



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

September 2012

**Come to the train lecture on Sept. 7 \* Don't miss Celebrate Saratoga—A Village Block Party at the Museum and on Big Basin Way—hourly fun\* The Last of the Prune Pickers headlines Heritage Day at the Museum\* Make your reservation now for the BBQ held at the historic Garrod Ranch!!!!**

## Exciting Lecture on Building the Railroad Through the Santa Cruz Mountains on September 7

Come to an exciting lecture presented by Bruce MacGregor on "Drilling a Hole in the wall: narrow gauge rails to Santa Cruz" on September 7 at 7:00 PM. It's a fundraiser for SHF.



Many have probably wondered what the South Bay was like a hundred or so years ago and who were the dominant players of the time. When it came to transportation it was the Southern Pacific Railroad that tied together most of the towns of California into a web where they dictated rates and schedules for the movement of both freight and passenger in the Golden State. If you wanted to move an article or a person you had to

pay the piper, the Southern Pacific, as their was no alternative but to give in to Frank Norris's "Octopus" as the railroad had become known.

To provide competition, a daring little narrow gauge line was put into service in 1880 that connected the Alameda with Santa Cruz. The line was about 90 miles long and made its way along the east bay, through marshes and wetlands to San Jose where it continued to head south through Los Gatos and over and through the Santa Cruz mountains to the isolated town of Santa Cruz. This colorful and scenic line cut through 6 tunnels to reach its destination.

According to MacGregor, "it was a tale of two cities, separated by a mean little range of mountains. In the 1870's, Santa Cruz represented a rich production center for redwood lumber, lime and leather. Just twenty five miles away, San Jose (and the greater Bay Area) represented the most rapidly expanding consumer market in California. The two economic regions attracted each other like magnets. Yet the Santa Cruz Mountains raised such a formidable barrier to commerce that most of the trade between the Bay Area and Santa Cruz went by way of coastal shipping."

Continues MacGregor, "Millions of dollars were spent on mountain construction, but before the scheme could succeed, a high cost was also paid in human life when tunneling uncovered dangerous pockets of natural gas under the summit ridge. Four years after the scheme was launched, it nearly foundered in a series of devastating explosions deep inside the mountain."

The railroad only lasted a few years before it was taken over by the Octopus but in its short life it dramatically changed how people and goods would travel in this important and growing part of California. Today little is to be found of the line. After the Southern Pacific took it over it moved to standardize the line and bring it to SP standards. As a result the colorful little railroad faded into history.

Bruce MacGregor is a well-known author of four books on the railroads. He presently lives in Oregon.

The lecture will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Reception Hall at 14301 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. Tickets will only be sold at the door for \$15.00—cash or check. This is a fundraiser for the Saratoga History Museum.

*Written by Ray Cosyn, SHF US Historian*

## Hats off to History!! Annual BBQ and Silent Auction on October 14

The annual BBQ and silent auction or "hats off to history" is scheduled for October 14 from 4-7 PM at the historic Garrod Ranch.

Loosen your belt buckle and join us for Cooper-Garrod Estate wine tasting, BBQ dinner, silent auction, entertainment and more—all adding up for a great afternoon.

The dinner will include four BBQ meats: (spareribs, beef brisket, chicken, smoked sausage links), and meatless veggie-burgers for vegetarians; three side dishes of BBQ beans, potato salad, mixed green salad with ranch or Italian dressing; garlic bread; and peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream for dessert

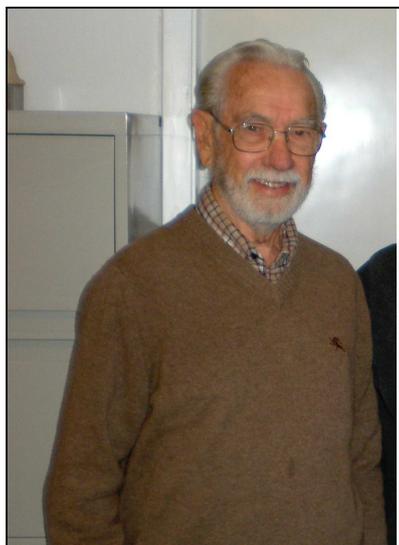
Silent auction highlights include a quilt, case of Kathryn Kennedy wine, tickets to the Planetarium, live plants and more! All funds support the Museum.

Call in your reservation: 408-255-1883 and bring a guest or two. Send check to SHF, PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071--\$40 for SHF members; \$50, nonmembers.

## Giving His All

Dick Angus is one of those unique people who always has time to volunteer—or at least it seems that way.

Dick is a docent for the Saratoga History Museum but he also helps in many other ways. Ask him if he can help with an event, he'll pull out his calendar and say, "Oh, yes. I can do that." He is presently on the silent auction committee, but he also helps with many of the other SHF events. And he's been



known to bring his daughter, Dorothy to help also.

SHF President Annette Stransky says, "Dick is great to work with because he is pleasant and dependable. I can always count on Dick to pitch in and do a wonderful job."

Friend Yvonne Mendy agrees and says, "Richard is someone who responds to a request and then adds something extra. He always goes the extra

mile—trying to make his response better than requested. And he always succeeds."

Says Angus about being a docent, "I enjoy being a docent at the museum because I can help visitors understand how interesting Saratoga is and the town's importance. This position also helps me learn more about Saratoga's history. Most questions asked by visitors revolve around how Saratoga started, how we got our name, Congress Springs and the orchards. My favorite time period of our history is from 1895 to 1940 which covers when I first knew of Saratoga. Our family used to drive through Saratoga on our way to Santa Cruz in the 1940s. I moved to Saratoga in 1966 and have experienced all the changes since."

Angus volunteers at the Saratoga Senior Center where he is

### 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

Annette Stransky, President  
Bob Himel, Vice President  
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary  
Jane Asher, Treasurer

#### Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please call 408-867-7468 or e-mail: [annette@saratogahistory.com](mailto:annette@saratogahistory.com)

#### Museum and Gift Shop

The Saratoga History Museum, McWilliams House and schoolhouse are open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Call 408-867-4311 to arrange group or docent-led tours.

Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>

on the board of directors; as mentioned helps the Saratoga Historical Foundation as a museum docent; active member of DeAnza Kiwanis Club; is president of the Menlo Park Historical Association; Saratoga Chamber of Commerce and the American Diabetes Association. There's most likely a few more groups but he is too modest to mention.

Vice Mayor Jill Hunter says, "I am so happy I met Dick four years ago at an SVDC (Saratoga Village Development Council) event. He has been an invaluable help to us ever since. He and his daughter Dorothy have successfully run the Pet Parade in the Saratoga Village for three years now. Whenever we need chairs or tents or balloons for an event Dick is there with a smile. He is a wonderful example of a retiree who has dedicated his days to helping others; his enthusiasm and love of Saratoga is always evident."

The 85-year young Angus says, "I volunteer and work with all of the organizations. Volunteering is a way of giving back to the community and it keeps me active. I think it is good for my health – both physical and mental. I would tell others that



they have an obligation to the community in which they live and to help in any way they can."

That belief extends to his family. Daughter Dorothy Angus says, "My Dad, Richard Angus, is a great role model for me and my siblings because he

has always been ready to lend a hand when needed, regardless of what it was. He has been very busy since his retirement 22 years ago. He joined the DeAnza Chapter of Kiwanis and has been president, Kiwanian of the Year, and received many other awards from them. He joined the Saratoga Senior Center and has served on that board for many years and has been a past president and is currently the liaison for them at the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce mixers and other functions. He is involved with the SVDC plus, he is also currently the president of the Menlo Park Historical Society. Menlo Park is where he grew up. And, as you all know, he is also a docent at our Saratoga History Museum. He always is ready to help a neighbor or his own family. His dedication to help others inspires me to do the same whenever I can."

### The Way it Used to Be

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has events for enjoying the many open space areas. Whether you enjoy plants, birds, or just seeing the outdoors—there is an activity just for you. "Santa Clara Valley: The Way it Used to Be" takes place November 2 from 10:00 to 3:00 PM. Take a step back in time to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the Garrod family owned, and then later Fremont and Cora Older owned and lived on a piece of this Preserve. Imagine pastures, vineyards, and orchard of apricots, plums and walnuts, and fields of hay where there is now mostly grassland. This is a moderately paced, 5.4 mile hike. For a full lineup of hikes, request the 2011-2012 annual report by calling 650-691-1200 or go up to the website: [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org).

## Save These Dates!

June 1	Exhibit: A Day in the Hills With Senator Phelan and His Home Villa Montalvo
Sept. 7	Lecture: Drilling a hole in the wall: narrow gauge rails to Santa Cruz by noted Train Historian Author Bruce MacGregor
Sept. 16	Celebrate Saratoga—A Village Block Party, Entertainment at the Museum 12-4 Big Basin Way 12-7 PM
Sept. 25	Brown Family at Hakone Gardens 1-4 PM
Sept. 29	Heritage Day, entertainment at the Museum from 12-4 PM and on Big Basin Way from 12-3 PM
Oct. 14	BBQ and silent auction fundraiser at Garrod Ranch in Saratoga

## Celebrate Saratoga—An Afternoon With Senator Phelan on September 16

“An Afternoon with Senator Phelan” will take place as part of the Chamber of Commerce’s Celebrate Saratoga on Sunday, September 16 from 12-4 PM at the museum. The free event will include classical music, a play, poetry reading by local Poet Laureates and a treasure hunt. Chamber events will line Big Basin Way and run from 12 to 7:00 PM.



The family of Senator Phelan and members of the Montalvo Arts organization have also been invited to attend the Museum event.

James Duval Phelan, a three-time mayor of San Francisco and US senator, dedicated his home, Villa Montalvo to the arts and since his death in 1930, Montalvo has been dedicated to that goal. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Villa Montalvo. Phelan was well-known for supporting artists with galas.

### 1:00 PM

The event will start at 1:00 PM with, “A Classical Quartet”, a group of string musicians who play both semi and classical music. This is a repeat performance for musicians Tommy Chiou, Casper Chen, Linus Lu, and Kevin Lian.

### 2:00 PM

A reader’s theatre performance at 2:00 PM will feature Jack Dunstan posing as a San Francisco Sun reporter in the 1930’s and who will interview Senator Phelan played by Brian Berg. Dunstan once interviewed actress Olivia deHavilland during one of her visits to Saratoga.

### 3:00 PM

At 3:00 PM Los Gatos Poet Laureate Parthenia M. Hicks will emcee the poetry reading as well as read several of her poems. Joining her in reading original poetry will be Sally Ashton the current Santa Clara County Poet Laureate; Dave Denny, the Poet Laureate of Cupertino; well-known author

and poet Erica Goss and Saratoga resident, poet and author Mary Lou Taylor.

The museum currently has an exhibit, “A Day in the Hills” featuring the life of Senator Phelan through memorabilia. The free exhibit will run through the end of October.

### 12-4:00 PM at the Museum

Children and adults can participate in a treasure hunt in the museum—seeking clues to a list of questions. Children can also participate in old fashioned games outside the Museum. Docents will be giving tours of the historic McWilliams House as well as the one-room schoolhouse during the event.

Parthenia M. Hicks is the Poet Laureate of Los Gatos, the recipient of the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Poetry Prize, the Arts Council Silicon Valley Fellowship for Short Story, the Villa Montalvo Poetry prize, and three Pushcart nominations. She is a freelance editor, the Poetry Editor of the Enlightenment Journal and she Teaches workshops privately.

Sally Ashton is the current Santa Clara County Poet Laureate and editor of DMQ Review. She is author of three poetry collections. Honors include a fellowship from Arts Council Silicon Valley and a residency at Montalvo Arts Center. She teaches at San Jose State University

David Denny is the Poet Laureate of Cupertino and a professor of English at DeAnza College. He is author of the chapbook Plebeian on the Front Porch. His poems and short stories have appeared in numerous literary journals.

Erica Goss won the 2011 Many Mountains Moving Poetry Contest. Her chapbook, Wild Place, was published in 2012 by Finishing Line Press.. She was nominated for a Pushcart in 2010 and is a contributing editor for Cerise Press and a columnist for Connotation Press.

Mary Lou Taylor is a long-time Saratoga resident, a poet, former teacher, and editor. She is the author of two books. Her poems have appeared in the anthologies, Cotton and Spirit, The Call, Red Wheelbarrow, and many small presses.

## Celebrate Saratoga!



A grape stomp, three stages of entertainment, Citizen of the Year and Business Person of the Year to be announced, gourmet food, fine wine, Kids Zone, Teen Scene and more are planned for

September 16 from 12 to 7 PM along Big Basin Way.

The street will be closed from Sixth Street to Blaney Plaza. But don’t despair! Park at West Valley College and use the free shuttle to get to the event.

Get in the fun and stroll Big Basin Way to enjoy the wide range of music from classic rock, Bossa Nova, blues, jazz and Hawaiian—over 23 bands to choose from. Dance exhibitions, martial arts, and more will also be strutting their stuff.

Drink fine wine from Kathryn Kennedy, Big Basin Vineyards, Cinnabar Winery, Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery, The House Family Winery, Savannah-Chanelle Winery, Martella Winery and Plumed Horse wine.

Sample a variety of food including Big Ed’s Buzzard BBQ, Treatbot ice cream, PolkaDotz cupcakes, Hawaiian Poke Bowl, Quick Dog Catering, Viva Asian chicken salad, Pizza My Heart, Mynt Indian Restaurant, and Thai Stick BBQ.

And don’t forget to see the grape stomp from 1-4 PM!!!!

## On the Track of Old Railroad Names

By Willys Peck

Originally printed in the Mercury News, July 15, 1981

Among the small pleasures of having one's own railroad is the privilege of reviving place names that somehow have slipped through the cracks of history.

But for the Dangerous Instrumentality & Attractive Nuisance RR ("the road Time and Amtrak forgot"), I venture to say that Congress Junction and Call of the Wild would be as dead letters locally as Guberville or Sorosis.

The DI&AN, runs around my yard on 2-foot-gauge rails that once saw useful service in a couple of the valley's dry yards. The motive power, also previously described, is Engine 44.

Although it's what I'd call a rather good copy of the Central Pacific's venerable, wood-burning CP Huntington, No. 44 owes its seven horsepower to the internal-combustion talents of Messrs. Briggs and Stratton.

Building this layout has occupied my spare and not-so-spare time for the past 28 years. By the time I had gotten

No. 44 to perform with a reasonable degree of reliability and spend most of its time on the track, it seemed appropriate to apply a few place names along the 435-foot right of way.

The first was Congress Junction, a designation that disappeared in 1959 when the Paul Masson winery people got the Southern Pacific railroad to change the name of the passenger stop at Saratoga Avenue to Champagne Fountain. It was hardly more than two years later that the SP quit running its commuter train on the Vasona branch line to Los Gatos. I'd like to think there was a causal connection.

For Congress Junction bespoke Saratoga's origins, or at least the derivation of its name. "Saratoga" was chosen by the citizens back in the 1860s because the mineral content of water issuing from a cleft in the canyon a couple of miles beyond the town matched that of one of the largest of New York's Saratoga Springs. Pacific Congress Springs, with its luxurious Congress Hall, once flourished here as a resort.

The "junction" was derived from the crossing of Peninsular Railway interurban tracks along Saratoga Avenue by the Southern Pacific Vasona branch line, completed in 1908. The

streetcar tracks were removed in 1933, leaving the SP tracks running through a junctionless junction, which still had a good name and not one to be changed for light and transient reasons.

Then there was Call of the Wild, a stop on the SP line which, until mid-1940, ran from Los Gatos through the mountains to Santa Cruz. The name was in commemoration of Jack London's adventure classic published in 1903 and thereby hangs a tale, that of one Harry Ryan. It was said of Ryan, a tough and colorful labor leader of the old school who died at 82, that he wore his friendship with London "perpetually, like a badge."

Ryan used to boast of how he and London had been thrown into jail together in San Jose for their labor-agitating activity, a claim of no mean dimensions. In its latter years the old county jail, torn down in 1958, the year Ryan died, would have ranked with the Paris Bastille in terms of enlightened penology. At any rate, Ryan maintained that London wrote most of "Call of the Wild" in Santa Clara County, and he was going to see to it that fact was remembered. Ryan accomplished this by giving the

name, with London's permission to 160 acres of mountain land in the Los Gatos Canyon. He sold off lots for summer homes and persuaded the SP to include his little rustic passenger shelter as a flag stop, with the name listed

on timetables. Ryan also operated a sawmill, and for years the "Call of the Wild Sawmill" sign was a familiar sight on the Old Santa Cruz Highway below Holy City.

The name resulted in certain unintended humor, as when a newspaper headline referring to a "Call of the Wild easement" appeared on a story about litigation over the property. Some city room wag attached the headline to a sketch of a fanciful beast, with the explanation that it was the "wild easement, whose call is heard in the canyons of the Santa Cruz mountains," and posted it on the bulletin board. A sawmill probably could call just as wildly as an easement.

But, what, you may ask, of those other vanished names, Guberville and Sorosis? They both were on Saratoga Avenue, and both were listed on schedules of the Peninsular Railway. Guberville, the first mail stop on the stage line between San Jose and Saratoga, was about 3 1/2 miles from the latter town. It had its own post office in the 1880s and '90s, and if you happen to have a letter with a Guberville postmark, cherish it.

Sorosis was the big Sorosis fruit ranch between Cox Avenue and Quito Road, which at one time was owned by Frank M. "Borax" Smith of Death Valley renown. With a few yards more track, I may be able to add these as stops some day. Old names never die, they just wind up on the DI&AN.



## All Aboard! Happy Birthday, Willys!!!!



Town Historian Willys Peck recently celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday with over 100 friends, family and former co-workers. Under the auspice of an annual retirement party-- one held religiously each year and with tongue-in-cheek humor-- friends gathered in the "Theatre on the Ground" for the festivities. Under a canopy of trees, good music and tributes were given to Willys. In his honor the Dangerous Instrumentality & Attractive Nuisance RR (DI&AN) transported friends around the grounds of his and Betty's home to the delight of young and old. And the on-site print shop was in operation for guests to see how type was set in the days before the Internet. Thanks for sharing your toys, Willys!!

### News from the Heritage Preservation Commission Starting a Heritage Tree Inventory

Joyce Kilmer, author of the familiar poem entitled "Trees," was not the only one enamored of these glorious specimens. As significant natural wonders, Saratoga's most distinctive trees deserve to be admired and enjoyed. To that end the City Council with assistance from the HPC (Heritage Preservation Commission) has created a program for heritage trees. Nomination and ultimate Council approval to this list is honorary only and does not impact existing tree codes.

According to City Arborist, Kate Bear, "The City of Saratoga has many majestic, old trees of a variety of species. These trees provide beauty and stateliness to the city, along with all of the usual benefits provided by trees. The City does not, however, have any designated heritage trees at this time. Several applications are in process, and it would be wonderful to add to these and create a list of beautiful old trees that can be honored as heritage specimens. The Heritage Tree Society of Saratoga has a website with photos including many trees that would be excellent heritage specimens. Residents are encouraged to apply for heritage status on their beautiful, large trees if they meet the criteria listed below."

The HPC is on a mission to nominate outstanding trees for this recognition. Some helpful information is listed below if you have one on your property or know of a tree.

### Heritage Tree Inventory Criteria

- 1) Specimen is outstanding, healthy with good structure, shows "potential for long life"
- 2) Distinct because of age, size, species, location
- 3) Historically important and/or relative to: agriculture, social, cultural, aesthetic, educational, or economic aspects of the community.

**To nominate your tree for potential Heritage Tree Inventory, please apply:**

- 1) Fill out an application form available on the City of Saratoga website [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us): go to the home page and select City Hall; select Commissions and Committees; select Heritage Preservation Commission; select the Heritage Tree Application form to print.
- 2) Include your address, tree location, common and botanical name, reasons
- 3) Attach a photo if you can
- 4) Submit to the city
- 5) Questions? Contact Kate Bear, City Arborist at 408-868-1276 or Chris Riordan, HPC Liaison at 408-868-1235.

### The Application Process

Once the application is completed and sent, it will then be reviewed by the HPC. Once approved, the application is sent to the arborist for approval with a recommendation to be on the Heritage Tree list. Once approved by the arborist, it is then submitted to the city council, for final approval for including on the Heritage Tree Inventory.

### Where Can You See the Existing List of Heritage Trees

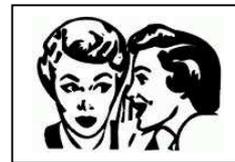
According to Bear, "There are currently no heritage trees in the City—this is why there has been a push to go forward with the process on old and stately specimen trees and to create a list."



I encourage you to join the efforts of the City Council and the HPC in providing a lasting tribute to these beautiful, living gifts of nature that inspire us to poetry and praise.

*Written by Alexandra Nugent, SHF liaison and HPC Commissioner*

### Pssst Have You Heard About the SHF BBQ?



"Hats Off to History," the theme for the annual BBQ will be held at the Garrod Ranch on October 14 from 4 PM-7 PM. This is in case, you missed the earlier article on the cover.

Dust off your hat and join in on the fun. Held at the beautiful Garrod ranch high in the hills the ranch provides a commanding view of the area.

This year's silent auction has many unique items— tickets to ride the rails of the Skunk Train, wine from The House Family winery, vintage jewelry, restaurant gift cards, and more. All funds support the Museum.

Skillet Lickers, Andy's BBQ, tasty Cooper-Garrod estate wine—bring extra napkins (for the BBQ)—provide great fun!

Call 408-255-1883 to make a reservation or send a check today to SHF, PO Box 172, Saratoga, CA 95071.

Tickets: \$40 for SHF members, \$50 for nonmembers.

# The Next Generation of Stars

Saratoga doesn't have a Grumman Theatre with stars on the sidewalk—but the local high schools have certainly produced some notable alumni.

## From Saratoga High School

**Steven Spielberg**, Academy Award winner for Best Director for Schindler's List, Saving Private Ryan, Jaws, ET the Extra-Terrestrial and Jurassic Park.

**Julie Hicks-Herman Craig**, author of The Festival Hoppers, series of six books.

**Zach Gill**, musician, member of the rock band ALO, six albums to his name. Appeared on Saturday Night Live, Late show David Letterman, Tonight Show with David Letterman and performed in the 2008 Presidential inauguration ball.



**Lance Guest**, best known for his role in The Last Starfighter movie; also starred in Jaws: The Revenge, Halloween II, Ought to be in Pictures. Appeared in television series such as Lou Grant, Knots Landing as well as many guest appearances. Starred on Broadway as Johnny Cash in the Million Dollar Quartet.

**Ed Solomon**, actor, director, writer and producer involved in over 13 films including Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, Men in Black, Super Mario Bros. and Charlie's Angels.

**Mark Kvamme**, venture capitalist in Silicon Valley. Was a founding member for Apple France.

**Robert Hicks**, Major League Baseball player

**William Joseph Haselman**, Major League Baseball catcher, played for 13 years for Texas Rangers, Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox and Detroit Tigers.

**Lee Hancock**, Major League Baseball player for the Pittsburgh Pirates

**Mark Arnold**, has written numerous books about comic books and animation: The Best of The Harveyville Fun Times, Created and Produced by Total Television productions: The Story of Underdog, Tennessee Tuxedo and the Rest. If You're Cracked, You're Happy: The History of Cracked Magazine, and Mark Arnold Picks On The Beatles.

**Carrie Steinseifer**, gold medal in swimming at the 1984 Olympics.

**Stephanie Elam**, CNN business news correspondent for HLN and CNN International.

**Arturo G. Fallico**, Special Educator, Author

**Vienna Teng**, popular singer and songwriter. Born Cynthia Yih Shih, she has made two records: Waking Hour and Warm Strangers. Appeared on the Wayne Brady Show and Late Show David Letterman.

**Frank Bruno**, Los Angeles based realtor and TV personality. Featured on Bravo's Million Dollar Listing, VH1's Really Rich Real Estate, NBC's Open House LA, HGTV, and a correspondent for the CBS Evening News.

**Patricia Miranda**- bronze medalist in wrestling in the summer 2004 Olympics.

**Beth Lisick**, spoken word artist and author of several books including Helping Me Help Myself.

**David Warshofsky**, actor known for There Will Be Blood, Public Enemies, Taken and other films.

## From Prospect High School

**Gordy Carbone**, lead singer of the punk rock band, The Forgotten and Lars Frederiksen band and has appeared on The Food Network grilling with Bobby Flay

**Steve Harwell**, lead singer of the band Smash Mouth

**Brett Bonvechio**, San Antonio Missions baseball player

**Jeff Jordan**, San Diego lifeguard and was one of 5 lifeguards to recreate an historic 12-day dory voyage that roughly retraced the route taken in 1934 by two pioneer watermen.

**Jon Nakamatsu**, concert pianist

**Jon Liggett**, comic actor/producer currently working on Stanley Kubrick thriller, Lunatic At Large, Princess Diaries 2, The Office, Close to Home.

## From Lynbrook High School

**Greg Camp**, lead guitarist and songwriter for the band Smash Mouth.

**Chris Cavanaugh**, gold medal swimmer in the freestyle relay at the 1984 summer Olympics.

**Vinay Bhat**, Grandmaster of chess.

## What's in a Name

**Vasona**, presently a 152-acre County Park, was named for a pony owned by the farmer who lived near here in the 1890's.

**Willow Glen**, an area that was always called "The Willows" by early settlers because when discovered by pioneers, it was a forest of impenetrable, giant willows and wild blackberries. The only passage ways were trails made by wild cattle. Once cleared, it exposed the richest soil in The Valley, producing the finest fruits, berries and vegetables.

**Mayfield**- Now part of Palo Alto. It started in 1853 with a road house and a saloon. The town was established in 1867, with the coming of the railroad. Many of us remember when a big shopping trip was a trip to The Mayfield Mall, now a Hewlett-Packard facility.

## Volunteer Dinner

The annual volunteer appreciation dinner was held last month on the Museum patio. Museum docents, education docents and more were treated to a catered dinner from Vienna Woods while listening to the gentle sounds of Dave Field. Thank you!



## Mary Brown and Her Daughters Documentary Project, Part 3 September 25



A free seminar on the Saratoga history of the descendants of Mary Brown, widow of Abolitionist John Brown is scheduled for September 25, 2012 at Hakone Gardens (21000 Big Basin Way in Saratoga) from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

The event, produced by historian Jean Libby, focuses on daughter Sarah Brown, who was an orchardist living in Saratoga from late 1881 until her death in 1916. Sarah

was an artist, a suffragist, and taught Japanese orchard workers the English language by first learning Japanese.

Jean Libby, SHF member and local historian, organized the event as part of the Mary Brown and Her Daughters Documentary Project. This is the third in a series on the Brown family members who are buried at the Madronia Cemetery. The book by Damon G. Nalty, *The Browns of Madronia; Family of Abolitionist John Brown Buried in Madronia Cemetery Saratoga, California* (SHF, 1994) is the key resource for local research. There are four Saratoga properties associated with the Brown family. The Civic Center of the City of Saratoga is built on the land owned by Ellen Brown Fablinger and her husband James, who later moved to Campbell. In the world of historical coincidence, the site of the Fablinger home where they moved in 1905 is now the Civic Center of the City of Campbell.

### Panel from 1:00-2:00 PM

The first panel, from 1 to 2:00 PM, focuses on the Saratoga properties of residence by Brown family members beginning in 1881. The Mary Brown cabin on Stuart Ridge, now part of the Santa Clara County Sanborn Park is of particular interest to SHF members. Dr. Rebecca Allen, Director of Cultural Resources in Northern California for the Environmental Science Associates, made a preliminary examination of the site in early 2012. She will make recommendations about further archaeological examination.

The bridge between the two panels of the afternoon is the story of Sarah Brown and Lucy Higgins, wife of the developer of the valley Rufus Higgins, who sold the mountain property to the Brown family. Many remember Lucy's descendant Lori Deal, who queried History Detectives about a letter from John Brown to his wife Mary in Ohio in 1854 which was found among Lucy Higgins possessions. The television studio (Lion TV) filmed much of the program at the Saratoga History Museum in 2003. Students of Jean Libby at De Anza College re-enacted "The Language Lesson" in which Sarah Brown (played by Lori Deal) learns Japanese in order to teach orchard workers English. The short video was taped at the Cooper-Garrod Winery and includes footage of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper.

### Panel from 2:30-4:00

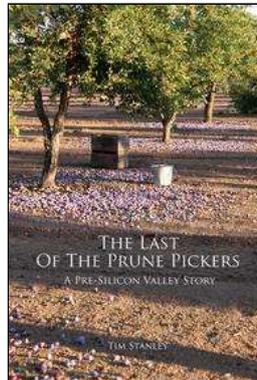
The second panel of the afternoon (beginning about 2:30 PM) has Dr. Rebecca Allen, who has studied and published on the excavation of Heinleinville in San Jose as well as the Indians of the Guadalupe River Conservancy, speaking on "Japanese American Contributions to California Agriculture." Tom Izu, director of the California History Center at De Anza College will provide a short bibliography about Japanese Americans for the time period (late 19th, early 20th century) in Santa Clara County. He'll also talk about the resources of the California History Center.

The afternoon seminar is moderated by Randy Okamura, well-known communication resource specialist and longtime community college board member. Artists and activists in contemporary Japantown in San Jose are invited to describe their current projects on the local history of the Japanese Americans in Santa Clara County. Participants will have an enjoyable demonstration of learning to read and write Japanese provided by a member of Manga University based in Tokyo and northern California.

The seminar is free and open to the public. The seminar will be held at the Zen House at Hakone Gardens. Lon Saavedra, executive director, is thanked for donating the room for the event.

## Written by Jean Libby, John Brown historian and member of SHF

### Heritage Day—September 29 Free Lecture by Tim Stanley, Free film of the 1920's of the Valley of Heart's Delight



Those wild and wacky historic figures are taking to the streets again, costumed and armed with historic knowledge—all part of Heritage Day.

Sponsored by SVDC, over 40 people will be participating and stationed along Big Basin Way on September 29 from 12-3 PM. The event will kick off at noon in Blaney Plaza as Vice Mayor Jill Hunter introduces the historic figures.

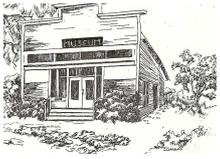
The Saratoga History Museum will be featuring docent-led walking

tours, old fashioned children's games, docent-led tours of the historic McWilliams House and one-room schoolhouse and historic characters. The Museum will be open from 12-4 PM.

A highlight of the day will be Tim Stanley, author of the *Last of the Prune Pickers*, who will give an entertaining lecture on the history of the area and provide "the truth about picking prunes" at 1:00 PM at the IOOF hall at 14414 Oak Street in Saratoga.

At 2:00 PM John Kimball will show a fun 15 minute film produced in 1920 by the San Jose Chamber of Commerce covering the Valley of Heart's Delight. Highway 17 was two-lane and Steven's Creek was a rough dirt road. Those were the good old days!

Join us for an entertaining afternoon!



**Saratoga Historical Foundation**  
**PO Box 172**  
**Saratoga, CA 95071**

Be sure to visit:

[www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com)

1883 for a reservation or send in your check to SHF, PO Box 172 in Saratoga, CA 95071.

Tickets: SHF Members, \$40 and nonmembers, \$50.

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### Did You Know?

DeAnza College is a 112 acre community college located in Cupertino, California. It was founded in 1967 on the site of the Beaulieu Winery and is named after the Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza.



### What Are You Doing on October 14?

It's not too late to make a reservation to attend the annual SHF BBQ and silent auction fund-raiser. Yes, this is message #3 in the newsletter.

You'll find the ghosts of yesteryear in the beautiful hills around the Garrod Ranch, good food, tasty wine, and wonderful silent auction items.

Paul Conrado wine, books on local history, tickets to ride the Niles train, vintage Depression glass, garden items, and an abundance of gift cards from your favorite stores to bid on. Proceeds go to the Museum. So don't delay—call 408-255-

### Finding Your Roots at the Museum

Dr. Robert Hogg was one of Saratoga's first doctors. He settled here in the early 1850's. His daughter Melita (Hogg) Oden went on to become Saratoga's first Museum Director where she served for many years. Her great grandson Robert Abshire brought his wife and grand daughters from Connecticut recently to see the Museum where Melita spent so much time. They were delighted to see Hogg family items in the displays and the many changes in the Museum, to visit the historic McWilliams House and to see the new one-room schoolhouse.

