



The Monterey **MANIFEST**

The official newsletter of the Monterey State Historic Park Association



President's Update by Lee Henderson

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE	P.1-2
CHRISTMAS SURPRISES IN OLD MONTEREY	P.2-3
VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS' CORNER	P.3
CITA 2022 - MAP AND HIGHLIGHTS	P.4-5
HOLIDAY STORE NEWS	P.6-7
IN MEMORIUM-BENDE KELLY	P.7
CONTACTS	P.8

I hope all of you are doing well, and I look forward to seeing you at Christmas in the Adobes (CITA) in just a few weeks. CITA is our major fundraising event of the year and we expect to attract a large crowd, similar to the 2100 tickets sold last year which we have established as the limit of capacity for 2022, so get your tickets early. We are also looking for more volunteers and wayfinders to help guide people to each adobe. Please contact Richard Fletcher at richard.fletcher@parks.ca.gov if you wish to volunteer.

The restoration of California's First Theater is progressing nicely. With the drainage work behind us, the Fire Suppression upgrade is nearing completion. Some of you may have noticed the work being done outside which is now completed and all remaining work is entirely inside.

On November 14, 2022, we met with the contractor for the ADA work which will start at the first of the new year and will likely take 6 months to complete. This is an extensive project that MSHPA is funding through money accumulated from CITA, store operations and grants. We anticipate that State Parks will open First Theater late next year, initially for special events. The Fire Suppression project cost is \$78,000 and the ADA work is \$537,000 to give you some perspective.

Continued on p. 2



School programs are up and running and the demand is as high as ever. State Park staff provides a hands-on interactive program that teaches children about California history. Many times as a docent in the Custom House, I have had adults come through retelling their memories of when they came through the program over the decades it has been implemented. MSHPA provides money to fund transportation and supplies for these programs along with scholarships to help schools when the need occurs.

The Custom House needs more shopkeeper volunteers, so we encourage you to come by and look at the precautions in place to protect volunteers. Volunteers should contact Kaitlyn Moreland at kaitlyn.Moreland@parks.ca.gov for more information.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the annual meeting in January. A notice with more information will be sent in January, but the date of the meeting is January 21, 2023.

Christmas Surprises in Old Monterey

by Mimi Sheridan, MSHPA Historian

Christmas in the Adobes celebrates 19th century holiday traditions, both Mexican and American. Over time, many of these customs have melded together to shape today's observances. For example, the luminarias that light the path to each building are a centuries-old tradition brought to the Southwest by the Spanish settlers. The lanterns are now frequently seen at festivals and commemorations of all kinds, not only Christmas.

Americans living in Monterey in the late 19th century celebrated Christmas much as we do now. Families and friends gathered from near and far (with travels often noted in the society columns). Evergreens adorned buildings inside and out. The Christmas tree, popularized by Queen Victoria and her family, became the must-have decoration of the season for families. Religious services and caroling were followed by feasts with holiday delicacies such as plum pudding and Christmas cake. Of course, people exchanged gifts, often homemade.

Mexican customs also focused on family but were both more religious and more festive. Families attended midnight mass and then enjoyed a jubilant dinner featuring foods such as tamales, bunuelos (a doughnut-like fritter) and posole (a soup with pork and hominy). Alcalde Walter Colton, in his memoir *Three Years in California*, described Christmas 1849, with music, dancing, church bells, bonfires, and sky rockets.



Continued from p. 2

A centuries-old religious commemoration was Las Posadas, a candle-lit procession over nine nights reenacting Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem. Church members walked through the neighborhood, going from house to house, singing for a place of refuge. After being turned down repeatedly, the final acceptance ends with a feast, joyous carols, and star-shaped pinatas.

A more unusual tradition took place on Christmas Eve. Mexican families gathered at San Carlos Church (the Old Presidio Chapel) for a performance of a traditional play, La Pastorela or The Shepherd's Play. This tells the story of shepherds following the star to find the Christ child. They encounter obstacles along the way, including Lucifer who attempts to turn them away. The Archangel Michael appears to rescue them and a battle between good and evil ensues—expressed with very dramatic acting, music and singing.

On the following days, performances took place at the homes of local dignitaries, so, in 1846, it was at the home of U.S. Consul Thomas Larkin. It was later performed at Colton Hall. Newspapers noted that the non-religious setting allowed for "freer scope to the characters," so they must have been very memorable performances. La Pastorela was presented periodically over the years. In 1914-1915 the Junipero Serra Club performed an English version with Anglos taking most parts.

These time-honored reenactments have not died out. Many Hispanic communities still host La Posada, usually limited to one night rather than the original nine nights. El Teatro Campesino in San Juan Bautista performs La Pastorela every other year. In 1991, they appeared on PBS Great Performances, with Linda Ronstadt starring as the Archangel Michael. The DVD is available on Amazon.



Stuart Thornton
Guide 1



Kaitlyn Moreland
Guide 1

Volunteer Coordinator's Corner

by Guides Kaitlyn Moreland and Stuart Thornton

The schedule of volunteer opportunities for December is now up on Better Impact! In December, Customs House Store shifts will be available from Tuesday-Sunday to accommodate an expected increase in holiday shopping. Please look at available volunteering dates if you are able and interested in volunteering on one of these days! As we gear up for Christmas in the Adobes (CITA) and the winter holidays, here are reminders for some important upcoming dates.

The Period Attire Room will be open for anyone who would like to check out period attire for CITA on Wed., Nov. 16th, from 11 am-2 pm ;Sat., Dec. 3rd, from 11 am -2 pm; and Wed. Dec. 7th, from 11 am- 2 pm

If you are participating in CITA, the shifts are now available on Better Impact. Please only sign up for the date you are planning to volunteer for. Sign-in sheets will also be available on the nights of CITA and for the rehearsal and decorating

dates. If you have not already had your rehearsal/decorating date with you, your staff lead will be in touch with you soon! Keep an eye on your spam or junk folders just in case, and reach out to your lead if you notice you haven't been included in any communications.

The park will be closed on Friday, December 25th for Christmas. It will be open for New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31st, but will be closed for New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st. Thank you all so much for your time and enthusiasm! As always, please reach out if you have any questions or would like more information (mshp.volcoor@parks.ca.gov).

38th Annual Christmas in the Adobes Highlights

Friday, Dec. 9, 5-9 pm; Saturday, Dec. 10, 5-9 pm



CITA tickets are available on line at mshpa.org or in store; hours are Pacific House Store, Tues-Sun 10 am-4 pm, or Custom House Store, Wed-Sun 10:30-3:30 pm. through the holiday season. Please be aware to call ahead since the museums close in mornings during school programs but open in the afternoons. Ticket numbers will be capped for both nights as in 2021.

CITA stops for 2022

1. Custom House (Ticket Sales) - Custom House Plaza (1820's) State Historic Landmark #1 Oldest government building in California is the setting for a colorful Mexican "fandango". Learn about Early California dances and music with State Park Dancers (5-9pm) and purchase unique treasures at the gift shop operated by MSHPA. and staffed with volunteers. **State Parks.**

2. Pacific House (Will Call Pick Up) Custom House Plaza (1847) Built by T.O. Larkin and the Mexican government as a barracks and storehouse for American military. Since then, the two-story adobe has been a courthouse, a pub, local newspaper office, a church, and more. Now it is home to a California State Parks Museum, interpreting different eras of Monterey history. **State Parks**

3. Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library - 155 Van Buren Street (1876) The first Protestant church in Monterey; now a research library of local, county, and California history. **Monterey History and Art Association**

4. First Theater - Corner of Scott and Pacific Streets (1846-47) Built by Jack Swan as lodging and a tavern for sailors. It was used as a theater when the Army came to town in 1850. Tickets were \$5- and first-night receipts totaled \$500! Christmas in the Adobes proceeds are assisting with this building's restoration. **State Parks**

5. Old Fisherman's Wharf - #1 Fisherman's Wharf (1845) Thomas Larkin built the wharf in 1845 for regular passenger and freight service ships arrived four times weekly. A vibrant sardine industry and need for better maintenance prompted the City to assume ownership in 1913. Today, visitors enjoy great restaurants, gift shops, whale watching, fishing trips and harbor cruises. **Fisherman's Wharf Association.**

6. Casa Soberanes - 336 Pacific Street (1842)

Built by Rafael Estrada, this house reflects the holiday traditions of Mexican-era Alta California with decorations of festive greenery and docents in period attire. Enjoy Jalisco harp music at the "House of the Blue Gate." **State Parks**

Continued from p.4

7. Casa Serrano- 412 Pacific Street (1843) Mexican-era home of Florencio Serrano. Enjoy fabulous artwork and music by the "Old Town Quartet and Friends." **Provided by Los Amigos of Monterey History and Art Association.**

8. Colton Hall- Pacific Street (1849) Built by Alcalde Walter Colton, this building first served as a schoolhouse, then became the site of California's Constitutional Convention in 1849. Enjoy festive decorations in this birthplace of California Statehood. **City of Monterey**

9. Casa Gutierrez - (Will Call Pick Up) 590 Calle Principal (1841) The home of Custom House Official, Joaquin Gutierrez, who came to Monterey as a young cavalry soldier in 1836. Be sure to enjoy a special early California portrait gallery assembled especially for this year's event. **State Parks**

10. House of Four Winds—540 Calle Principal (1830's) Used as a private home, store, Monterey County's 1st Hall of Records and temporary home for T.O. Larkin and family while their adobe was being built. This adobe features Monterey's 1st weathervane and the desk used to sign California's constitution. Azahar Flamenco dancers are provided through a grant from the **Arts Council of Monterey County, Monterey Civic Club**

11. Monterey Museum of Art - 559 Pacific Street. Experience a diverse selection of original artworks including paintings, photographs, prints, sculptures, and mixed media in the 28th annual Miniatures exhibition. A donation to the Museum offers you a chance to add one of the works to your personal collection!

12. Larkin House- 510 Calle Principal (1835) Home of former American Consul to Mexico, Thomas O. Larkin, the building is known as a prototype of Monterey Colonial Style. Elegant furnishings are brought to life with Spanish guitar music and seasonal decorations. **State Parks**

13. Gabriel de la Torre Adobe - 509 Hartnell St. This beautiful adobe building is the historic location of the first Federal Courthouse of Monterey. It is now home to the **Big Sur Land Trust**. Hear stories of early occupants as well as "The Trust's" efforts to promote land and water conservation, community connection, and stewardship.

14. Cooper Molera Adobe—Corner of Munras and Alvarado (1832) Home of sea captain, merchant and immigrant John Bautista Rogers Cooper and wife Encarnacion Vallejo Cooper. The 2.5 acre property includes two adjacent adobe homes, a corner store (Alta Bakery), an adobe warehouse (Cella Restaurant), a barn complex (Events by Classic), and beautiful gardens within historic adobe walls. A site of the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**.

15. House of Governor Alvarado- A native of Monterey, Alvarado served as Governor of Mexican California from December 20, 1836, to December 20, 1842. During his administration the increasing influx of Americans and the Russian settlement at Fort Ross were signs of looming political change. Today part of this structure serves as the **Pacific Valley Bank**.

16. Robert Louis Stevenson House - (Will Call Pick Up) 530 Houston Street (1830's) This adobe is where Robert Louis Stevenson stayed in 1879. It showcases a world-renowned collection of author Robert Louis Stevenson's personal belongings. The swaths of tartan plaid and the notes of Scottish bagpipes complement this building.. **State Parks**

17. Pacheco Adobe -602 Abrego Street (1840) A grand, two-story adobe built by Don Fernando Pacheco as a summer home for his family. Over the years it was a home, business office, and Monterey's first hospital. Restored and owned since 1957 by the **Pacheco Club**.

18. Royal Presidio Chapel/San Carlos Cathedral-500 Church Street (1794) Restored National Historic Landmark is the only remaining structure of the Spanish-era Presidio and California's oldest stone building. **Heritage Center Museum** open 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., Chapel open 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Holiday Gift Shopping at the Custom House and Pacific House Stores

Make your holiday list and visit the stores to see our curated selection of affordable gifts for everyone on your list!

The Pacific House and Custom House stores are ready for the holidays with both stores hosting metal ornament trees loaded with favorite tin ornaments and new traditional corn husk ornaments in the shape of pinatas and angels in various colors. California glass ornaments are in the shape of the state and poppy with monarch. Both Tonalá and Pueblo clay nativity sets are in stock, and we have a new miniature tin nativity set that fits within its own 4" box. There is also a large selection of handmade Christmas Angels card by Miriam Grebe.

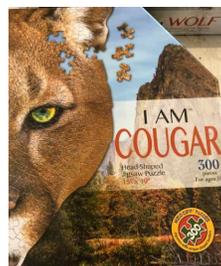
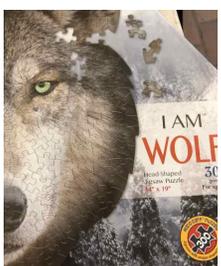
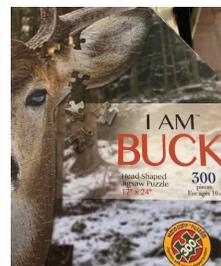
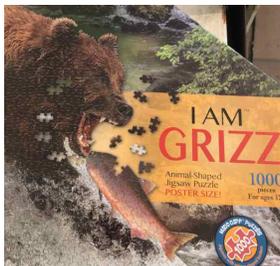


There is a good inventory of the popular ox bone scrimshaw boxes and the Chinese porcelain boxes. In addition, the Custom House store has added porcelain pillboxes and compact mirrors. For the brass line of products, there are a range of different compasses, 5x-10 x spyglasses, and nautical-themed bottle openers and bell and door knockers.



Silk embroidered eye glass holders and silk embroidered small purses come in a range of colors as well as a batik coin purse. The Custom House store now has silver and gold-plated stud and French hook earrings and a variety necklaces.

In the toy department, there are MadCapp animal puzzles (named as one of Oprah's favorite gifts) that will provide entertainment for the whole family. And we have traditional games and toys, like the log fort and camp building kits, jacks and hopscotch kits, cup and ball toy, Ocean and California Bingo games, and the ever popular finger and hand puppets and marbles. These presents inspire playful imagination and strengthen eye-hand coordination skills for all ages.

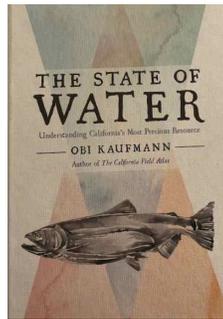
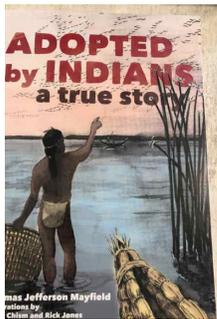


Continued from page 6

A nice selection of board books for the young ones is available, and there are classic read-aloud books: *California the Magic Island*, *Mother Goose in California*, and *Aesop's Fables*. For older readers, books entitled, *Adopted by Indians*, *Becoming Story*; Robert Louis Stevenson's books, *Kidnapped*, *Treasure Island*, and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; and *Ramona* by Helen Hunt Jackson. For adult readers, the stores specialize in California and Monterey bay history; new books include *The State of Water*, *Badge and Buckshot*, *California Bad Men*, *The Prairie Traveler*, and *The Delegates of 1849*.

Remember that the store proceeds help support educational history programs for elementary-grade students and contribute to the ongoing restoration of First Theatre. So, your dollars spent here provide two gifts- one for the recipient and one for your local community.

Come by and visit! Be sure to ask for your 10% member discount when purchasing!



In Memoriam- Bende Kelly August 21, 1929-September 21, 2022

Bende Kelly, originally from Denmark, met an American, Bill Kelly, through a mutual acquaintance whom she subsequently married in Los Angeles in 1961. When they retired in 1994, they moved to the Monterey area and joined several organizations, including the Monterey State Historic Park Association (MSHPA) and the RL Stevenson Club of Monterey. They were both very involved in MSHPA, and Bende continued her volunteer activities after Bill's passing in 2010. Bende held positions on the MSHPA Board and was still actively attending zoom meetings and in person committee meetings up until her death. Below is a picture of Bende outside of the Custom House Store where she continued to volunteer, even while using a walker. We will remember her pleasant disposition and can-do attitude and her willingness to stay engaged. A few days before she passed, she told her daughter Annelise, 'I've had a long and wonderful life.' She did and we are all the better for having known her.

Bende at the Opening of the Store at the Custom House, April 2016



Continued from p. 7

Did you renew your membership for 2022? Consider renewing early for 2023? by Harish Joshi, Membership Chair

If you have yet to renew, please take a moment now to renew your membership and to help grow our membership. You can also renew when purchasing your CITA tickets at the stores. Furthermore, please consider making a charitable donation to allow us to continue our education and preservation efforts toward California's First Theater. The easiest way to renew or donate is online at www.mshpa.org. Individual membership \$25; family membership \$40; preservation circle membership \$75; and business membership \$125. _

Co-editors:

**Donna Gibson &
Nicollette Eason Trottier**

Email: info@mshpa.org.

We welcome your stories
and ideas.



Support MSHPA while shopping on
Amazon at smile.amazon.com &
search for
Monterey State Historic Park
Association

Follow Us on Social Media:



@MSHPA_Monterey



2022 MSHPA Board of Directors:

- Lee Henderson**, President,
Development
- Nicollette Eason Trottier**,
Vice President, Marketing &
Outreach
- Charlotte Radmilovic**, Secretary
- Jason Reed**, Treasurer
- Toy Bryant**, Board Member at
Large
- Harish Joshi**, Membership Chair
- Vacant**, Retail Committee
- Mimi Sheridan**, Interpretation,
Volunteer Council
- Richard Fletcher**, *MSHP
Cooperating Association Liaison*