

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

November 2014



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**

President's Message

By Alex King

The Holidays Are Coming, The Holidays Are Coming...

Last month I used the old folk song that referred to passage of time, and tried to relate it to our consistent annual passing of CSCMVA members activities that we all experience. Not sure why, but old songs and old movies seem to be prompting me. The repetitive heading above is reminiscent of an Alan Arkin movie.

Thanksgiving is near – Hannukhah – Christmas – Kwanzaa soon after; then we're at New Year's and shortly thereafter a New CSCMVA Board. Where HAVE all the months gone? (By the way, no one responded to my similar question last month. Guess no one remembered the folk song.)

Something really exciting is about to occur in The Capitol. For the first time in many years, **three of the Historic Rooms will be decorated for Christmas.** Jan Forbes and Marilyn Thompson have spent many hours envisioning, planning and procuring (with the Board's involvement) Christmas trees and decorations for the Governor's Anteroom, the Governor's Main Office and the Treasurer's Office. Gorgeous ornaments for the trees, all period-appropriate, are going to make our Capitol more Holiday-resplendent than we've seen in many years! The thinking, and planning, is that for the next several years we'll be able to add to this year's start, and begin to build a CSCMVA sponsored Holiday spectacular to complement the beautiful outdoor Holiday display at the West Entrance.

The Christmas décor in the Historic Rooms will coincide with the beginning of the Rotunda Christmas Music events beginning December 1, and the lighting of the California State Christmas Tree on December 2

Several of us have tried "staffing" the **North Entrance Information Booth.** While it initially seems a bit lonely, the activity is constant and the gracious thanks we get for the directions and information we provide is very gratifying. Give it a "go" folks. It's very busy. Sign up to staff the North Door Info Booth.

I hope to be able to wish you all a wonderful Christmas – next month; but in the meantime, we are all very blessed to have the opportunities to serve others in our community, and we all have many things for which to be grateful.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

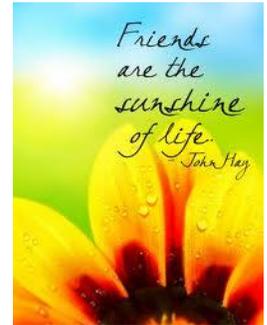
~ Alex

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, condolences have been sent to the family of

Phyllis Davis, Staff Parks employee, upon her sudden passing

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



State Capitols Across the U.S.A.: New Jersey

By Alex King

We've all learned about George Washington's crossing the Delaware River. We don't always relate that story to his having taken his troops nine miles to attack the British forces in Trenton. The Battle of Trenton turned out to be one of the most significant battles of the Revolutionary War. (*It's rumored that Washington's command to his troops (across the river) was "Row vs. Wade", but there is no confirmation of the rumor.*)



New Jersey State House

destroyed by fire in 1885. The fire, though, allowed significant improvement to the original construction. Many "remodels" in the 1900's, including one in 1906, have added to the building, but parts of the original 1792 structure still exist making the New Jersey State House the second oldest in continuous operation. Hmm... a remodel in 1906 – sounds familiar. Another similarity: a major renovation took place in 1987, a few years after our reconstruction, which upgraded structural, mechanical and electrical issues.

The State House rotunda is ornate and restored to represent it as it was in the early years of the building. Governor Christie's office is the first door on the right as you walk from the beautiful rotunda toward the legislative chambers.

The legislative process is very similar to ours. The Senate Chamber, with 40 members, and the General Assembly Chamber, with 80 members are both rich in tradition and style. Murals in the Senate depict scenes representing the State's motto "Peace and Prosperity," and both Chambers are decorated in the state colors: buff and blue.

The New Jersey State House (Capitol) in Trenton was built in 1792; 68 years before we began construction of our California Building. Some claim all the thirteen colonies became states at the same time, but Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey became states within 11 days of each other in early December 1787.

The original building was 2 ½ stories and was not much larger than the South (Senate) Wing of our Capitol. It cost 250 English pounds or about \$400. Additions to the original building were added in 1845, and 1865, and one wing was



New Jersey Capitol Rotunda



New Jersey Senate Chamber



New Jersey Assembly Chamber

If you have the good fortune to visit the Garden State, the State House in Trenton is well worth a stop!

Editor's Note: This article represents another in our ongoing effort to acquaint members with State Capitols Across the USA. If you have visited a State Capitol, please check with the Editor to learn if it has been previously covered or is one that we are looking for in our quest to be inclusive and knowledgeable!

North Information Desk:



Last month we encouraged volunteers to schedule time in the newly refurbished and opened North Information Desk. This “built in” booth is located on the left side of the Capitol immediately after passing through the North Entrance Security and entering the building. There are open possibilities for volunteering at this location just as Bob Dreyer has!

Sign up and be among the first to welcome visitors to our beautiful Capitol!

Annual Volunteer Luncheon Meeting: January 22, 2015

Vice President Bob Dreyer wants the membership to be aware that the 2015 CSCMVA Annual Meeting will be on **Thursday, January 22nd** at the Iron Grill Restaurant. Details will be mailed to each member along with menu choices shortly after Christmas.

Rachel's Reminders:

- Volunteers are sought to host the Capitol Holiday Music Program which commences on December 1 and continues through December 23rd.
- The Capitol Museum Singers will be performing on Saturday, December 20 from 12 – 1 PM. If interested in participating, please attend a rehearsal on Wednesday December 10 from 2 – 3 PM. Wear Red to the performance!



- Remember to record your 2014 volunteer hours online if you want to be considered for recognition for Hours Pins and a qualifying Parks pass.

1906 Election Day as Reenacted on October 18, 2014:



Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

Editor's Note: For the sake of our newer members, we are republishing and updating "Spotlights" run several years ago about our faithful and active long time volunteers.

The lady you are about to read about, **Pat Butler**, is one of the nicest people with whom you will ever have the good fortune to work. She was born in Nebraska and is a second generation American. Her grandparents on both sides were Irish immigrants who were homesteaders on land up in the state of Nebraska. After a great misfortune - a tornado - demolished their farm, her family moved to Detroit where she grew up and attended the Detroit Business Institute.



Pat Butler

In 1959 Pat moved to California and settled in San Diego. In 1970, she took a position at the United States International University. There she met Ken, whom it seems she was destined to marry and, like many in our modern culture, the two blended 7 children into a second marriage. While working with US International University, Pat served as an Administrative Assistant to Dr. Vikton Frankl, an Austrian Holocaust survivor, world famous psychiatrist, and author of numerous books including Man's Search for Meaning and The Will to Meaning. Her professional career grew and included a work tour in the Human Resources Department at General Atomic in lovely LaJolla before the family moved to the Bay Area in 1976. With her relocation, Pat began a new professional experience serving as Employment Specialist at Lawrence Livermore National Lab. This position allowed Pat the opportunity to recruit scientists and engineers from prestigious schools such as MIT, Harvard, Carnegie Mellon and Cornell universities. Pat also served on the National Advisory Committee of the American Institute of Physics. Upon retiring from Lawrence Livermore, Pat and Ken decided to move to Sacramento.

In February 2002 Pat joined the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association. She says she was interested in learning more about the history of California and CA state government. And, what a better place to learn and have fun while doing so, than serving as a Capitol Museum docent. As evidenced by her professional background, Pat has focused on interacting with people. For Pat, part of the joy of being a volunteer is the contact with visitors – both learning *from* them as well as sharing information *with* them.

Pat loves meeting travelers from many different parts of the United States and other regions of the world. She values the variety of her experiences and the friendship she has formed with other docents and the Capitol staff. She also appreciates the continuing educational opportunities that volunteers experience on trips and sojourns to other state parks and museums.

Since joining the Association, she has been very busy, participating in almost every activity and event. She has served as Chair of two Admission Day events; is a member of the Costume Committee; organized, coordinated and participated in the Mentoring Program for a number of years, and participated or acted in most of the Living History events. She has served on the CSCMVA Board of Directors and served as the organization's Treasurer during her tenure. For her efforts, Pat has earned recognition for 2,500 volunteer hours and continues to earn additional hours as she charms and informs visitors to the Treasurer's Office on Mondays and participates in Living History events. She is, quite simply, someone who helps wherever there is a need or an opportunity.

Pat has many hobbies and interests outside of her CSCMVA activities. She enjoys playing the piano, gardening, investing, genealogical research and traveling with Ken. She recently completed training as a docent where she performed as Edith, wife of Theodore Roosevelt, in a presentation honoring the 150th birthday of the former president.

“OLLI” Course at the Capitol:

By Lou Below

On October 17, CSCMVA member Lou Below coordinated an “OLLI” course at the Capitol which was given under the auspices of UC Davis Extension. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (“OLLI”) is affiliated with college and University Extension programs throughout the U.S. Its purpose is to offer diverse, affordable, non credit, high quality educational programs and events to seniors. After taking an OLLI course last Spring in Davis, Lou proposed one to UCD Extension for the Fall 2014, consisting of a combination tour of the Capitol building and the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building. Lou was assisted in course development and execution by Erin Renfree; Debby Lynch, Communications Officer for the State Library; and Gary Kurutz, Prinipcal State Librarian Emeritus. UC Extension liked the idea, and the course was held last month. Twenty seven participants came to the Capitol via bus, including Lou, who presented background information on the tours during the ride. Once on site, the group was escorted to the basement theater and shown the short film, “A Legacy Restored” as an introduction. Following the film, half the group went to the Library and Courts building with Debby and Gary, and the other half toured the Capitol with Lou. Following lunch on their own, participants switched venues and completed the tours. Participant evaluations were very positive, and UCD may offer the course next Fall.

Highlights of the Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting: November 5, 2014

By Marilyn Thompson, Secretary

2014 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
Bob Dreyer	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marilyn Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
David Keck	Member
Julie Mallett	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
P.J. Jones	Member

Appropriations Committee: Bob Dennis (Treasurer) was absent but had previously presented a proposed 2015 budget to the Board. The November Treasurer’s report and the 2015 budget will be discussed at the December Board meeting. Bob reports that the CSCMVA treasury is “in good shape.”

Bookstore: Mary Geach reported that net income for October was \$1,464.39, \$200 less than October 2013. Mary states that this is a traditionally slow time for book sales, but she expects activity to pick p during the holidays. Arcadia Publishing reports that their books on Sacramento and the Capitol Park can now be re-ordered. Several more books, unfortunately, are now out of print. These include Ramble California and the popular book on California which is presented in several different languages.

State Parks Report: The west entrance is now permanently closed as a security measure. The second floor rotunda has a new display. Outdoor Christmas tree lighting will be on December 2 (Tuesday). Renato is working on a sign for the north entrance Information Desk. Should a small brochure holder also be added? PJ Jones moved, and David Keck seconded a motion to purchase tow holders. Museum window shades have been ordered. Maria would like to do a walk-through of museum rooms with Jan Forbes and Marilyn Thompson prior to Christmas tree placement. PIE posters can be printed by an outside firm for CSCMVA at the cost of \$2.10 each. After discussion, it was decided to sell them for \$7.50 each. Display space in bookstore is limited. Suggestions: laminate and hang posters together on a ring and / or hang samples in the Eureka Room. Christmas music schedule is being handled by Erin. The weekend music hours have been

expanded to 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM. More room volunteers are desperately needed on weekends to avoid having to close the galleries or PIE exhibits. Discussion of display flags in rotunda; they keep getting “messed up” by visitors. Koren will provide “flag spreaders” to see if this keeps them looking neater.

Ongoing Business:

- **Election Day:** Attendance was 160, a disappointing turnout considering the publicity in the Bee. Budget report will be ready in December. PJ will also have some suggestions for future event regarding times / day of week, etc. Alex would like to have living history event dates scheduled a year in advance to lock in room availability. We are still debating Saturday vs. Sunday. Should a Sunday event start later in the morning?
- **Schwarzenegger Portrait:** Hope to have it hung by mid-November. Koren will try to get some information about the artist and portrait to provide talking points for tour guides / docents.
- **Christmas decorations:** Things are all set except still waiting for delivery of an order of Victorian ornaments shipped from the east coast. Marylin was able to have round tables made a low cost and is now making burgundy velvet table skirts. Will install trees the weekend of Thanksgiving – Friday or Saturday. Will coordinate with David Keck and Alex King to arrange transfer of all materials to the Capitol. Underground garage access can be arranged by Rachel. Koren suggested taking a picture of the tree to make decorating easy in future years.

New Business:

- **Penny Smasher:** Bill White presented a proposal to install a “penny smasher” machine in the Capitol. These machines are located in many museums and tourist attractions nationwide and appear popular with kids and adults. There is no cost to CSCMVA, and they are maintained by the providing company. There was discussion as to location, safety issues, noise and appropriateness. Final approval will have to come from Joint Rules, Koren and, probably, DGS. Motion to approve philosophically by Marilyn Thompson; seconded by Kris Tyler subject to approvals from state officials. Motion included authorization for Mary Geach to order 25 souvenir books to hold pennies and the mandate that visitors will be able to obtain change in the Bookstore for use with machine. Best location for the machine, assuming approval by Joint Rules, is either opposite the Tour Office or in front of the Eureka Room adjacent to the vending machines.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly **Board of Director’s** meetings.
The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, December 3 at 1:00 PM.**

Upcoming Events:

Board of Director’s Meeting	Wednesday, December 3, at 1 PM
Rehearsal: CSCMVA Museum Singers	Wednesday, December 10, 2 – 3 PM
Holiday Music Program	December 1 – 23
Performance: CSCMVA Museum Singers	Saturday, December 20, 12 – 1 PM
Annual Meeting	Thursday January 22, 2015

Happy Thanksgiving to All!



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