

# Capitola Sunset

410 Capitola Avenue

News, Events & Information

## ☂ The Capitola Beach Festival ☂

We are so proud to have been chosen the 3rd Place float in the 2023 Capitola Beach Festival Lighted Nautical Parade !!!!!!!



Above: The bathers are volunteer Owen Lawson and Museum Board member Emmy Mitchell-Lynn

It was our first float entry in the Beach Festival and all our volunteers had a great time putting the float together and taking her down Sequel Creek.

Our float was "A Day & A Night at the Hotel Capitola" and depicted on one side two Victorian bathers in front of the Hotel Capitola and on the other side the night of December 16, 1929 when the hotel, unfortunately, went up in flames, completely destroyed.

Our float was very ably guided down the creek by pilot and Museum Board member Brian Legakis.

With our float we hoped to convey that though Capitola has had its share of disasters, our little community and its residents always come back better and stronger.

A huge **THANK YOU** to our float builders—which included volunteers



Museum Curator Deborah Osterberg attired in a Victorian dress trimmed in white lights looked on as the Hotel Capitola burned on the fateful night of December 16, 1929.

Barbara Winston, Dee Jimenez, Ron Kustek, and Niels Kisling (who provided our motor, paddles and life vests); Museum Board members Brian Legakis, Roger Wyant and Emmy Mitchell-Lynn; and Curator Deborah Osterberg. It was a lot of fun being on the float (Emmy, Owen, Deborah and Brian), though we couldn't hear our own float music or narrative over the loud speaker. We're just glad we didn't run into the bridge or the bushes, though we did slightly bump into the winning float "The Aqua Princess" by the Cork & Fork.

Thanks to our volunteers who covered the extended museum hours that weekend: Patrick White, Kate Clark, Linda Smith, Sharon Clark, and Kim & Skip Natuk.



The admission free — Capitola Historical Museum at 410 Capitola Avenue, next to the railroad trestle, is open mid-March through December every Friday through Sunday from noon until 4:00 p.m.

831-464-0322

capitolamuseum@gmail.com

*Past newsletters available on our museum website*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Annual Capitola Plein Air Finale—

Sunday November 5th from 11 am to 4pm at Jade Street Center

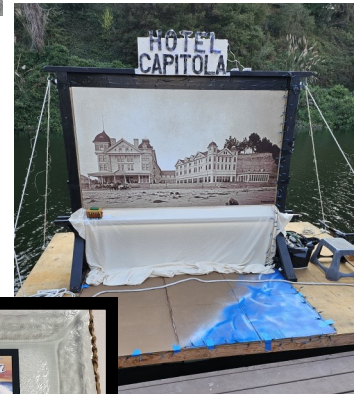


Our Congratulations to:

1st Place:  
"The Aqua Princess"  
Cork and Fork

2nd Place  
"Spirit of Capitola"  
Jewel Boxers

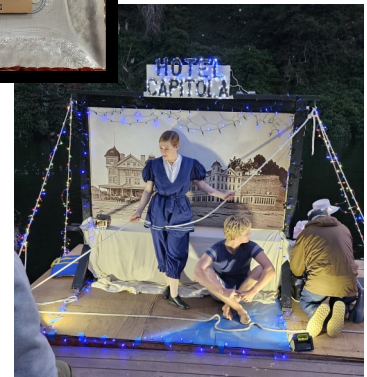
# The Making of Our Float



3rd Place Lighted Nautical Parade Trophy By Annie Glass



Members of our float building team first met at museum storage to fashion cardboard boxes into the hotel model. One Saturday we all met at the City corporation yard to paint the hotel model and construct and dismantle the photo frame. On parade day at the creek we installed the float pieces, attached Emmy's hotel tower to the model and added lights to the float.



**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**TO CELEBRATE**  
**JOJO'S 80<sup>TH</sup>**

**NOVEMBER 6**  
**ESPLANADE PARK**  
**4PM-7PM**

To contribute or for more information: [cityofcapitola.org](http://cityofcapitola.org)

## Beach Festival - Victorian Photo-op

The Capitola Historical Museum would like to thank Beach Festival volunteers Debbie McDowell and Kathy Brown for dressing in period costumes to help visitors at the museum's photo-op of Victorian bathers. Ladies you looked spectacular!

The photo-op was set up at Esplanade Park and reportedly was quite popular. The costumes were lent to the ladies by our Museum Curator.



The lovely Victorian ladies were Kathy Brown and Debbie McDowell

## Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project [CWEP]

Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project (CWEP) is a group of community volunteers who are raising private donations to enhance the City's renovation of the Capitola Wharf. The CWEP hopes to add upgraded amenities for greater public enjoyment of the wharf.

Damage to the iconic Capitola Wharf in January 2023 was devastating to not only the Capitola community, but also to people statewide. There was a huge outcry from the community to work with the city to not only build back the wharf, but, build it back even better. The City of Capitola acquired funding for the physical renovation including widening the area closest to the shore from 20' to 36', doubling the number of pilings to 120, and to replacing the whole deck and railings.

CWEP conducted an online survey that garnered over 1,000 responses and held a community meeting that was attended by over 65 interested individuals. Several improvements were identified including ADA binocular stations, new lighting, new benches and disposal cans, shade structures and tables, water filling and foot washing stations, a new fish cleaning station, public art, and an interpretive timeline of wharf history. The Capitola Historical Museum is helping to compile the timeline and provide historic images for the project.

### Be A Part Of The New Capitola Wharf ! ! ! ! !

Plans for an interpretive historical timeline sign on the new wharf are moving fast. With Capitola Wharf's rich history there will be plenty of interest in this new sign. We are asking the community to help us fund this new timeline sign. We have partnered with the Wharf to Wharf Race which will serve as the official 501©(3) organization leading the fundraising efforts behind the Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project. To donate please visit the wharf campaign page of the Capitola Village website, <https://capitolavillage.com/wharf/>. Checks are preferred. All donations are not only gratefully appreciated, but also tax deductible. With your help, we can make a difference!

## 2023 Capitola Art & Wine Festival

Another successful Art & Wine Festival took place September 9-10. As is our tradition, the museum set up a display across from Esplanade Park. During the Festival the museum raised \$650, much of the money coming from the sale of vintage Begonia Festival posters kindly donated to the museum by Laurie Hill. These funds will go towards the new museum landscape plan which will include a new Native plant garden with exhibit markers showing how local indigenous people (the Aptos and Cajastaca) used each plant. Thanks to the Museum Board members and volunteers including Erin Coolman and Barbara Winston at the display and the volunteers who covered extended museum hours over the weekend: Kate Clark, Asa Murphy, Mary Hay, and Paul Ruiz.



Left: Museum Curator Deborah Osterberg in Victorian summer dress.

Museum Board members Roger Wyant and Emmy Mitchell-Lynn with her husband Ron Kustek and our new museum mascot Fred (a.k.a. Winifred).



Left: Cute little Fred and Youth Museum Board member Juliette Thompson man the display.

Above: Congratulations to the raffle winner Claudia who took home the framed 1978 Begonia Festival poster by Nadine Ann Reimers which was graciously donated for this purpose by Susan Westman.



## Special Castro Adobe Tour

On August 9th we had a special tour of the Castro Adobe State Historic Park in Watsonville for our volunteers and Museum Board members. Though we had a small group, we had a wonderful time. Our hosts were Charlene Duvall, Edna Kimbro Collection Archivist and Ranger Carlos Ramos. We received a guided tour of the adobe and a behind the scenes view of the Kimbro Archives and the park's museum collections. If you haven't yet, be sure to attend one of the Castro Adobe's open houses this year.



Photo courtesy of Pam Greeninger

Charlene Duvall shows some of the Castro Adobe archeological collection to Capitola Historical Museum Board members David Peyton and Emmy Mitchell-Lynn.

**FREE!** Visit Santa Cruz County's newest State Historic Park

### Castro Adobe Open House Days 2023

Feb 11	Mar 12	Apr 8	May 7	Jun 3
Aug 6	Sept 16	Oct 15	Nov 12	Dec 9

10:30am to 3:30pm • 184 Old Adobe Road, Watsonville  
 Parking limited • Leashed dogs in parking area only

CASTRO ADOBE

ThatsMyPark.org

**¡GRATIS!** Visite el próximo Parque Histórico del Condado de Santa Cruz

### Las Puertas del Castro Adobe estarán Abiertas 2023

feb 11	mar 12	abr 8	may 7	jun 3
ago 6	set 16	oct 15	nov 12	dic 9

10:30am a 3:30pm • 184 Old Adobe Road, Watsonville  
 Estacionamiento limitado • Perros con correa solo en el área de estacionamiento

CASTRO ADOBE

ThatsMyPark.org

## Meet Volunteer Esther Sylvan — Interview by Dave Peyton

*What would others want to know about you?*

I've lived in Santa Cruz County for 50 years now. The first time I lived in Capitola was from 1975-1977. When I had the opportunity to return in 1989, it was an easy decision. I feel so proud and fortunate to be a part of this beachside community. The people, the physical beauty and that sense of joy you get from being in a vacation destination align with my values and interests.



*Let us know what brings you to the museum yadda yadda ...*

I've always had a curiosity about Capitola's history and that of Santa Cruz County as well. Serving as a docent to both learn more and spread a bit of knowledge and cheer to locals and visitors alike is fun and engaging. I'll add that the museum's expectation to work a monthly shift (or more if you like) was also very appealing and fits in well with my other volunteer commitments.

*Your experiences at the museum have been limited but does something stand out?*

I remember being a bit nervous before my first shift thinking that I didn't know a lot about Capitola history. One of the first questions I was asked was about the storm in 2012 that flooded the town. Well, turns out I was able to answer that one pretty easily since I was living here. Then someone asked about the Capitola theater. I was very familiar with that as well...my daughter attended her first movie there at 5 months old in the 'crying room'. I think there was one more question from within the last 35 years that I was able to answer. As it turns out, I knew a lot more about Capitola history than I thought.

*Continued on Page 7*

## Generous Financial Donations

Jack & Shirley Brain  
 Ted Burke  
 Robert T. & Diana C. Deacon  
 Ann E. Everett  
 Al & Marian Carlson  
 Melinda L. Kahler  
 Kathleen King  
 Nancy Lenox  
 Susan Lynn  
 Michael McDonald  
 Michelle Murphy  
 Kim & Skip Natuk  
 Paul Parsons  
 Dave Peyton  
 Beth Porter  
 Roger Wyant  
 Yvonne Zannis

**The Capitola Historical Museum would like to give special thanks to the Aberman Family Fund which graciously gave the museum an amazing \$1,000 donation**

Local Businesses:

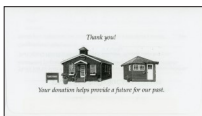
Steven Allen c/o the Capitola Venetian Hotel \$100  
 Peter L. Dwares of the Capitola Mercantile \$500  
 (for historic images to mount at the Mercantile)

These generous donations will be put toward our new museum landscape. This project began just a few weeks ago when contractors began an extension of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) walkway and railing to our historic Bathhouse. This winter we plan to install an interpretive Native plant garden, pavers, and a new sign.

**Don't Worry**—Public Works will lift the Bathhouse to build a foundation beneath it for better preservation.



**Remember:** A donation sent back in the enclosed donation envelope helps support on going museum projects: new landscape, new museum sign and artifact cabinets.





## Halloween and Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at the Beach Cottage



Jack-O-Lantern and friends  
Pyewacket & Broomstick. Harry  
the Spider hid in the corner.

This Fall we had a few special holiday visitors at our 1907 Beach Cottage.

**Halloween** "... originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats."



Lucretia visited Capitola before entering the Felton Sip & Stroll & Scarecrow Contest on behalf of the San Lorenzo Valley Museum

**Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)** "... is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration. A blend of Mesoamerican ritual, European religion, and Spanish culture, the holiday is celebrated each year from October 31-November 2. While October 31 is Halloween, November 2 is All Saints Day or the Day of the Dead. According to tradition, the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31 and the spirits of children can rejoin their families for 24 hours. The spirits of adults can do the same on November 2.

From *The History Channel*



### A Town Invaded—Capitola and *The Birds*

Throughout October and into mid-November stop by the Capitola Library, located at 2005 Wharf Road, to check out an exhibit recognizing the 60th anniversary of Alfred Hitchcock's movie *The Birds*. Though the movie was based upon a 1952 short story by British author Daphne DuMaurier, see how a bird incident in Capitola in 1961 contributed to it. At both the Capitola Library and the Capitola Historical Museum, you can pick up a detailed handout entitled, "A Town Invaded—Capitola and *The Birds*" to take home with you.

At the museum you can also see how we transformed the Hotel Capitola model from our 3rd place prize winning Beach Festival float into a haunted house. Come back after Thanksgiving to see how we transform it again for the Christmas holiday season.



**Volunteer Profile —continued**

*We often refer to the 2 hour docent shifts as magic...*

Whether it’s the smile on children’s faces as they color in a picture of a Capitola scene or the local who stops by and shares a bit of family history, it’s all pretty magical.

*What other volunteer or community service work do you do or have done?*



I’ve probably volunteered for almost every Capitola event over the years. I’ve served popcorn at the beach movies, worked the Begonia and Beach Festivals including Sand Sculpture registration, the row-boat races, have built begonia floats, worked the Foundation golf tournament, the Classic Car show, Art & Wine, and the Passport days. I served on a Capitola citizen’s committee looking at solutions to the path closure up on Depot Hill. I’m about to join the Capitola Foundation and have walked precincts for local city council candidates. On a broader scale, I recently termed off the CASA of Santa Cruz County board and remain affiliated with their Friend’s auxiliary.

*Favorite historical moment* - I have to say it was a unique experience to walk a couple blocks from my house and wave to President Biden.

July 2022	934 visitors
July 2023	1,325 visitors
August 2022	834 visitors
August 2023	874 visitors
September 2022	959 visitors
September 2023	1,251 visitors

**Artifact Donations**

**June Eidson** donated four scanned images from her great-grandfather, William Frederick Pemberton (1871-1952) of Hanford, who was a cattleman and water driller Pemberton and his wife Euphemia owned 83 Saxon (now 103 Saxon) and 30 Saxon.

**Laurie Hill** donated a promotional Antonelli Begonia Gardens (mini combo rake/hoe).



From a scrapbook kept by Katherine Sandas that **Frank Perry** donated to the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History – he donated a c. 1940s wrapped sugar cube from Shadowbrook Restaurant.

**Marilyn Colberg**, daughter of Tom Shanahan (former owner of the Capitola Wharf from 1962 to 1978), donated her father’s wharf photograph album. This timely donation will be a great boon to the Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project for the wharf timeline for which they are raising funds.

**Museum Annual Exhibitions**

There are only two months left to see our 2023 exhibition “*Capitola – Signs of the Times*”. The exhibition will close at the end of December and if you haven’t yet seen it, or seen all of it, now’s the time. Come learn the fascinating story of Capitola through its historic signage.

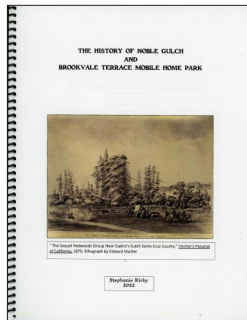
**The museum will close in January and February 2024 in order for Museum Curator Deborah Osterberg to install the 2024 exhibition, “Little City Under Canvas — The 150th Anniversary of Camp Capitola.”**

S.A. Hall officially opened Camp Capitola in the summer of 1874, thereby making Capitola one of the oldest beach resorts on the California Coast.

**We will be celebrating three anniversaries in 2024. In addition to the 150th of Camp Capitola, 2024 will also mark the centennial of the Venetian Court and the 75th anniversary of the City of Capitola.**



FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK



A big museum thank you to **Stephanie Kirby** who wrote this comprehensive history of Noble Gulch and Brookvale Terrace Mobile Home Park—now in our Volunteer Library.

#### MUSEUM CURATOR

Deborah Osterberg

### Museum Board of Trustees

#### PRESIDENT

Dave Peyton

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Emmy Mitchell-Lynn

#### SECRETARY

Mary Hay

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Gordon van Zuiden

Enrique Dolmo

Roger Wyant

Brian Legakis

Juliette Thompson - Youth  
Representative

Newsletter published by the  
Capitola Historical Museum

## “Our Capitola”

“Our Capitola” is a large, spectacular mural on Wharf Road which was completed by Jon Ton and Maia Negre in 2015. Painted on the retaining wall beneath the Capitola railroad trestle, the mural was commissioned by the Capitola Art and Cultural Commission and depicts a series of typical Capitola dwellers and visitors enjoying beloved Capitola scenes including the bay, the beach and the lagoon. The whole mural is surrounded with begonia blossoms. A portion of this mural adorns the cover of *A Companion to Capitola*, a handy alphabetical index to Capitola history by Frank Perry, available for a suggested donation of just \$10 at our museum bookstore.



*I discovered the mural with a friend while we were walking around Capitola Village in 2015 shortly after we moved to our current location on Park Avenue. My friend said, ‘look, that couple looks like Skip and you!’ I took a photo and Skip and I put on clothes out of our wardrobe and had our son take this photo that ended up as our Christmas card that year. The funny thing is we had all the items. Didn’t have to buy a thing. So on some level we are the doppelgängers of the couple the artist used as models. We occasionally get asked if we are the couple on the mural.*

Volunteer Kim Natuk



View of Capitola Wharf  
repairs circa 1966-67.

Photograph from the  
Tom Shanahan Wharf  
Photograph Album recently  
donated to the museum by  
his daughter Marilyn Colberg.

Tom and Jean Shanahan  
operated the Capitola Wharf  
from 1962 through 1978.

In 1979 title to the wharf was  
transferred from Santa Cruz  
County to the City of Capitola.