

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

MAY 2016



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: **mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956

President's Message

By **Connie Clark**

April showers are on their way out, and I'm looking for my May flowers. How did it get to be May so soon? I don't know either, but if it's spring, it must be time for baseball!

I'm looking forward to the first of two River Cats games on May 26. It's fun to socialize with a hotdog in one hand and a frosty one in the other. I hope to see you there.

May's training was on the new exhibit, "*Out of the Vault: Treasures from Your California State Library*." Gary Kurutz, Principal Librarian Emeritus, showed some of the fascinating and valuable exhibit materials. Rachel sent an email 4/7/16 with a very good attachment to help you when in those rooms. A soft opening will be held Friday evening, May 27, with the actual opening the next day.

As the old saying goes, "It takes a village..." I need to round up the villagers. We have several committees that need help. Some are short-term, some on going. Nearly all have a current chair to help you learn the ropes.

Admission Day, September 9 - Sheila Bruton needs a co-chair. This is a relatively easy event. If you can't chair, we will still be looking for your help serving cake and ice cream in celebration of California's statehood anniversary.

Election Day, October 22 - I would like two people to help Marita Martin co-chair. This is our fall living history event.

Archives Committee – this is a new committee that I will help get off the ground. We have so many documents that need to be archived in *one* location. It will require organizational skills and a little computer knowledge.

Computer purchase – Our current CSCMVA laptop is running Windows XP. In "computer years?" that makes it older than any one of us! The Board is considering dedicating funds for a new laptop. If you have any knowledge (or opinions), please join Bob Dennis on this study.

Publicity Committee – Materials already exist for advertising our events. The primary task is ensuring the ad copy is processed by the various media as needed to widely advertise our events.

If you have questions or wish to join any of these committees, please contact me, “Clark, you need me!”

~ *Connie*

Sunshine Corner:

Since our last publication we have not been notified of any members requiring some expressions of CSCMVA concern. This news is received with gratitude!

Please remember that 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 all our membership. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425-1909.



Take Me Out to the Ballgame...

By Alex King

Whether you are interested in peanuts at the game, bar-b-que, beverages or you're a real baseball aficionado, or just “hanging out” with friends, now is the time for you to arrange your CSCMVA River Cats baseball tickets.

The Sacramento River Cats season is in full swing with some winning games, some losing games and always some great entertaining baseball. Several River Cats have already been called up to the major league San Francisco Giants which gives us a great idea of the talent on our local team.

CSCMVA has a block of seats, right above the Cats' third base dugout, waiting for us on **Thursday evening, May 26**. The game pits out River Cats against Colorado Springs. Half of the reserved seats are spoken for. To assure that you are part of the fun, be sure to get your check for **\$19/ticket** to **Rachel Martinez, Volunteer Coordinator** or to **Alex King ASAP**, to guarantee you will be seated with your CSCMVA friends at the ballgame.

Hearst Castle Field Trip: October 4 and 5 (Tuesday and Wednesday)



Diane Rich and **Patty Wood** are finalizing the details of our fall field trip to Hearst Castle. The tour will be specifically designed for our group and will involve two tours: one on Tuesday night and another on Wednesday morning.

Hotel costs will be offered at a “really, really reasonable rate (double occupancy only).” Members are urged to find a roommate to take advantage of the offered rate.

Watch your mailbox for more details, but in the meantime, save these dates!

Capitol Garden Tour:

Join our own **Vicky Rodgers**, Master Gardener, for a tour of the “**Medicinal and Unusual Trees of Capitol Park**” on **Sunday, May 29 from 10:30 AM to 12 PM**. The Park’s grounds are simply lovely this time of the year, and the orange trees are in full bloom. The tour will begin at the Tour Office on the lower level of the Capitol. Don’t miss this opportunity!



Capitol Evacuation Procedures for Volunteers

By Rachel Martinez and as approved by the Senate Sergeant

Step 1: Contact CHP, Sergeant-At-Arms or Capitol Health Services in case of emergency. These numbers are on the State Parks phones located at the West Information *and* School Registration Desks.

Step 2: If the building alarm sounds, it is signaling an evacuation. Verbal instructions may be given over the loud speakers. State Parks staff are designated as “floor monitors”. Do not use the elevators and exit the Capitol immediately through the nearest, safest exit. Meet at the Museum and Visitors Evacuation Site - the city sidewalk on 10th St. between L and N and check-in with a State Parks supervisor/manager or lead. CHP is assigned to open the west doors, but if they are not immediately opened, please use the closest exit.

Per the instructions of the Senate Sergeants, **please do not evacuate the public without the explicit request of State Parks staff**, simply exit the building.

Step 3: Please stay in place at Museum and Visitor Evacuation Site until given the “clear” signal, or are asked by emergency personnel to move elsewhere.

Important Garage Parking Update!



Each of our members has received an email from Rachel advising us of changes in the conversion of the parking ticket software system for the Capitol Garage at L and 10th Streets. This email updates construction information and indicates that **during the period May 16 – 27, the current parking ticket system will be under construction**. There will be an attendant at the garage entrance to collect a **flat rate payment of \$4.00 for CSCMVA card holders**. The \$4.00 can be paid in cash, or by credit card. However, **you will need to present your card to the attendant at the entrance to obtain this discounted rate**.

New garage access cards / passes will be issued to you at the entrance gate during the construction period, so that you will have them ready to use once the new system is “live.” Until you receive your new card, you must keep your current card in order to receive the flat rate during construction. If you do not come to the garage during the dates of May 16 – 27 and do not receive a new pass, you will need to go to City Hall for a new card.

Updates on the new garage access features will be provided in the future. If you have questions, contact the **City of Sacramento Parking Services Division at (916) 264-5011 or visit them online at SacPark.org**

Did You Know....

By Clem Dougherty

[Editor's Note: Clem continues to provide us with information in his series on San Francisco.]

Did you know ... that the Queen of San Francisco Society in the first half of the 20th Century was a woman tolerated, but not fully accepted, by the rest of San Francisco Society? Yes, it's true. Her name was **Alma de Bretteville Spreckels**, and it was her wealth that made her society's queen. Alma was born on March 24, 1881, to a poor family living in what is now the Sunset District of San Francisco. In her teenage years she helped her mother operate a laundry business where her mother sometimes washed clothes in Washerwoman's Lagoon in what was known as Cow Hollow. Alma then delivered the clean clothes to the homes of the wealthy on Nob Hill and Pacific Heights. Seeking to better herself, Alma took up art lessons and then, to make more money, she posed nude for several artists. Alma was nearly six feet tall with a full figure described then as "Rubenesque." At the time there was a ready market in which artists sold paintings of Rubenesque nude women such as Alma to be hung in the bars on San Francisco's Cocktail Route running down Montgomery and Kearny Street to Market Street, up Market to Powell, and then up Powell St. Alma's modeling career climaxed in her becoming the semi draped model for the statue of the woman often referred to as "Winged Victory" atop the Dewey Monument placed in the middle of Union Square in San Francisco. The Dewey Monument with Alma on top of it still stands today.



Alma Spreckels

Alma's life changed forever when in 1902 she met **Adolph Bernard ("A.B.") Spreckels**, a multimillionaire son of Claus Spreckels and a man 24 years Alma's senior. Alma then became A. B.'s mistress for the next five years. A. B. would go on later to succeed his father as President of the Spreckels Sugar Company. A.B. also had a colorful history when in 1884 he sought to avenge his father for perceived scurrilous attacks made upon Claus by Michael de Young, the editor of the *S.F. Chronicle*. A.B. showed up at de Young's office, announced he was there to shoot de Young, and when the editor ran down the hall, A.B. shot him in the buttocks. Luckily, the editor survived with minor injuries. A jury later acquitted A.B., believing his temporary insanity defense. The incident, however, continued in a huge rift between Alma on one side and the de Young sisters, the daughters of Michael, on the other. Subsequently, A.B. became a model citizen and, finally succumbing to Alma's continued demands, married her in 1908. They subsequently had three children: "Little" Alma, Adolph Frederick, and Dorothy.

Alma was a woman full of energy, a lover of martinis, loud, demanding, controlling, boisterous, manipulating, and sometimes crude. She spent A.B.'s money as if there were no tomorrow. Many in San Francisco society criticized her because of her background and her behavior. One observer recalled that "if she just cared more about conforming, she'd have it made." But she loved to put her feet up on the coffee table and have a beer with the local tradesman. She made no effort to put on airs. She was a perfectly natural human being."(see Thomas Carr Howe as quoted by Scharlach, Bernice: Big Alma, p. 194) Alma preferred to associate with people she found interesting over people she considered stuffed shirt bores. Alma had a habit of saying what she thought and of not giving a "damn." Upon meeting with Harold Zellerbach, a wealthy San Francisco industrialist, the

first time, and with A.P. Giannini, the President of the Bank of America, for some time, Alma blurted out before introductions could be made: “Guess what? I just found my cook in bed with the butler.”(see Alma as quoted by Scharlach, Bernice: Big Alma, p. 192). A.B.’s millions gave her the advantage of being very independent.



Spreckels Mansion

Beginning in 1910 Alma set out on one of her most sought after projects – to build a home worthy of A.B.’s wealth. The home was located at 2080 Washington St. in San Francisco. Using A.B.’s money, Alma had an existing home on the property demolished. She then acquired adjoining properties and removed their structures thereon to create one huge lot with a commanding view of San Francisco Bay. It took 3 years to build the home which was completed in 1913. The home was a three story white stone mansion flanked in the front by long, beautifully carved columns. In the basement there was a hotel-sized kitchen. The first floor

included a huge hallway running the full length of the house, and a reception room, a massive ball room, and a dining room on either sides of the hallway. The second floor included Alma’s bedroom, A.B.’s bedroom, the children’s’ bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, some guest rooms, and a large library. The third floor included servants’ rooms and a large playroom for the children. The home was unlike anything ever seen in San Francisco. When you consider the layout of the rooms and the placement of the first floor entrance and living rooms, the second floor bedrooms of the family, and the third floor bedrooms of the servants, 2080 Washington St. bears a strong resemblance in layout to Downton Abbey. Today 2080 Washington St. is owned by novelist Danielle Steele.

Alma’s creative efforts did not stop with her home. Her most ambitious project was building, with A.B.’s money, the California Palace of the Legion of Honor honoring World War I veterans and located in Lincoln Park on the bluffs of San Francisco outside the Golden Gate. The California Palace of the Legion of Honor (the “CPLH”) should not be confused with the Palace of Fine Arts built for the Pan Pacific International Exposition of 1915 and located in the Marina. At the opening of the CPLH in 1924, crowds first encountered in the courtyard Auguste Rodin’s sculpture of “the Thinker,” and inside the building the crowd roamed through 19 galleries containing more than 700 works of art. Two of the galleries contained Alma’s collection of Rodin’s sculpture, the largest such collection outside France, while other galleries included such French masterpieces by Cezanne, Degas, Gauguin, and Van Gogh lent to the museum by the French government. San Francisco stood in awe at what Alma had brought about and adopted a city charter amendment accepting the CPLH into its fold and agreeing to staff and to maintain the CPLH.

A.B. died on June 28, 1924. Alma outlived him by 44 years and died on August 7, 1968. Her chief contribution to making San Francisco the Queen City of the Pacific during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was to help secure San Francisco’s position during that time as the cultural center of the West Coast.

(Sources: Scharlach, Bernice: Big Alma, pp.5,9,16,23,138,139,192-194; Carroll, Jerry, The Palace that Alma Built, S.F. Chronicle, 10-29-1995; Graig, Christopher, Spreckels (nee de Bretteville), Alma Emma, Philanthropist, Socialite, and Patron of the Arts, Encyclopedia of San Francisco, Part 1, pp. 1-3; Part 2, pp. 1-3; Alma deBretteville Spreckels, Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, pp.1-4)



Rachel's Reminders:

- Please remind our visitors that the main Rotunda is part of the Historic State Capitol and should be treated as such. **One of the duties of working at the WI Desk is to kindly remind visitors that when in the Rotunda and the Museum Rooms and to abide by "museum etiquette"** which means no leaning on or touching the walls or drapes; no objects to be placed on the ledge encompassing the rotunda; and, for public safety concerns, no sitting on the floor. If a courteous reminder is insufficient to change a guest's behavior, the CHP is available should there be any signs of mistreatment of the building or any potential disruption..
- **Please call Rachel at 916-324-0319 (Mon-Thurs) or the Scheduler's Desk at 916-324-2088 (Fri-Sun) if you need to cancel within 24 hours of a previously scheduled shift. Outside of 24 hours, feel free to remove yourself through the online VicNet system!**

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

This Spotlight illuminates the personal history of **Keith Evans** another new member who has been an enthusiastic participant since his first day of class. Keith is from the East Coast. He was born and raised in **New Jersey**. When he graduated from High School, he enlisted in the **US Navy**. After three years of service in the Navy, he was honorably discharged, and he moved his family- wife, son, and daughter, to California.

Here in California, Keith worked for **Diebold Safe Company** and **ADT Alarm Company** in the Bay Area until he was accepted into the **Apprentice Program** at **Mare Island Naval Shipyard**. There he studied, trained, and worked for four years as a **Ship Fitter Mechanic**. When closure of Mare Island was imminent, the family moved to **Virginia** where Keith worked at **Norfolk Naval Base** until his retirement in April of 2010. The family then returned to California and settled in Sacramento.

Like many, he says that the advertisement in the *Sacramento Bee* caught his attention. As he relates it, the attraction of the position for him was: **"the history of California and my lack of knowledge of it!! Also I was curious to know just what volunteers did at the state Capitol."**



Keith Evans

The strengths that he feels he brings to the docent position are: he enjoys being a team member and meeting people; and two, his two years of experience as a Customer Service Representative at a Shopping Mall which has equipped him with a "store house" of patience and problem solving ability.

Keith says that he really enjoys learning about the history of California, one of the primary reasons that he joined the Association. He also likes educating visitors, pointing out the unique items located in the Capitol and describing the restoration. He shares that: **"Seeing the surprised look on visitors' faces is so satisfying and knowing that you have passed on some knowledge to them is special for me."** Doing something of historical importance by helping people to know the truth about the great state of California - how it became what it is, as well as assisting them with observing their legislators in person at work - he says, are most rewarding to him.

To date (less than a year of membership), Keith has earned his **100 hour pin** -- which is outstanding! To earn those hours, he has participated in the Christmas Holiday Music Program,

decorating of the Victorian Christmas Trees in the Museum Rooms, the bus tour field trip to Benicia and, most recently, the Women's Suffrage Day Living History. He also serves at the West Information Desk and intends to continue to join more field trips and Capitol activities.

Did you know that in addition to his adventures in the Navy, he has also had the opportunity to meet three diverse greats: **James Brown, Denzel Washington, and Willie Mays?! I had to know how he managed to meet those men and this is what he told me. "I met Mr. Mays at the San Francisco International Airport. We walked together to the parking garage, and I mentioned to him that he was my boyhood idol and that I had a picture of him that he personally autographed for me. My sister worked at the Bank where he banked, ... and she spoke with him often. I met James Brown and Denzel at a Birthday party in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware for my childhood friend Butch Lewis, a boxing promoter for Michael Spinks."**

Breathtaking, adventurous lives wrap all three of these new volunteers (**Keith Evans, Erika Rypich and Andrea Waldrep**) together in a common bond. What interesting and lively personal experiences they have added to the wealth of talent and experience in our group of volunteers. I will certainly remember Keith and these fantastic docents, as I move through Capitol activities this year. Thanks to all of them for helping to make the Association stronger, more diverse, and more valuable, as we continue our work at the State Capitol!

Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting May 4, 2016

By Marilyn Thompson, Secretary

Meeting was Called to Order by President, Connie Clark

Minutes of the March meeting were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report was made by Randall Williams in the absence of Bob Dennis. Due to large expenses in the last two months, expenditures exceeded income by \$3,000. Bob suggested we need to delay large expenses until our income catches up.

Bookstore: Bill White reported for Mary Geach that income for March was \$3,303, and \$3,870 for April.

Membership: No report

State Parks Report: Rachel Martinez reported that the new exhibit, *Treasures from the State Library* opens May 27. Docent training is Wednesday, May 11 at 10:00 in the theatre.

Casey reported on the following:

- **Evacuation Procedure:** Public and volunteers should meet on the West side of the building on the public sidewalk. Volunteers should check in with state park staff person present. Docents should assist in directing the public towards exits if asked to; otherwise, they should simply exit.
- **Contract / MOU with the State:** Casey has reviewed the existing contract (from 2011) between CSCMVA and State Parks. He questions whether a separate MOU with Joint Rules is necessary. He will email both documents to board members for review.



Board of Directors 2016

Back Row L to R: Bob Dennis, Marilyn Thompson, Ron Lauchner, Bob Dreyer (Past President), David Keck and
Front Row: Bill Monahan, Randall Williams, Connie Clark, PJ Jones.
 (Julie Mallett is missing from photo)

- **Brochures / maps:** The white tri-folded brochure has been printed in English and is on it way. There have been issues with the revision and reproduction of the other brochures (tan one and kid's brochure). Casey noted the yellow sheet with map and museum information is outdated and will not be recopied. He suggested using the multi-colored fold-out brochure for Sacramento Museums instead. Discussion ensued. Casey reminded us that it is not our job to show visitors how to get around Sacramento. Our focus should be on the Capitol. Further assistance can be obtained at the Visitors' Center at the Convention Center. We are not to print any maps.
- **Projects:** Casey had a list of potential projects that Matt had made and which CSCMVA may fund: replace room alarms, repaint some rooms, redo signage for the two exhibit rooms, pay for a publicity person.
- **WW II Posters:** Cost for one run of posters (ink cartridges/paper) done by Renato is about \$550. Quantity of posters printed varies due to size of poster. We need to determine what our expected profit should be. We will continue to sell *Rosie the Riveter* and, possibly, the *Victory Garden* posters even though the exhibit has ended.
- **Reminder:** Visitors should be asked not to lean on or touch the walls in the Rotunda or to place possessions on the ledges. Visitors, including children, are not allowed to sit on the floor. This is per a CHP rule regarding emergency evacuation procedures. Docents are also cautioned about having food and drink at the WI desk. A covered bottle of water is acceptable.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Suffrage Day: Event was successful although only 142 people took the tours. Leslie Cooper noted that it took 50 CSCMVA participants to put on the living history event. Publicity was lacking. Ad in *Sac Bee* was very expensive and unreadable. This needs to be improved for next event. Suggestion was made to have publicity done by one person, not a committee. Expenses have not been finally tabulated.

Children's Activities: Casey suggested that this project will benefit from further research and coordination prior to a meeting with him to consider it. He noted there are other similar resources on line, and our final product should review those other resources prior to meeting with him to discuss specific plans for usage.

Hearst Castle Trip: Dates are October 4 – 5. Committee is meeting next week and sign up details will be emailed soon. Bob Dennis' report suggested that CSCMVA make the trip affordable for all by covering a portion of the cost. Patty said that the trip cost will be reasonable due to the fact that we are getting free VIP tours of the castle and very special hotel rates.

35th Anniversary Celebration: Diane Rich, Patty Wood, Scotty Hodges and Judi Smith are the committee. Event to be held in the Eureka Room on November 5. No further details at this point.

Bylaws/Standing Rules: Randall reported that the committee has met several times and made great progress. The finished product will be available well in advance of the annual meeting. Members may give comments / concerns to any committee member: Randall Williams, David Keck, Ron Lauchner, Connie Clark, Marilyn Thompson.

River Cats Games: Sign up for first game by May 15th. Give money to Rachel - \$19/ticket. She will send out reminder email.

Contract/MOU with Parks: reported by Casey

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership dues reduction: Because of our budget surplus, it was suggested by a Board member that dues be suspended for one year for active members who work 72 hours. Discussion followed: should hours be increased to 84? Might dues simply be reduced? It was decided to table the issue until Bob Dennis returned.

Archives/new computer: Connie would like to establish an archives committee to oversee all official documents of the association: bylaws, standing rules, contracts, scripts, minutes, etc. Questions have arisen as to what is the latest, official copy of such items and where they might be

found. Plan is to keep them in one place, either in paper or digital format, or both. Suggestion was made to buy a new computer to house these documents with copies available on a flash drive. Access limited by an archivist. Current laptop is old and outdated. Marti will put an article in the Clarion asking for volunteers for this committee.

Elections Living History Day: Oct. 22nd. Marita Martin will help on the committee. Chairperson(s) are needed.

New Living History Suggestion: Marylin Thompson suggested writing a new living history script to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW I – Armistice Day – 2018. A book has just been published on Sacramento Valley and WWI, written by two Sac Public Library librarians. She and Lynn Cook have read the book and wonder about continuing. Discussion: do we need a new event? What does it have to do with the capitol? Why has it been so hard to get enough people to participate in the last two events? It was decided that Marylin would discuss the project with Casey before going further.

Question: when will there be another training class? Maybe one in 2017? We'll discuss it in Fall 2016.

The June Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 1 at 1:00 PM.

All members are encouraged to attend. WID will have information on the room assignment.

Upcoming Events:

- River Cats Baseball Game:** Thursday, May 26 at 7 PM
- “Out of the Vault...” Exhibit Opens:** Friday, May 27
- Capitol Gardens Tour:** Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 AM
- Board of Directors Meeting:** Wednesday, June 1 at 1 PM
- River Cats Baseball:** Thursday, August 18 at 7 PM
- Admission Day:** Friday, September 9
- Hearst Castle Field Trip:** Tues. – Weds., October 4 – 5
- Election Day Living History:** Saturday, October 22
- CSCMVA 35th Anniversary Celebration:** Saturday, November 5
- Holiday Music Program:** December 1 - 23

To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of “Favorites” or “Bookmark” it.

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319 Rachel Martinez

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