



The Monterey **MANIFEST**

The official newsletter of the Monterey State Historic Park Association



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A Message from our President

by Lee Henderson

I hope all of you are doing well and preparing for the upcoming holiday season. The Custom House and Pacific House stores have been operating since May and are doing very well. We will have a full report on these operations during our annual member meeting in January.

Currently our primary activities are centered around the McGives donation program through the Community Foundation of Monterey County and Christmas in the Adobes. The McGives program is raising \$40,000 to expand the Los Ninos summer program for children from morning to full day activity to alleviate the limitations that a morning-only program has for working families. Please take the opportunity to engage through the Foundation or the Monterey Weekly for further information (see pg. 4 for information and link).

Christmas in the Adobes (CITA) will take place on December 10 and 11. Ticket sales are going very well and at a pace exceeding our last CITA event in 2019. Please note that all precautions are being put in place with regards to COVID which includes following guidelines from the CDC and the Monterey County Public Health Agency.

**THANKS FOR RENEWING
Your 2021 Dues**

www.mshpa.org

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We have implemented volunteer training so that everyone involved in CITA is fully up to speed on how to deliver a safe, yet enjoyable program. Some of these guidelines include face masks at all indoor venues, limitations on the number of people in an adobe at any one time and no food being served. Even with these caveats in mind, we expect to deliver a great time for all and the opportunity to enjoy the heritage of Monterey.

Please join us at the annual member meeting which will have an in person and virtual option. We will be sending our notices to members in December. Keep safe and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Adobe Tours Over the Years

by Mimi Sheridan, MSHPA Historian and Board Member

This year marks the 37th time that the Monterey State Historic Park Association (MSHPA) has invited people to enjoy Christmas in the Adobes (fondly known as CITA). The tradition began in 1984 with only seven buildings, mostly owned by State Parks. As long-time volunteers Jan Houser and Toy Bryant have described it, the atmosphere was similar to today's event, with festive holiday décor, docents in 19th century attire, and traditional refreshments (one thing was different--one of the sponsors was Monterey Vineyard).

Over the following decades, the tour expanded well beyond the park buildings to include privately-owned adobes and even historic wood-framed buildings. This year, 18 buildings are included, ranging from the Custom House and Old Fisherman's Wharf to the Royal Presidio Chapel/San Carlos Cathedral. Each building capitalizes on the holiday atmosphere, beginning with the traditional luminarias that mark the way. Many reflect their Mexican era origins, with lively music and simple decorations. Stevenson House evokes Scottish traditions with tasty shortbread. A more formal feeling is evident at the Larkin House, reflecting Thomas Larkin's New England origins.

When CITA began in 1984, Monterey was no stranger to adobe tours. The Monterey History and Art Association, a preservation organization funded in 1931, offered an adobe tour in 1945 to raise funds for repairs to the Gutierrez Adobe. MHAA tours offered an opportunity to visit private homes and meet their owners. Mayo Hayes O'Donnell welcomed guests to her home, Casa Soberanes. Mrs. Alice Larkin Toulmin hosted visitors in her grandfather's house. Miss Margaret Jacks opened up the Castro Adobe near the Del Monte Golf Course. Because of the large number of widely scattered buildings, shuttle service was provided.

These tours were held in the spring or summer, allowing a variety of activities that usually revolved around a theme. As an example, the 1983 theme was "Children of the Adobes—Heritage and Promise." Twenty-two buildings were open for tours. Visitors could also enjoy a photo exhibit of children in early Monterey, a children's parade, and a textile fair with spinning and weaving demonstrations. Sustenance was available with tea at Casa Serrano and lunch in the Whaling Station garden.

These tours, offered over many decades, have increased recognition of Monterey's history and its unique collection of adobes. Christmas in the Adobes has become an important holiday tradition for families throughout Northern California. It provides an unmatched opportunity for visitors to learn about California's past and to value preservation of its historic buildings.

Scenes from past CITA events



Los Niños Summer Adventure Camp

Where the Past Comes Alive

Monterey State Historic Park's Summer History Day Program

Los Niños de Monterey & MC Gives!

Help Support This Important Summer Program for Students Entering Grades 3-5

Monterey State Historic Park Association is thrilled to be selected to participate in the 2021 Monterey County Gives campaign! Through hands-on activities such as period games, toys, crafts, food, songs, dances and interactive guided tours, students are transported into the past as they explore Monterey's historical sites and buildings. Beyond the park, a whale watching boat expedition from the Old Fisherman's Wharf, exploring Colton Hall, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium are a part of the itinerary! This unique program highlights the fascinating history of the town while campers engage in the many fun attractions of Monterey that exist today.

OUR BIG IDEA

Your donation through McGive! supports our Big Idea **to expand the Los Niños Summer camp program from a half-day weekly Summer camp to a full-day weekly Summer camp.** Recognizing the critical need for robust, immersive, and educational experiences for students during the Summer months, the Monterey State Historic Park Association is seeking to raise funds to allow full-day programs for students entering grades 3-5 beginning in the summer of 2022. A full-day program better fits the needs of working families. This critical fundraising effort will allow us to serve more students as well as offer scholarships for students who demonstrate financial need. Support us through a donation to McGives! today!

HOW IT WORKS

When you give to the Monterey State Historic Park Association through McGives, every dollar you give (up to \$75,000) will be matched! In 2020 Monterey County Gives raised over \$7.8 million from over 7,500 donors for over 150 non-profit organizations who participated, and this year the Monterey State Historic Park Association was selected to participate for the second time. Donations can be made from November 11-December 31, 2021. Click the link below to make your donation today!

DONATE at
www.mcgives.com/MSHPA




Christmas in the Adobes 2021 - Dec. 10 and 11

We are excited to be able to hold CITA this year and welcome the opportunity to highlight the historical venues in Monterey during this holiday season. CITA 2021 tickets are currently on sale at both the Custom House and Pacific House Stores during store hours, and can also be purchased online at mshpa.org. MSHPA members are eligible for ticket discounts. A preview of 2021 CITA tour follows below.

Christmas in the Adobes 2021 Map



 Denotes wheelchair accessible buildings. Prior to arrival, special assistance, please contact the Park Office: (831) 649-7118. 24 hours advance notice is request.

Christmas in the Adobes is a night-time, self-guided walking tour. Wearing warm clothes, bringing an umbrella, and carrying a flashlight is suggested. On-street parking is located near buildings on the tour route, and is available **AFTER** 6pm on event nights.

These historic structures were not built for accessibility. Some buildings have been modified to provide accessibility on the floors open to the public on this tour.

1. **Custom House** (Ticket Sales) State Historic Landmark #1 presenting a Mexican Fandango providing dances and music with the State Park Dancers.
2. **Pacific House** (Tickets Sales and will call) Built in 1847 originally as a barracks and storehouse for American military and now serves as a state museum.
3. **Old Whaling Station-** 391 Decatur Street. Built by Scotman David Wight and used as a whaling business.
4. **Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library-** 155 Van Buren Street. Originally the 1st Protestant church in Monterey and is now a historical research library.
5. **First Theater-** corner of Scott and Pacific Street. Built by Jack Swan for a tavern and lodging in 1946, and used as a theater in 1850.
6. **Old Fisherman's Wharf-** Built by Thomas Larkin in 1845 for regular passenger and freight service.
7. **Casa Soberanes-** 336 Pacific Street. Built in 1842 by Rafael Estrada. Enjoy Jalisco harp music during CITA.
8. **Casa Serrano-** 412 Pacific Street. Built in 1843 by Florescio Serrano. Enjoy CA artwork and music by the "Old Town Quartet and Friends."
9. **Colton Hall,** Pacific Street. Built in 1849 by Alcalde Walter Colton as a schoolhouse and served as site of 1849 CA Constitutional Convention.
10. **Casa Guterrez** (Ticket Sales and will call)- 590 Calle Principal. Built in 1841 and served as home of Custom House Official Joaquin Guterrez. Enjoy a gallery of early CA artwork.
11. **Miller Adobe-** 580 Calle Principal. Built in 1874. This is the first time on the CITA tour and is said to contain the spirit of Captain Miller upstairs.
12. **House of Four Winds-** 540 Calle Principal. Features Monterey's first weather vane and the desk used to sign CA constitution. Featuring Azahar Flamenco during CITA.
13. **Sherman Quarters-** 510 Calle Principal. Built in 1835, and served as billing for Lt. William Tecumseh Sherman during the Mexican-American war in 1847.
14. **Larkin House-** 510 Calle Principal. Built in 1835 as the home of Thomas O. Larkin and is a prototype of Monterey Colonial Style. Enjoy its elegant furnishings and Spanish guitar music.

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15. **Cooper Molera Abode**- Corner of Munras and Alvarado Street. Built in 1832 as home of sea captain and merchant John Bautista Roger Cooper and Encarnacion Vallejo Cooper on 2.5 acres, and is one of the most elaborate adobe structures still existing.

16. **Robert Lewis Stevenson House** (ticket sales and will call) 530 Houston Street. Built in the 1830s, and served as a boarding house where RL Stevenson stayed in 1879.

17. **Pacheco Adobe**- 602 Abrego Street. Built in 1840 as a two story adobe by Don Fernando Pacheco as a summer home.

18. **Royal Presidio Chapel/San Carlos Cathedral**- 500 Church Street. Open Friday night only. Only remaining structure of the Spanish-era Presidio and California's oldest stone building.

Volunteer Coordinator's Corner

by Erica Hedlund, Interpreter I



Historical Tours Resume. On October 14th, 2021 Monterey State Historic Park guides resumed giving tours of Larkin House and Stevenson House to the public once again for the first time since 2008! We are grateful to once again be able to regularly support these tours and give our visitors a greater appreciation of the history and preservation of these buildings.

If you are interested in taking a tour of either of these buildings, you can join us Thursdays-Saturdays for a 45-60 minute tour through the 1st floor interior of either of these historic buildings. Visitors should arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the tour and will purchase tickets at that time (cash or card). Group size is limited to 8 people in Larkin House and 10 people in Stevenson House and masks are required during this time. For any questions regarding tours, call (831) 649-2907.

- o Stevenson House Tour- 10:00 a.m.
- o Larkin House Tour- 2:00 p.m.
- o \$10 per adult 18 years of age and older
- o FREE for 17 years of age and younger
- o

Check out what one tour-goer had to say in response to Monterey County Weekly's October 30th article on the reopening! "Really appreciated your article on the reopening of the Stevenson and Larkin Houses in Downtown Monterey... My husband and I just enjoyed a tour of the Larkin House led by Tyler Markley. It was informative and definitely worthwhile. We plan on visiting the Stevenson House next to learn more about Monterey's amazing history." -Liz Barnett

And for those unable to make it to the park in-person or interested in learning more, you can take a "self-guided" tour of both of these houses on Roundme: <https://roundme.com/@montereyshp> or a "guide-led" history tour on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKl25n0RMzIsk6q06Z9xmYQ>.

Daniel Williford, MSHP Interpreter II



My name is Daniel Williford and I am excited to join the interpretive team at Monterey State Historic Park and Asilomar State Beach! On June 1, I assumed the full-time Interpreter II responsibilities at the Asilomar Sector of the Monterey District of California State Park.

My interpretive chops started developing in college when an elective botany class my senior year changed everything for me. Too late to switch from my cognitive psychology major, I decided to take it upon myself to learn all I could about the plant world, specifically California native plants. While using the acquired

knowledge from those psychology courses, I started learning more. It wasn't long before I started sharing this newfound knowledge of these plants of my native environment. I mean I had been hanging out with toyon, poppies, and ceanothus for years. They were there in my backyard, along the canyons and hillsides flowering and fruiting throughout all the milestones of my life, this was an opportunity to learn, appreciate and interpret their stories.

Fast forward a few years later, after some time working as a naturalist at residential 6th grade science schools and as a high school biology and botany teacher, I got a job with California State Parks. I worked as a summer interpreter at Hendy Woods State Park, an old-growth redwood park along the Navarro River in Mendocino County. Leading guided walks, Junior Rangers, campfire programs, star parties along the gravelly banks of the Navarro, I was captivated. I knew I had found something very special, something that propelled me forward. From there I have had the opportunity to serve as a California State Park Interpreter for Cuyamaca Rancho SP, Palomar Mountain SP, Henry Cowell Redwoods SP, and most recently, Point Lobos SNR.

Along this interpretive journey, many opportunities came about to realize that while botany captured my interest, it was really making information interesting, accessible, and relevant to people that was the motivation. And this continues here at MSHP. Among my responsibilities, I will be the lead for "Christmas in the Adobes", working with everyone to continue to make this an unforgettable event. I am thrilled to be in a park where California was born and help give a voice, a context for these structures and the people who gave them life. Also, I am fortunate to join a group of passionate, skilled, and knowledgeable interpreters, guides, and docents in taking MSHP to another interpretive level.

While I love talking interpretation, feel free to strike up a conversation about other interests that round out my life, too. Hiking and exploring local trails and beaches with my family, wife Ashley and our basset hound Olive, beer brewing, traveling, home projects, Spanish, gardening, Steinbeck, and the list goes on. Thank you and I look forward to working with you all at MSHP! You can reach me at daniel.williford@parks.ca.gov

Holiday Shopping at the Custom House and Pacific House Stores by Holly Haynes, MSHPA Retail Committee

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? If you're like me — and like most of us, I imagine — you've barely begun making your list, much less checking it twice. This year, give Santa and yourself a break; shop early at MSHPA's Custom House and Pacific House Stores for the best selection.

The Custom House Store is loaded with new merchandise, starting with our centerpiece: a metal "tree" festooned with colorful tin ornaments for sale. We have a fresh assortment of jewelry, too, including Chinese bangle bracelets in cloisonné, jade or porcelain, and French-hook earrings with pearls, sea glass, coral, or starfish and made of either sterling silver or gold vermeil. For men, we now carry inexpensive pocket watches in a variety of embossed designs, in addition to our popular spyglasses, compasses, and other brass collectibles.



Take home some shiny ornaments from our new Christmas tree.



You can never have too many bangles! More bracelets are available this season.



These specialty pocket watches are great for everyone, and at \$12.50 they're easy on the pocketbook.



Set of 2 chopsticks in various styles

New clay nativity sets are back in stock, and we have a good inventory of ox-bone scrimshaw boxes in several sizes, plus one horn scrimshaw. Other new merchandise that would make great inexpensive gifts are bottle openers in the shape of a fish or a dolphin, Chinese porcelain chopsticks, and new styles of tea-strainer mugs.



Traditional blue and white porcelain mugs



Green or Yellow Porcelain and Yi Xing Clay mugs

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Volunteer Jane Garrettson stands ready to help you make your holiday purchases at the Custom House Store

For children, we have a new log-building set that makes a fort (in addition to our older model that makes a camp). And our menagerie of finger puppets continues to grow: we've recently added turtles, orcas, sharks, rattlesnakes, and red squirrels. Even more are on backorder and should arrive soon (thanks, supply chain constraints!). At the Pacific House, we now have butterfly kites for kids or all ages.

Continuing our reputation for the best selection of books on Monterey history, we have added some new titles to our shelves; these include *Contested Eden*, *Pioneer Spanish families in California*, *The conquest of California and New Mexico*, among others. Also in stock is *The Death and Life of Monterey Bay*, *Alta California*, and *California Missions Visit all 21*. For prereaders and beginning readers, we have several new books in stock, as well as old favorites of *Budgie Budgie Cottontail*, *It's Nice to be an Otter*, and the California series of *Mother Goose*, *Aesop*, and *Magic Island*. Come check them out.

This year will also see the return of Christmas in the Adobes, our self-guided tour of Old Monterey houses decorated just for the holidays. Tickets are available at both stores, so while you're buying gifts for friends and family, be sure to pick up your entry wristbands for this popular fundraiser as well (no more hanging your ticket around your neck). Save the dates: Friday and Saturday, December 10 and 11, from 5 to 9 p.m. throughout downtown Monterey. (For more information, visit mshpa.org/christmasintheadobes.)

The Custom House Store is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pacific House Store is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. And remember, the proceeds from these shops help support educational history programs for elementary-grade students and contribute to the ongoing restoration of First Theatre. **So when you spend your dollars here, you're giving two gifts: one you can wrap up with a bow and a second to your community.**



Thanks for Your Support in 2021!

by Harish Joshi, Membership Chair

Many thanks to those members who renewed their membership for 2021. We look forward to hosting Christmas in the Adobes (CITA) on December 10-11, 2021. Donations in the collection box at the Custom House museum, your membership dues, and tickets sales for CITA, constitute the bulk of our revenue that we use to support children's programming. We have also continued our support for the restoration of the First Theater and look forward to seeing it on the CITA schedule again. MSHPA members are eligible for reduced CITA ticket pricing.

If you have yet to renew, please take a moment now to renew your membership and to help grow our membership. Furthermore, please consider making a charitable donation to allow us to continue our education and preservation efforts as well as supporting our efforts through McGives. The easiest way to renew or donate is online at www.mshpa.org.

Co-editors:

**Donna Gibson &
Nicollette Eason Trottier**

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We welcome your stories
and ideas.

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