Petaluma Museum Association

Preserving the Unique History of Petaluma and Providing Educational and Cultural Services to the Community

Quarterly Newsletter



'Tis the Season

Look inside for our upcoming events

Fall/Winter 2018

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 4

On the Cover

by Terry Park

HERE ARE MANY Christmas traditions which have evolved over time and one of the children's favorite is the arrival of Santa Claus in their town. The arrival can be grand such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade which has been a New York city tradition since 1924 and featuring large balloons of children's favorite characters.

Americo F Tomasini, the owner of Tomasini Hardware, who opened his hardware store in 1906 at 111 Kentucky Street (today Alchemia Gallery, next to the Carither's building) often sponsored a parade float. The 1935 photo taken at Walnut Park shows John Broxmeyer, an employee, dressed as Santa Claus. Apparently Americo couldn't procure any reindeer so he improvised with mounting antlers on each donkey.

The tradition was continued by his son George who took over the business when Americo passed away in 1940 at the age of 60. George made everyone forget about reindeer in 1948 when he rented a helicopter and landed in McNear Park much to the delight of children and parents. Santa then proceeded to Tomasini Toyland, which was upstairs.

Regretfully the Tomasini Hardware Christmas tradition ended in 1962 when George closed the front door at 140 Keller St (later Tuttle Drug Store and today Keller St Co Work) for the last time.

It was Americo's novel idea to have Santa Claus arrive in town on his sleigh, pulled by reindeer. This tradition continues today with Santa's River Boat Arrival on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving.



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The Petaluma Museum Association
Newsletter is published quarterly and
distributed to our members. Many
thanks to all our contributors and to our
proofreaders and volunteers
who help with our mailings.

If you would like to contribute any news or item of interest to our newsletter you can email to

mary@petalumamuseum.com Deadline for submission is Jan 1, 2018

Petaluma Museum Association 20 Fourth St. Petaluma, CA 94952



President's Message

THE MUSEUM CONTINUED to receive raves and crowds for the "I Do" exhibit throughout the summer. The public response was amazing and as a Museum we couldn't be more proud. We were honored to share the exhibit with journalists from off The Beaten Path/Sonoma County media Tour. The group spent time talking with curator Solange Russek and photographing our beautiful exhibit.

We had a lovely afternoon in the Garden Court at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in August. We are so fortunate (and thankful!) to have so many wonderful, dedicated volunteers who care about and invest their time in our Museum. Thank you to all who helped to make it an enjoyable day.

On the final day of the "I Do" exhibit we were rearranging for the next day. A real wedding took place at the Museum amongst the exhibit, where Ralph Scott and Kendra Murray actually tied the knot in a Petaluma Radio Players performance on Sept.16th. Also in September we hosted Leadership Petaluma's "History Day" class. Thanks to all the presenters for making it an entertaining and informative day.

We hit the ground running in October, beginning with Rum Pairing Fundraiser on the 4th. A big thank you to Preferred Sonoma Caterers and Wilibee's Wine & Spirits for making these fundraisers possible. On Oct. 6th we held the much anticipated "PHL&M: A Story of Civic Progress & Pride" opening reception & dedication. This exhibit is the creation of award-winning curator, Paula Freund and is dedicated to Lucy Kortum, our own California Carnegie specialist. It was a special day. I encourage you to visit this wonderful exhibit about your Museum and its history. Paula is graciously offering to curate gallery tours on most Sundays at 2 p.m. through December 9th.

On Oct. 8th we shortened our board meeting in order to attend the co-sponsored event at the Petaluma Woman's Club, "In Conversation with Petaluma's Female Candidates" moderated by Lynn Woolsey. At the Volunteer Meeting on Oct.

10th we were treated to a tour of the exhibit by Paula Freund, learning details which we might have missed on our own!

The Museum had an especially busy weekend October 20-21 as we held three well attended events. Saturday morning was our Annual Cemetery Tour at Cypress Hill with the Petalumans of Yesteryear. It was so well received they added a second tour to accommodate all the attendees! Later that day historian Jeff Elliot gave a fascinating presentation on "The Making of Young Brainerd Jones" at the Museum. The next day, Terry Park gave an equally fascinating presentation on "The History of Petaluma Gas Stations." In honor of Dia de Los Muertos, Teresa Froschl installed our Annual Children's Community Altar, which is on display on the floor level.

The Fundraising Committee made the hard decision to postpone our Nov. 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala (stay tuned for a spring date), but we have many other informative and entertaining presentations and events scheduled through the end of the year. Please check out our Calendar of Events & Exhibits on pages 13 & 14 or visit our website for additional details. The Public Service Committee is busy working on our 2019 schedule of events and exhibits as well.

While visiting the Museum, we remind you to browse our gift shop area for unique local finds. And a friendly reminder that a PMA membership makes a thoughtful gift for any local history buff!

Thank you to all our members for their support throughout the year. And thanks to all our volunteers, docents, staff and board, who help us to continually offer so much to our community.

Kathy Barron-Fries kathy@petalumamuseum.com

Executive Director's Corner

A RENAISSANCE AT THE PHL&M



Angela Ryan

I was asked by Paula Freund, curator of the current exhibit "The Petaluma Historical Library, A Story of Civic Progress & Pride" to provide a statement on the current "renaissance" at the Museum. Her exhibit reflects on the history of the Carnegie Library and its journey to

becoming the PHL&M. She wanted a summary of the recent accomplishments, including the hiring of an Executive Director (that's me!) and a Collections Manager; the acquisition of stunning new artifacts like the oil painting of George P. McNear; the dedication of the plaque to the Museum Oak; and many more.

She also requested that the statement looked to the future, laying out our vision for the next series of achievements and accomplishments. One of my main roles as ED of the PMA is to constantly be looking to the future and, along with the Board of Directors, envisioning what we'll be doing 3, 5, 10, 40 years from now. Below is a condensed version of the statement I provided (find

the unabridged statement in the exhibit, on display through December 23).

For forty years, the Petaluma Museum Association has existed to preserve the unique history of Petaluma and provide educational and cultural services to the community. Remarkably, for much of that time, the PMA was an all-volunteer run organization. Today, thanks to the cooperation with the City of Petaluma and the foresight and dedication of the PMA Board of Directors, the museum is staffed by professional employees, including a full-time Executive Director and part-time Collections Manager.

With the wind at it's back, the Petaluma Museum Association enters its forty-first year with renewed focus on being the caretakers of Petaluma's past, eager to make the museum even more of a pillar and a hub of the local community. The PMA Board and Staff are dedicated to ensuring that The Petaluma Historical Library & Museum remains the repository of our shared past, and that it continues to be the site of opportunities for all people to experience, celebrate and explore that past, to make connections in the present and build bridges together to the future.



A Message from Heritage Homes

HIS YEAR MARKS the fiftieth anniversary of Heritage Homes and Landmarks. Established in 1968 to help preserve the heritage of the Petaluma area through the promotion and encouragement of the preservation and restoration of vintage buildings of historical, architectural or cultural significance.



One such means is through tours of our homes with beautiful architecture. And after an extended absence, we are looking for 3-4 homes to be on

this year's Holiday Lighted Parlor Tour! This tour is a beloved holiday tradition for many, and we need homes and volunteers to put this tour together.

If you'd like to have your home on this holiday tour, please contact us at heritagepetaluma@gmail.com. The Holiday Lighted Parlor Tour

generally includes only a few rooms of a house, the front rooms or the parlor, and holiday decorations are an important part of the tour.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

On Sept. 16 young poets read their work at the museum

For the third year, the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum has hosted student readers during the Petaluma Poetry Walk. This year's young poets read work in both Spanish and English. Phyllis Meshulam, emcee for the evening, also read from her full-length poetry book, Land of My Father's War. Phyllis Meshulam and Jackie Huss Hallerberg (not pictured here) represent these students' teachers from California Poets in the Schools (CalPoets), a statewide organization that has helped students express their creativity, imagination, and curiosity through poetry since 1964. Visit their website: http://www.californiapoets.org/

Special thanks to John Johnson, host for this special reading, who was the original inspiration to have students read as part of the Petaluma Poetry Walk.

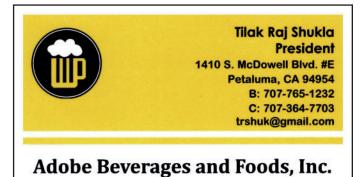
(Continued on page 9)



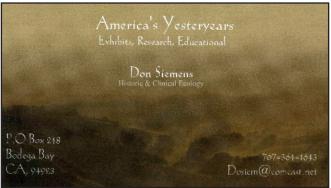


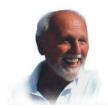


I to r Daniela Lopez Arreguin, Brooks Elementary School Cristina Avelar, Maria Carrillo High School Kenna Cohan Arteaga, Twin Hills Middle School Arisbet Camacho, Comstock Middle School Phyllis Meshulam, Sonoma County Poet-Teacher and Coordinator of the County Poetry Out Loud Competition









Petaluma History & Commentary by Skip Sommer, Historian

THE DEVASTATING STORMS OF 1861-62

THE TRAGIC CALIFORNIA fires of these last 12 months are undoubtedly some of the worst natural disasters we've ever witnessed here. There is no question in this columnist's mind, that the world's debate on "climate change" shouldn't just be a "debate" anymore, it's here. We must accept that, to attempt to ameliorate it.

However, in California, natdisasters occurred ural long before statehood and were often water-related The worst winter too. storms in our state's history occurred 157 years ago, and the unprecedented floods of that winter were described by the Petaluma Argus as "devastating and ruinous," and the editor warned that it was, at that time, "impossible to approximate the number of lives lost."

To putting that winter into national perspective: the American Civil War had just begun, Abraham Lincoln had been President for only a few months, Califor-

nia had been a state for eleven years, Petaluma had been franchised as a city for only three years and the California state legislators of 1861-2 had been forced to convene in San Francisco, because Sacramento had been virtually washed off the map. What was left of our entire state capitol could only be reached by rowboat in winter of 1862.

The seemingly endless torrential rains had melted all of the Sierra snows and both the American and Sacramento Rivers had overrun their banks, collapsing



Sacramento under water circa 1862

many levees. By January 1 of 1862, the water level in those rivers was 22 feet above the highest mark ever recorded! Our Petaluma Argus reported early on that "Sunday, December 8th ('61), was "a night of terror in

Sacramento." Little did they know, it was only the beginning.

By January 12, the rains had driven thousands of California families from their homes, and here in Petaluma, many roads were deemed totally impassible. The San Francisco Call Newspaper, on January 12th, stated

that Oregon, Washington and California alike had "been wrecked," and that "Sacramento has been drowned out of existence." California Governor. Leland Stanford, had to be rowed from his offices, and the work on the river levees was halted in frustration, as they had just collapsed again, after repair.

One quarter of California's economy had been destroyed in those storms. Thousands of cattle, sheep, hogs, horses and mules had been

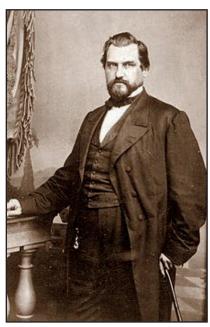
killed. Many more, humanely released from their paddocks and barns in an attempt to save them, were never seen again. The earth was soaked, farms were destroyed and buildings washed away. It was pandemonium.

Note this incredible statistic: Between November 9, 1861 and January 14, 1862, (just 35 days), 72 inches of rain had fallen in the San Francisco Bay Area! To put that into current perspective, that was nearly **three** times the amount of rainfall from recent Hurricane Florence, in the East Coast Carolinas. About 80,000 people lived in Marin and Sonoma Counties then, and most had been farming the land. The Sonoma County Register stated;

"The town of Sonoma is submerged and Santa Rosa is inundated in the most extraordinary flood ever known".

Meanwhile, Washington, in had President Lincoln addressed his new Congress, asking the (paraphrased) Civil War question: "Can a democracy, a government of the people, by the same people, maintain its territorial integrity against its domestic foes?" Fort own Sumpter had just fallen and the President then stated that, "with deepest regret," he was forced to call out the war power to fight against these destructive forces. It was to be a long bloody war affecting all, including those on the West Coast.

Sonoma County was then considering the local effects of the Civil War, as well as the immediate impact of our floods. Petaluma undertaker O.H. Lovett was advertising "a full line of coffins and grave clothes" for local consumption. It was a timely offer, as it was estimated that there would be well over 500 deaths from the storms, just within the Bay Area. Our Argus Editor opined: "Our city has been visited by the most terrible flooding and our farming will suffer materially. It may be utterly impossible to plant the spring crops." (It wasn't).



Governor Leland Standford

California's population about 500,000 at the start of 1862. But, with Orange County then a lake, and Sacramento County, flooded for miles in all directions, no one could tally the death toll that early. Twenty-five percent of all buildings in the state had been flooded and ruined. And, get this: Even the Mojave Desert and the Los Angeles basin had become lakes. The Golden State of California had been submerged into great human tragedy, as well as bankruptcy.

But, even in those desperate hours, Petalumans were rallying to help-out Sacramento.

The Argus said that

"citizens were gathering provisions to be sent, including food and articles of apparel, both mentionable and unmentionable." (?) They would be delivered via the "staunch & favorite Steamer, Kate Hayes" from Haystack Landing, (two-and one-half miles below Petaluma), to the swollen Sacramento River.

Could this flood tragedy happen here again? Well, the 1861-1862 disaster has been labeled by the experts as "The 500 Year Storm," so (maybe) we've got another 344-some years to go. But keep alert: weather gurus now say that the expected tendegree rise in ocean temperature on the West Coast may cause East-Coast-type hurricanes to develop here. Plus, what if global warming melts the snow pack in the Sierras again? Two more things to worry about, folks. (Sorry about that).

HISTORICAL NEWS OF PETALUMA

by Solange Russek & Michael Slade

We would like to acknowledge the California Digital Newspaper (CDN) Program of UC Riverside, the source of all of the items that are going to be presented in this column. The CDN Collection is a project of the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR) at the University of California, Riverside. The CDN Collection is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Sonoma Democrat May 15, 1886

Electric Lights for Petaluma.

According to the Imprint, the electric company of Petaluma is making extensive arrangments for their exhibition of lights, and will probably be ready for operation as soon as the nights become dark. As near as can be learned the lights will be located as follows: Corner of Main and Washington, corner of Prospect and Liberty, corner of Western avenue and Liberty, corner of Western avenue and Liberty, corner of Keller and D, center of D street plaza, corner of B and Third, and corner of D and Sixth

Petaluma's early street lighting seems to have been a rather patchy affair.

Press Democrat Feb 18, 1899

Lighting Plant Changes Hands

A deal has been closed between the Petaluma Electric Light company, controlled by members of the Burdell family, and the Petaluma Gas Light company, for the purchase by the former of the latter's plant, franchise and property. Mr. Mills, present engineer at the gas works, will be retained, and Superintendent Ortman will take charge of both plants. The old coal gas system will be renewed, and a first rate service rendered to customers, says the Argus

An early example of merger and acquisition with the perennial promise of superior service.

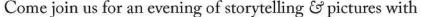
Sonoma Democrat November 14, 1885

Music by Telephone.

Last Saturday night, while the amateur band was playing in the street, the connections in the telephone office happened to be open, when the man at the telephone in Petaluma heard the music clear and distinctly, being able to tell the tune they were playing,

19th Century live streaming

THE PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM presents Wednesday Dialogues at the Museum

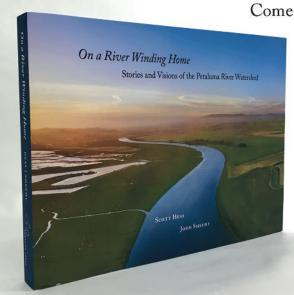


JOHN SHEEHY & SCOTT HESS authors of the newly released book

On a River Winding Home

Wednesday November 28th at 7 PM

Petaluma Historical Library & Museum 20 Fourth Street (at B Street) PetalumaMuseum.com 707-778-4398 Register for free at Eventbrite



"This is a truly wonderful book, in the poetry of the writing, the meticulous research, the knowledgeable commentary, and the vivid photography."

-ADAIR LARA, author of *History of Petaluma: A California River Town*

"Story-telling at its best, with delicious images of the special place that can only be Petaluma."

— LYNDI BROWN, Sonoma County Gazette

"Sheehy and Hess bring the Petaluma River Watershed to life with fascinating stories and stunning photos. The native people, the settlers, the landscape and the city itself are chronicled in rich detail. This book is a must-read for anyone who lives in the North Bay."

— CHRIS SAMSON, Petaluma Argus-Courier editor 1984-2012

"The stories and the portraits of the fascinating people who came to live here and make the land their own, are the best I have read... anywhere. Bravo!"

— SKIP SOMMER, Petaluma Argus-Courier

"This is a fine, handsome book, telling many of the best stories of old Petaluma."

— LEE TORLIATT, The Sonoma Historian

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

Rum & Pirates

On Oct. 4 we had another wonderful multi-course dinner prepared by Preferred Sonoma Caterers and paired with select rums from Willibees Wines & Spirits. There were several guests in Pirate attire and the word is out that all had a spirited time.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this fundraiser a success!



Exhibit opening draws a large crowd

The Petaluma Historical Library & Museum:
A Story of Civic Progress & Pride opened with a reception on Oct. 6.

Paula Freund, curator, has succeeded in presenting to the public a comprehensive history of the Petaluma Carnegie Library using a variety of communicative media including photos, text and audiovisual components. Visitors are taken on a journey from the earliest beginnings of libraries in Petaluma, the road to getting a Carnegie library built in the community and ending with its present use as a historical library and museum. Architectural artifacts and blueprints are also displayed and are key components in understanding the beautiful design of the building.









Lucy Kortum honored at opening reception

at the opening of the "Petaluma Historical Library & Museum, A Story of Civic Progress & Pride" for her role in preserving not only the PHL&M but many additional California Carnegie libraries.

The celebration started with a toast to Lucy by Andrew Carnegie (aka Leif Ortegren, POY) This was followed by a city proclamation read by Mayor David Glass. Paul Heavenridge, Library Commissioner of the City of Petaluma presented Lucy with a framed Proclamation of Appreciation from California State Librarian, Greg Lucas.

Paula Freund gave a heartfelt thank you to Lucy for imparting her vast knowledge of the Carnegie libraries.

Kathy Fries, PMA President, presented to Lucy a token of the museum's appreciation, a beautifully bound three volume set of her masters thesis, "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921"







The exhibit will be on view until December 23, 2018



Susan Coolidge as Clara McNear Jerry Pozo as JA McNear

Petalumans of Yesteryear Bring History to Life at our Annual Cypress Hill Cemetery Tour

On October 20th attendees of this year's Annual Cemetery Tour were entertained and enlightened as they visited the resting places of Petaluma's prominent early citizens. These historical figures portrayed by the Petalumans of Yesteryear dressed in period garb came to life to share their stories.

The following information was written by Bill Hammerman:

The crown of the McNear legacy is Cypress Hill Cemetery. That legacy directly relates to Clara and the love her husband had for her. She died in the cold, rainy January of 1866 at the age of 29. The soil in the community burial grounds, Oak Hill Cemetery, was saturated. Water kept filling in the gravesite. So, John went looking for a high, dry place for Clara. He found it on the highest hill in what is now Cypress Hill Cemetery, where Clara and other members of the family and the community are buried.

The beautiful McNear family monument seen pictured in the photo on the left was of Italian marble and was constructed by A.C. Thompson.

The Petalumans of Yesteryear

conjure the world of turn-of-the-century Petaluma and discuss the origins of Petaluma's Carnegie Library

The Petaluma Historical Library & Museum

Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 pm



Are you interested in Time Travel? Join others at the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum on November 14 at 7 pm, when the Petalumans of Yesteryear offer a "new and improved" entertainment based on the history of gaining a Carnegie Library for the city. See JA McNear act as moderator; hear Addie Atwater's story! Meet Andrew Carnegie and Brainerd Jones, and listen in on a meeting with Mayor Veale; take a peek at a meeting of The Ladies Improvement Club, attend a parade, and MORE!

Andrew Carnegie and the American Public Library Movement



A Presentation by **Kenneth Breisch**, Ph.D. Associate Professor, School of Architecture University of Southern California

@ The Petaluma Historical Library & Museum Saturday, December 8, 4 pm

The Petaluma Museum Association is proud to announce "Andrew Carnegie and the American Public Library Movement," a presentation by Dr. Kenneth Breisch. An acknowledged authority on library architecture, Breisch is the author of *Henry Hobson Richardson and the Small Public Library in America* (MIT Press, 1997); *The Los Angeles Central Library: Building an Architectural Icon*, 1872-1933 (Getty Research Institute, 2016); and *American Libraries: 1730-1950* (Library of Congress and W. W. Norton, 2017).

Scheduled to coordinate with the Petaluma Museum Association's current exhibit, "The Petaluma Historical Library & Museum, A Story of Civic Progress & Pride," Breisch's presentation will further our appreciation and understanding of the PHL&M by elucidating the historical and cultural movement which originally gave birth to it as a Carnegie library.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR EXHIBIT'S GENEROUS, COMMUNITY-MINDED SPONSORS









The monthly Board of Directors

meeting is held every second Monday

of each month at 6:00 PM.

Location: 20 4th Street

(Please enter through the back door)

Public Welcome.



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Petaluma Historical Museum



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Musical Mondays at the Museum Join Kayleen Asbo, Ph.D for "Conversations Across the Centuries"

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Museum Events & Exhibit Schedule

Third Wednesday Dialogues Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00pm

As part of our continuing series Wednesday Dialogues at the Museum, please join us for this very special event to celebrate the publication of "On a River Winding Home" Stories and Visions

of the Petaluma Watershed with photos by Scott Hess and historical vignettes by John Sheehy. This book is sure to be a welcome and beautifully rendered addition to the historical literature on our town. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, and after the presentation, Scott and John will be on-hand to sign.



Members Holiday Party Friday, December 7 at 5:00pm

Please join us for a night of friendship, warmth and delicious treats as we celebrate our members' generous and continuous support.



Nigel Armstrong

Nigel Armstrong, internationally acclaimed classical violinist will perform for our Tenth Anniversay NYE GALA

Monday, December 31 6:00 to 8:00 pm

This year our NYE Gala concert will welcome violinist Nigel Armstrong, who presently serves as concertmaster of the Santa Cruz Symphony. In 2009, Nigel performed at the museum for our first New Years Eve concert and we are delighted that he will return this year for a special guest appearance. Armstrong left his hometown of Sonoma to study at the Colburn School in Los Angeles and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He has studied under celebrated violinists Arnold Steinhardt and Donald Weilerstein, among others. Nigel has performed with the likes of the San Francisco Symphony, Boston Pops, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra,

Dusseldorf Symphony and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, among others.

Elizabeth Walter, pianist and the series creator and coordinator of the annual NYE concert has chosen the music of Bach, Schuman and more. Beloved high-caliber musicians from the San Francisco Symphony, Yun Chu, violin, Shu-Yi Pai, cello, and Amy Hiraga, violin will also return for this anniversary performance.

Please check our website petalumamuseum.com or call 778-4398 for more details and to purchase tickets.



Music Man Sing-A-Long

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Bring the whole family for this joyful event of a bygone era. Our Music Man will pay homage to Ron Walters (The Voice of Petaluma) who starred in the Petaluma Production of Music Man at the Phoenix Theatre in 1978. More details to come.

7th Annual Jazz Concert Celebrating Black History Month



Friday, February 1, 2019

The concert features local vintage jazz & blues group, The doRiaN Mode, with Dorian Bartley, bass/vocals, Bob Johns, paino/coronet, David Scott, sax/flute and Tony Blake, percussion.

Thursday, February, 7, 2019 Black History Exhibit: "Black Migrations in the Twentieth Century through Today"

African American migration patterns included relocation from southern farms to southern cities, from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and West; from the Caribbean to US cities and into European cities. This movement has given rise to a growing number of black industrial leaders, black

entrepreneurs and blacks in the music industry and other art forms.

Our exhibit will take you through many of the changes that have taken place in the US during the twentieth century through today and the African American impact on these changes. The Black Migration emphasizes the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and subsequently to new social realities.



Clo & Gene Bendetti

Opens April 4: Special two-for-one exhibit with something for everyone!

Help Clo the Cow celebrate her 50th birthday as the Clover spokescow.



Scott Hess

And, enjoy a selected collection of images by photographer Scott Hess from the newly published book *On a River Winding Home:* Stories and Visions of the Petaluma River Watershed by Hess and John Sheehy.



Joe Wayne: A Photographer's Eye

Coming this summer!

Exhibit featuring the work of Petaluma Photographer Joe Wayne between 1910-1916.



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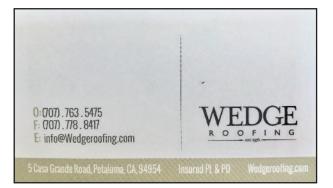
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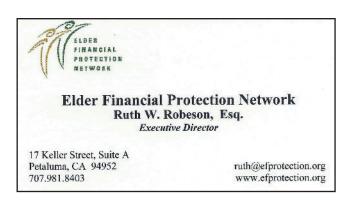
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- •Reserved seating at the Butter & Egg Parade
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Museum Collection Update

by Solange Russek Museum Collections Manager

New Donations



Thank you Dan Wilshusen for the wonderful donation of his great uncle Edward Helad's hand crank 1920's Bell & Howell movie camera. The collection came with the original leather case, unused film and many lenses. The camera actually works! We will display this and many of the museum's camera collection in the Joe Wayne Exhibit coming in the summer of 2018.



Thank you Brian Pace for your donation of an immaculate Park A. Van Bebber bath tub drain cover. There may have been a time where every tub in town had one!



Petaluma Museum Association
Petaluma Historical Library & Museum
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