

# Capitola Sunset

Winter  
2026

410 Capitola Avenue

News, Events &amp; Information

## What a Wharf !

The museum is pleased to announce that we have a new art installation in the Capitola City Council Chambers at City Hall. In January we added the wonderful Capitola Wharf model made by local model maker Chris Lundell.



The wharf model, along with a Capitola trestle model (displayed at Capitola Mall Police Annex), were donated to the museum a couple of years ago by Jeremy and Rhiannon Lundell. Where to display the 10' long wharf model was the first question since it took up valuable space in museum artifact storage. Over the past year, the Museum Board of Trustees looked into various ways to create a display but the cost estimates were higher than they anticipated.

Museum Board President Brian Legakis took the matter into his own hands and volunteered to lovingly make a display table for the model. The entire project, costing approximately \$1,600, was fully funded by museum donations. A timely large donation from Peter Dwares of the Capitola Mercantile was used toward the acquisition of an acrylic top made by Tapp Plastics of San Jose.

The model, which depicts the old wharf in its prime, was previously part of an exhibit at the museum in late 1995 called "*Honey, I Shrunk the Bridge — The Model World of Chris Lundell.*" That exhibit included not only the wharf model, but also Lundell's models of the Seacliff Cement Ship, Capitola Trestle and the Golden Gate Bridge. The wharf model was installed (with a series of historic wharf photographs) by Curator Deborah Osterberg, Board Vice President Roger Wyant, Board Trustee Enrique Dolmo, and Museum Volunteers Dave Peyton and John Karwin.



Curator Deborah Osterberg with the Capitola Wharf model.



The admission free — Capitola Historical Museum at 410 Capitola Avenue, between the railroad trestle and Capitola City Hall

The museum is temporarily closed from January to mid-March 2026.

831-464-0322

capitolamuseum@gmail.com

*Past  
museum  
newsletters*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Capitola Historical Museum opens for the season at noon on Friday, March 13, 2026, and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4:00 p.m. until the end of December 2026.

**The 2026 Exhibition Reception takes place**

**Saturday,  
March 21, 2026  
11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Capitola City  
Council Chambers**



**Follow our  
Museum  
Facebook  
page**

## Museum Membership

**Are you interested in engaging with our historical community in a new and innovative way?**

The Capitola Historical Museum is now offering a **FREE Museum Membership**. Such museum membership is a common way for museums around the world to help build attendance and grow a regional community of support. We are encouraging, but not limiting, participation to folks in the Capitola, Soquel, Aptos, Santa Cruz and the greater Santa Cruz County area. All who are interested are welcome to sign up for our membership.

### Membership Privileges:

- Members will receive a monthly "Membership Bulletin" outlining upcoming events and activities in and around our museum and sometimes the greater Santa Cruz County museum community (*this is in addition to our quarterly Capitola Sunset museum newsletter*)
- Members Only Historic Tours of Capitola Village\*
- Invitations to History Circles\* - a way of sharing stories of our Capitola past.
- Members Only Picnic\*
- A surprise gift from the Museum bookstore
- Members Only Palm Tree Tour of Capitola Village\* (including their cultural ties to our town)
- Members tour during the soft opening of the 2026 exhibition (March 13 from 11 a.m. to noon - limited to the first 20 members responding - Please R.S.V.P. to the Curator by March 9, 2026)

Please join us as Capitola Historical Museum Members and begin to enjoy the benefits offered this year. To sign up for the **FREE Museum Membership**, please fill out the form at this link:

*Sincerely, Deborah Osterberg, Museum Curator &  
Brian Legakis, President of the Capitola Historical Museum Board of Trustees*



For further information about the Museum or our **FREE Museum Membership**, you may call us at 831-464-0322 or email the Museum Curator at [dosterberg@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:dosterberg@ci.capitola.ca.us)

*\* Event dates and times will be announced in the monthly "Membership Bulletin"*

### A BIG THANK YOU to those who gave generous donations to the museum in the 3rd quarter of 2025:

Kathryn & Jared Bell	Marvin Jensen	Dave Peyton
Nancy & Michael Davis	Jean E. Lawrence	Larry & Linda Smith
Tory Del Favero	Nancy Lenox	Debbie Vilotti
Rickey Feldner	Damon Macdonald	Businesses & Organizations:
Craig & Mimi French	Cynthia Mathews	Peter Dwares—Capitola Mercantile

### Highlights from recent artifact acquisitions:

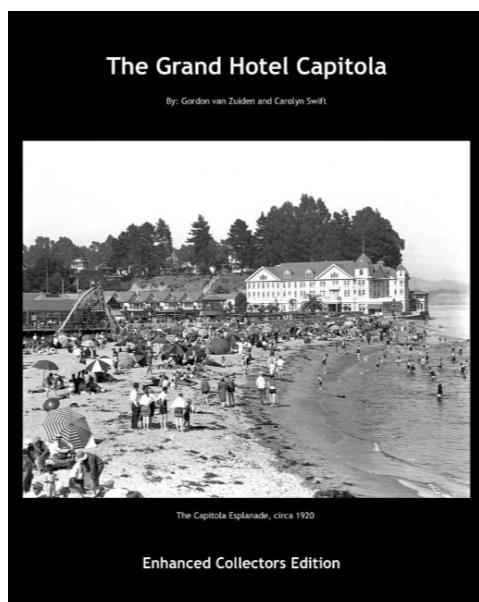
Jay Topping donated a military style, olive green short jacket, jodhpurs, and gaiters which belonged to Otto Jensen of Soquel (from the Lund family)

Paul Schreiner donated three fabulous, early career Olaf Palm paintings.



## The Grand Hotel Capitola — Enhanced Collector's Edition

Carolyn Swift and Gordon van Zuiden will introduce their newly revised and enhanced *Grand Hotel Capitola* book at the reception of the Capitola Historical Museum's 2026 exhibit entitled "Multiple Personalities - The Stories Behind Capitola's Historic Buildings". It's been almost 20 years since they released the first edition of this popular book. In the December 11, 2007 copy of the *Mid-County Post* Jeff Gatlin wrote, *"At the signing by the authors at the museum on December 1, a line of readers snaked out the door, eager to snap up the entire first run of 100 copies."*



This updated enhanced collector's edition of the book in paperback has added a significant number of new photos and historical information since its first release. Carolyn and Gordon will also be signing this Hotel Capitola book for guests that purchase this new edition at the museum reception for a suggested donation of \$30. The reception will be held in the Capitola City Council Chambers on Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. *All the profits from the sale of this book will be donated to the Capitola Historical Museum.*

Brian Legakis, President of the Board, Capitola Historical Museum, gave this review of *The Grand Hotel Capitola* book,

*"This updated edition of the Grand Hotel Capitola provides readers with an excellent exploration of the delightful beach town of Capitola during its heyday. While the Hotel Capitola is the focus of this lavishly illustrated book, the authors, Gordon van Zuiden and Carolyn Swift, include the early history of the town as well as later developments. The care and accuracy of the written entries, combined with the use of spectacular high quality photographs from local and personal collections, reflects the love and respect the authors have for their subjects. If you have any connection with Capitola, this book should be in your collection."*



**MicroPast  
Website**



Gordon van Zuiden

Purchasers of the new *Grand Hotel Book* will have access to **MicroPast's** Online Companion website that features additional hotel photographs and stories not used in the book. It will also include new photographs that are discovered in the future along with additional topics relevant to the Hotel Capitola story.

We hope that you will purchase and enjoy reading our updated book on the *Grand Hotel Capitola* - some stories are never too old to revive and relive!



Carolyn Swift

*Gordon van Zuiden & Carolyn Swift*

## Join the Museum Board

The Museum is seeking applications for one **Museum Trustee & the Board Youth Representative** (*under 18 years old*). The voting Trustee would serve a three year volunteer board term. The non-voting Youth Rep can serve while attending a local high school.

The board promotes the establishment and maintenance of a museum and allied projects and a better understanding and appreciation by the Capitola community of its history, architecture, culture, technology, and its creative and natural environments.



Access applications at this link:

**MUSEUM CURATOR**  
Deborah Osterberg

Museum Board  
of Trustees

### PRESIDENT

Brian Legakis

### VICE PRESIDENT

Roger Wyant

### BOARD TRUSTEES

Gordon van Zuiden

Enrique Dolmo

Toni Alldredge Event Coordinator  
Cami Corvin

*Trustee Vacancy*

**Youth Representative** *Vacancy*

Newsletter published by the  
Capitola Historical Museum

## Become a Museum Volunteer

Our community's museum can only operate with the dedicated service of our Museum Volunteers.

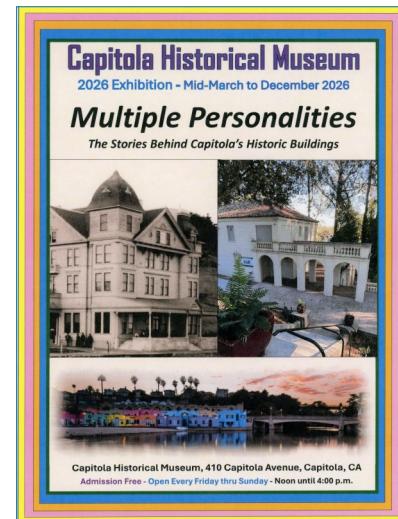
Volunteers help staff the museum in two hour shifts and assist with special events, exhibitions, and help better organize the museum collections. To join the ranks of our Museum Volunteers, you may fill out a volunteer application at the above link.



## The 2026 Exhibition

If you are interested in becoming a museum volunteer you may also wish to join us for our 2026 Museum Training which will take place on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at the Capitola City Hall Community Room from 11:00 a.m. until noon. The Museum Curator will go over the themes of the new exhibition entitled, *Multiple Personalities*—

*The Stories Behind Capitola's Historic Buildings.* After training, volunteers are welcome to view the new exhibition. Please R.S.V.P. your attendance at the Volunteer Training by emailing the Museum Curator at [dosterberg@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:dosterberg@ci.capitola.ca.us) by March 2, 2026.



## How You Can Help

**MUSEUM DONATIONS**—Inside each quarterly newsletter we mail out, we provide a donation envelope. Our ongoing museum projects include continued work developing our new Native plant garden, the purchase of museum quality storage cabinets and containers and emergency supplies for our artifacts and archives.

Tax deductible donations to the Capitola Historical Museum may be made anytime by using the *Autobooks* app.

When you click this QR code it takes you to the *Autobooks* website where you may choose to donate either via ApplePay or with a credit card (VISA, Mastercard, Discover or American Express)



*Thank You for Your Donation!*