns) and six cruisers each with the capability of destroying the skeleton force that had been left behind to support the landing.

Two of the ships that participated in the defensive maneuver were the St. Lo, a carrier escort, and the USS Johnston a destroyer that had already seen significant action during the war. Both ships were part of a task unit referred to as "Taffy 3" which consisted of five light escort carriers, three destroyers, four destroyer escorts and a handful of PT boats. They were hopelessly out classed by the gigantic Japanese fleet that was bearing down on them through the undefended San Bernardino Strait on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1944. When attacked, one of the destroyers, the Johnston zig zagged in front of the carriers, laying down a smoke screen to hide the vulnerable light carriers.

The Johnston got off ten torpedoes before retiring behind the heavy smoke screen. When she came out of the screen she could see that one of the torpedoes had hit its mark as a Japanese cruiser had been hit and was sinking. The Johnston took a number of hits and eventually was sunk. However, the heroism shown by that fighting ship led to the saving of the majority of the escort carriers that were sitting ducks for the great guns of the Japanese fleet. One of the men who served so valiantly on this fighting ship was Ellsworth "Els" Welch a longtime Saratoga resident who swam with the sharks after his ship sunk before being pulled from the sea to safety.

One of the escort carriers involved in the battle was the St. Lo. The St. Lo was part of the Taffy 3 task force and had the assignment of supporting the amphibious landing. She was not designed to support a naval engagement as the planes she was carrying were designed for close in tactical land support. She operated off the coast of Leyte from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of October destroying enemy installations and airfields. When engaged by the Admiral Kurita's fleet she accelerated to flank speed, and despite fire from enemy

cruisers launched her planes to attack the Japanese fleet and in the process inflicted heavy damage on the closing ships.

On the last day of the battle the intrepid carrier was attacked by a Japanese Kamikaze aircraft that successfully made it through the withering anti-aircraft fire to crash thru the St. Lo's flight deck and explode, in the process mortally wounding the gallant little carrier. The St. Lo was the first ship to be sunk by a Kamikaze aircraft which became

ubiquitous in the battle for Okinawa. Like the Johnston, the St. Lo carried another Saratoga veteran, Miles Rankin, who managed to survive and to live a prosperous and fulfilling life in Saratoga.

The actions of the Johnston and the St. Lo along with their sister ships stopped Admiral Kurita's powerful fleet; because of the intensity of Taffy 3's attack Kurita felt that he had run into Halsey's much more powerful 3<sup>rd</sup> fleet and rather than continue the fight broke off the engagement thereby saving the landing at Leyte. If Kurita had been successful and had made it through to the beachhead the entire course of history would have changed.

Take the time to visit our museum to relive what it was like in the 1940s in Saratoga during the war. Stop and read the full accounts from our veterans of what they faced in defending our freedoms in the greatest of all wars.



### Volunteers Needed

The Saratoga Historical Foundation is planning a variety of historical tours, programs, and fundraising events in 2009 and is in need of volunteers.

Our programs might include tours of the Hoover Institute, a Civil War Collection, Montalvo's history and grounds, Military Tank Tour, and the Hakone's history and gardens. Special presentations like the story of the Erie Canal by Martha Kendall; Steven Foster story; and Julia Morgan's architecture by author, Mark Wilson are also being considered and would need coordination.

If you would like more information, contact Jack Mallory at 408- 252-7447 or Mallory58@aol.com.



### The Buck Stops .....Here

The Village Gardeners report that last month a man driving down Big Basin Way at 5:30 AM saw a four point buck with thirty does in Turkey Track Lane (next to Harmonie European

Day Spa) eating the roses! Thus reaffirming that Saratoga is "the" place for fine dining for everyone, anytime.

## President's Yearend Message From Chuck Schoppe, SHF President



People in other parts of the country have already turned off their air-conditioning and have turned on their furnaces. Not so here in beautiful Saratoga and, as in most of California, we are enjoying a beautiful and balmy fall season.

It's been another great year at the Museum and for the Foundation, and in looking back it seems that this year, like so many others, has gone way too quickly. We've had more programs and attractions this year than at any time in years past! Our three members' meetings were well-attended and featured the multi-media presentation "Remembering Old Saratoga"; and the two-part series "The Ohlone" Saratoga's first inhabitants given by Mark Hylkema, a State Parks archeologist. Our Mustard Faire presentation on the McWilliams family was very well received. We presented several very popular tours – the Civil War tours here in Saratoga and the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation tours, in Portola Valley, and all were sold out tours! These programs and events must mean something because our membership tops 260 members—more than any other year.

### Special Exhibits and Events

Two special exhibits at the Museum this year have drawn a lot of public interest: "Early Health Care in Saratoga" and "Saratogans Remember Wartime". Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner provided us with the opportunity to thank our growing cadre of volunteers. Without our precious volunteers our Museum would have to close its doors! Our annual BBQ, held together with the Silent Auction, was a tremendous success. This event is our biggest single fund-raiser of the year, and for the first time it was sold out! Also at the BBQ we presented the first annual Louise Cooper Memorial Scholarship award to our winning History Week student from Saratoga High School.

### Education Program Growing

Our Education Program which features the newly restored and furnished McWilliams House has proven to be a valuable resource for area schools, with many students attending docent-led tours and lessons. Classes are already scheduled into next year! We continue working with the older students as well, with the advanced placement history students from Saratoga High School satisfying their community service requirement by volunteering their hours at the Museum.

### More Efficient

On the operations side, we installed a new, high-end computer system and have installed "Past Perfect", an industry-standard archival and collections cataloging system. We conducted our first docent training session at Casa Grande and Almaden Mines Museum on early historical clothing. Thanks to the City we now have new intrusion and fire alarm systems! Our Museum Gift Shop continues to add new gift and souvenir items. We are getting ready with

more selections in time for the holidays, with most items at a member's discount! And, our website and our newsletter both get better all the time!

### Grateful to Volunteers and Board Members

But all of this doesn't happen by magic! Our volunteers and Board members - most of whom wear several hats, are the busy people that make it all happen. Please join me in thanking each and every one who has done so much this past year!

### Generous Donations

We also had several significant donations during the year, most with the donor's comment that they like the way the Foundation is growing and progressing. We appreciate these donations and also the compliments that accompanied them!

### Great 2009 Plans for SHF

So, what's ahead in 2009? To start off with we have three exciting programs scheduled for our members' meetings. In January we have scheduled Warren Riley, a National Parks Service Ambassador, who will present "Coastal Defenses of San Francisco Bay". We have invited Warren back in May when he will present "Lighthouses of the San Francisco Bay". In between our Board member Ray Cosyn will present a March program on the Peninsula Interurban Railway. Beyond that? Wait and see!

### Come to the Annual Open House Friday, November 28

I hope that you will join us as we celebrate the annual Saratoga Village tree lighting and Open House on November 28th. Ceremonial tree lighting ceremonies will begin at 5:30PM in Blaney Plaza, officiated by **Mayor Ann Waltonsmith** and members of the City Council, after which the Open House begins, officially marking the beginning of the holiday season in Saratoga Village, a tradition that began sixteen years ago.

Both the Museum and the McWilliams House will be decorated for the occasion and the season by our faithful Museum elves. The Museum building will be brightly lit, guiding visitors toward the music, refreshments, and good holiday cheer! Refreshments will be served as the **Saratoga Skillet Lickers**, in their unique musical style, serenade us with their own versions of traditional carols. So come on out, bring the kids and enjoy the sing-a-long and the good times, and start your holiday season - and your shopping at the Museum!

### Wishing You A Happy and Healthy 2009

We've had a successful 2008, and we hope you will renew your membership and be with us in 2009.

From all of your SHF Officers and Board members, we wish you and your loved ones a holiday season full of pleasant memories, and a happy and healthy year ahead.

*Chuck Schoppe*

**•Time to Renew• Time to Renew• Time to Renew• Time to Renew• Time to Renew•**

November 1, 2008

Dear SHF member:

Your support and membership with the Saratoga History Museum and SHF this year has meant an opportunity to learn more about local history and to be involved in the community. Membership is growing and the programs and events are continuing to be well attended. Our plans for 2009 are equally ambitious and exciting. But we need your support. It is time to renew your membership. We invite you to get involved. We've included many opportunities and areas in which you can apply your skills. We are counting on your support by renewing. Continue your commitment to the museum by renewing your membership today. Please consider raising the level of your membership. Your donation is tax deductible.

**Membership Levels-- Circle one:**

- \$30 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$60 Contributor
- \$125 Sponsor
- \$250 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- \$2000 Family Lifetime
- Business/Organization Membership
  - 0-5 employees, \$100
  - 6-10 employees, \$200
  - 10+ employees, \$300
- \$100, non-profit organization

**D**  
Make your check payable and mail to: Saratoga Historical Foundation, PO Box 172 Saratoga, CA 95071

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a renewing member:  If renewing, how long have you been a member? \_\_\_\_

**Optional Information to Help SHF Tailor Programs and Services**

I have lived in Saratoga since: \_\_\_\_\_ (list year only)

I am joining because I am interested:  in Saratoga history  Santa Clara Valley history  other

If we decide to send the newsletter via electronic --would you be interested?  No, paper only.

**Get Involved. Only a Few Hours A Month. Volunteer Today:**

- Museum docent, greet museum visitors and explain exhibits (training provided)
- Walking Tour docent, lead visitors on nearby history walking tour
- Education Docent, present programs to students at schools/and or the museum
- Archivist, help receive, organize and protect donated items and collections
- Exhibit Planner/Fabricator, work with the exhibit team to plan and prepare exhibits
- Administrative/Clerical help--help with mailings, documenting and filing
- Programs Committee, assist in planning and organizing programs for membership meetings and public events
- Newsletter-- write articles, provide graphic design or photography assistance
- Fundraiser, help write grants; work on membership drives; assist with programs special events, developing events
- Food/refreshments, prepare food, serve, or purchase items

## Saratogans Remember Wartime

The Museum held a reception for the opening of the new exhibit "Saratogans Remember Wartime" -- covering



World War I and World War II. The centerpiece of the exhibit was the stories of over 160 Saratoga veterans from World War I and World War II. Laura Brickman is sharing with Jack Mallory the story of

her husband's valor during World War II.

## A Taste of Saratoga

Museum Jewelry Craftswoman Ann Johnson (shown)



allowed SHF to share her booth at A Taste of Saratoga. Held on Big Basin Way for the first time, it was a great opportunity for SHF to generate

awareness for the Museum and to recruit new members. Ann was kept busy during the event selling jewelry.

## The Lantern Walk

The SHF joined in the fun with the Lantern Walk, held in September by SVDC. Approximately 300 young children, some in costume walked through the Museum and the McWilliams House. Children and their parents enjoyed viewing the McWilliams House and receiving candy. A large red lantern designated the Museum as part of the program. Facilities Director Jim Sorden placed a light in the lantern that cast a lovely glow at night



**Saratoga Historical Foundation**

**PO Box 172**

**Saratoga, California 95072**