

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

MAY 2013



The Capitol Clarion is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

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Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:

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Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

President's Message

By Alex King

Resilient ---- Flexible

Two great words that describe the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association. I would guess every one of us finds a need to reach for these qualities every time we visit our favorite building.

Certainly, the **2013 Living History Earthquake Day** proved the above. Whether it was locked event rooms; volumes of visitors greater than anticipated; interruptions of live presentations; competing public tours; need for more chairs; and on and on and on...

Marylin Thompson and **Ann Rost** did a spectacular job chairing, training, costuming, producing and shepherding a very successful event. **Connie Clark** did a wonderful and professional job of directing participants' activity. Those three, and several other individuals, displayed great use of those two words – resilient and flexible. In addition to their efforts, over 50 of our members and volunteers worked hard to educate and entertain close to 300 visitors that attended the various earthquake venues. I'm not going to try naming each individual that participated, because I don't want to miss anyone. **To everyone who helped make Earthquake Day such a success, please accept the Association's heartfelt and sincere thanks and appreciation.**

Four other quick notes this month: 1) We encourage all members to attend our monthly Board Meetings. From June 5 on, they are scheduled for 1 PM, the first Wednesday of each month, in Room 127 of the Capitol (unless we need to be flexible). 2) In June, and subsequent "first Wednesdays," we plan a return of the training opportunities we all enjoy. 3) *We'll be announcing, very soon, a date and place for an informal "social gathering" for all members, with the intent to provide all members an opportunity to get to know other members.* 4) We're making progress in developing an association website for everyone's use.

See you in the Capitol!

~Alex



2013 Board of Directors

Front (L to R): Marylin Thompson, Bob Dennis, Alex King, David Keck; Back (L to R): Gary Stonehouse, Chris Tyler, Marita Martin, Leslie Cooper, Connie Clark, Bob Dreyer

2013 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
David Keck	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marylin Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
Leslie Cooper	Member
Bob Dreyer	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
Gary Stonehouse	Past President

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

May 1, 2013

By Marylin Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Dennis** reported that Earthquake Day was well under budget as well as taking in \$30 from the sale of souvenir newspapers. We are in a "break even" status with the budget year to date. The Bookstore earned \$3,600 in March, although Mary made purchases of \$3,200. She is almost done with restocking orders, so earnings will increase.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT and STATE PARKS

REPORT: As Casey Hayden was unable to attend the meeting, **Alex King** reported on the informal meeting held on Friday, April 26, among Casey, Dana Jones, Alex, David Keck, Bob Dennis and Marylin Thompson. The Capitol district is being organized into units, with the Capitol, Stanford Mansion and Governor's Mansion in one unit which will be supervised by a new Parks employee named Matt Bellah. Casey will report to him and will be in charge of the Capitol and Stanford Mansion where he will maintain his office. .

CSCMVA has a current contract with State Parks which was signed in 2011. We are a unique organization in that we are not able to conduct fundraising as most other state park volunteer groups do. We operate under the Joint Rules Committee.

It was clarified that not all volunteers have to belong to CSCMVA, but they do have to go through the training course. If they choose not to join, they do not receive any of the benefits of membership such as parking reimbursement or receipt of the **Clarion**.

State Parks has been contracting with an individual to do publicity for capitol events. However, this contract is ending in the next month. There was discussion of the possibility of CSCMVA hiring the individual to do our publicity, perhaps on an "as needed" basis.

There were four finalists for the volunteer coordinator position. However, none of the candidates were selected for the position, so the process is on-going. David Keck and Leslie Cooper have been asked to assist in interviewing two candidates on May 1st. They will be able to get more information on the updated job description, the salary, required job skills, and clarification of full or part time status. They will ascertain whether the candidates are able to work weekends and evenings which is essential to helping with CSCMVA events.

Dana stated that we could put up several signs advertising the Bookstore. If we decide on the text, Renato will create the graphics and signs. Connie Clark agreed to work on this.

Earthquake Day: Alex thanked **Marylin Thompson and Ann Rost** for a successful event. Marylin reported that there were some glitches, and it was complicated a bit by not having a Parks volunteer coordinator. Overall, the event was successful. Marylin would like to send out a member survey using the website *Survey Monkey* to get member feedback on CSCMVA events. A survey with 10 questions is free. Chris Tyler, Leslie Cooper and Alex King volunteered to help. Each will suggest 10 questions, and the survey will be compiled and given to Patty Wood for review.

Website Committee: No one answered Alex's plea for a member with some "techie" skills to assist the website development committee. Connie volunteered to facilitate the committee's work, assisted by Marita Martin, Bob Dreyer, and Randall Williams. It was suggested that perhaps we could "piggyback" on the capitol's website with a password-protected link for members only. The committee will explore this option and determine exactly what we would like our site to accomplish. Online WI Desk scheduling was mentioned as a desired feature.

Training Opportunities: It was decided to schedule a Clem Dougherty tour of the capitol in June. A trip to the Folsom Powerhouse will be scheduled in July with a brown bag picnic following. The board meeting will be held following the lunch picnic and all members are encouraged to bring a lunch. Picnic tables are provided and carpools can be arranged. An art tour of the capitol given by Koren Benoit will be scheduled for a Friday when the legislature is not in session, so we will have access to most rooms containing art.

Social Gathering: After lengthy discussion, it was decided that this will be held in early August on Tues, Wed or Thurs. at either Casa Gardens or the North Ridge Country Club. It will be a late afternoon event featuring hors d'oeuvres, not dinner. Both locations have the option of outdoor patios or air conditioned interiors and provide catering and plenty of seating and space. Leslie will get pricing for North Ridge, and the Board will vote by email.

CALPA conference: The annual conference for the State Parks Association will be held in Sacramento on May 16-19. CSCMVA is a member, and there was discussion about whether we should send a representative. It was decided that since many of the workshops involved fundraising, that it was not sufficiently relevant to us to justify the cost (\$150).

Alex announced that everyone is invited to a meeting on Wednesday, May 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 126 of the capitol to meet Dana Jones and the new unit supervisor, Matt Bellah.

He also announced that **all CSCMVA Board meetings** for the remainder of the year will be held in **Room 127 at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.** All members are invited. Discussion of Membership lists and New Business were held over to the next meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on June 5 at 1:00 PM in Room 127.



Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, a Sympathy card was sent to

Rosemary Neves on the loss of her sister

We continue to hold **Christianne Culhane** in our thoughts, as she recuperates from recent surgery.

If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of the group. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.



Earthquake Day Reflections

Our **1906 San Francisco Earthquake** living history event on Sunday April 21 was a *bona fide* success. With fifty volunteers, including 4 grandchildren recruits, we educated and entertained 263 “refugees” by taking them back in time to witness efforts made by the people of Sacramento and their constitutional officers on their behalf. Our visitors appreciated this well-orchestrated opportunity to re-live time. At the end of the day one visitor asked if we ever take this “show” on the road! She believes that our event is the way history should be taught in our schools....and we had a number of children and young people who were both interested and enthusiastic watching the vignettes and participating in the activities presented at the Children’s and Book Tables.

Special thanks to **Marylin Thompson** and **Ann Rost** for their leadership, the directing provided by **Connie Clark**, and the important behind the scenes work capably accomplished by **Terry Cook, Erin Renfree, Dick Getz and Marita Martin**. Photos of this event were captured by our own **Lou Below** and appear on the following pages.



Sheri Routh, Diane Rich, Marita Martin, Pat Butler



Ken Butler, Chuck Metzger, and David Keck



**Cast of 1906 Earthquake Day
April 21, 2013**



Many thanks to Lou Below, our photographer, for this record of 1906 Earthquake Day

You Are Invited to....

“The Magic of Spring”

A Garden Affair at the Mansion

A fundraiser to maintain and support the Governor’s
Mansion State Historic Park



Saturday, May 18, 2013
4:00pm until 6:00pm
1526 H Street, Sacramento

Enjoy the newly renovated garden, sample light refreshments and view the historic mansion with period-attired docents. Floral arrangements will be featured in the historic parlors and grounds...raffle prizes.

Tickets may be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com enter: Magic of Spring
Or call 916.445.3727 to reserve your tickets
\$30.00 per person

This special event is in cooperation with the **California State Historic Governor’s Mansion Foundation**,
Governor’s Mansion Docents and **Garden Volunteers** and **California State Parks**

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain Scotty Hodges

This Volunteer was born and raised in Sacramento and had the privilege of living in the same house in **Land Park** from the day of her birth until her marriage. She attended Parochial schools, and graduated from **Bishop Manogue High School**. Her college days were spent at Santa Clara University; Sacramento City College, and finally the **University of California, Davis** where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree and a Teaching credential. Many years later **Julie Mallett** earned a **Master’s Degree in School Administration** from the **University of LaVerne**. Her Teaching Credential is in Home Economics, and she continues to enjoy all of the Home Arts especially Baking and Sewing. She also enjoys Digital Photography, specifically in outdoor settings, and loves spending hours in the outdoors indulging in a light hike, or dog walking.

Julie learned about the Docent Volunteer Program through an advertisement in the Sacramento Bee. She says that she has always been intrigued by the architecture of the Capitol building and has fond memories of walking through its corridors. She recollects as a youngster visiting the Capitol often, especially on warm summer days, wandering through the grounds, and then checking out all of the County Displays. The Displays always reminded her of small replicas of the Wonders County exhibits at the California State Fair (when it was still housed on Stockton Boulevard.) She says she jumped at the opportunity to volunteer in a building which holds such fond memories.



Julie Mallett

In terms of performing her docent duties, Julie claims no special expertise; however, being a classroom teacher for some thirty-five (35) years helps her to maintain a comfort level with large groups. She is also able to project her voice, if need be, in larger areas -- no doubt a prerequisite for teachers! She also finds her sewing skills helpful in costume construction and is willing to assist others in the costume-making endeavor. She is also willing to help out in the hospitality area when requested.

When asked what she enjoys most about her service at the Capitol, Julie said **“It is the interaction with the public!”** She says that she feels honored to be able to welcome visitors to the Capitol and to share little tidbits of knowledge of which they may be unaware. She also enjoys working with fellow docents in the Capitol corridors, at Living History events, and at Sewing Workshops. She says that she has found her fellow docents, as well as the Parks Department Staff, to be friendly, helpful, and inspiring.

The intrinsic rewards of helping others to be at ease whether it is providing directions, giving historical tidbits or rendering information regarding the surrounding parks, museums and restaurants is what captures Julie’s interest. Because she wants visitors to the Capitol to have a positive experience, she tries to do whatever is necessary to enhance their visit. She cites this recent experience as an illustration. One day, a young boy, about ten years old returned to the West Information Desk after wandering the halls with his grandmother. He inquired about one of the Governors who had been in office for only five days. She explained that Governor Latham had moved on to the United States Senate only days after being sworn in as the Governor. She was amazed that such a young one would be that observant.

As for the rewards of being a Capitol Docent, Julie responds that to date, her biggest reward is observing the **“look of amazement”** that envelops the faces of visitors as they look skyward up at the exquisite ceiling of the Rotunda. She also adds that she feels she has been privileged to work with such wonderful mentors from the Volunteer Association and Capitol Staff as she continues on her volunteer journey.

Since becoming a member of the Association, Julie has jumped right in and thus far has participated in the Annual Sewing Workshop which included skirt construction and a Hat Workshop; taken part in the 2012 Living History presentation of the 1906 Election Day; lent her vocals to the Christmas Capitol Sing-a-Long; attended this February’s Museum Day; and earned her 100 Hour Pin.

She looks forward to participating in many more Living History events; and would also like to become involved with Tours of the Capitol Grounds. She is a true native Californian and has lived her entire life, with the exception of her college years, within approximately five miles from the great Capitol. It’s actually a benefit that she lives within such proximity. The Capitol is easy access and combined with her enthusiasm, we can look forward to her continuing tenure as a Capitol Docent for a long time.

Special Feature: Seeking the Real Artist....

By Bill White

The other day I was sitting at the WI desk with Marty McKnew, she was reading one of the booklets we were given in our training class. The booklet is titled Arts and Antiques of the State Capitol. It was published by the California State Legislature Joint Committee on Rules in 1984. While reviewing the Notes on page 20, Marty discovered some puzzling information regarding the

portrait of George Washington which hangs prominently above the Senate dais. Now we have all been told that the portrait is thought to have been painted by Jane Stuart who was the daughter of Gilbert Stuart, but according to the notes in the booklet that may not be the case. Now I am not an art expert, but I have seen Washington portraits in the National Art Gallery (there is also one in the White House), and I have researched Stuart online to some extent. It is clear that both he and his daughter painted many versions of Washington. Since portraits were the only means at the time if you wanted a “shot” of George, you had to commission a painting, and apparently many folks did.



California Senate Chamber

In my online research of Stuart, I discovered an article written by Daniel Visnich published in 2000 by the United States Capitol Historical Society. Visnich was the Director of the California Capitol Historic Preservation Society and Executive Officer of the Historic State Capitol Commission. In the article Visnich attributes the painting to Gilbert, not Jane. Interesting I thought, and I began pointing out to guests that the painting could in fact be by Stuart, the father -- and not the daughter. Now back to the information that Marty discovered in the booklet she was reading. According to the notes in the booklet, both the painting in the White House and in our Senate were most likely painted by William Winstanley, who began making copies of Stuart's portraits after Washington died. The note goes on to say that the Senate portrait had been X-rayed by a noted art expert and confirmed to be by Winstanley and not Stuart. This find was confirmed by Charles Muskavitch, former conservator of the Crocker Art Museum. Having said this, if you check out the links below you will see that there is ongoing controversy as to who did the portrait that hangs in the White House and therefore perhaps in our California State Senate Chamber, as well.

So who really painted the portrait? I have tried to contact Gilbert, Jane and William, but I have been informed that they are not available for comment. I also tried to track down Daniel Visnich but did not receive a response to my letter. So I guess I will leave it up to you to decide how to reply when asked the question “Who painted the portrait of George Washington in the Senate Chamber?” Consult the links below for more information on the controversy.

<http://www.artnews.com/2004/10/01/the-white-house-washington/>

http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_Stuart

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or visits to other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and/or researched information in this column. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net)*

Upcoming Events:

Clem Dougherty Capitol Tour: **Wednesday June 5 10:00 AM – Room 127**

CSCMVA Board Meeting: **Wednesday June 5, 1:00 PM in Room 127**

LATE BULLETIN: Save the Date..... (More information to follow)

Summer Social: **Thursday August 8**
North Ridge Country Club

California Admission Day:	Monday, September 9
Women's Suffrage Living History:	Sunday, October 13
Capitol Holiday Music:	Daily, December 1 through 23
Annual Meeting & Luncheon:	TBD, January 2014

Happy Memorial Day!!



With gratitude to all those who have faithfully served our country in the preservation of Freedom

(Boston Common on Memorial Day)

Volunteer Program website:
<http://capitolmuseum.tem.parks.ca.gov/volunteerprogram>

Capitol Museum website: <http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov/>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-2405

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day