

Capitola Sunset

CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Fall 2022

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

Begonia Festival Tribute

By Deborah Osterberg

The Capitola Begonia Festival Tribute held over Labor Day weekend was a great success! The Capitola Historical Museum, which opened for extended hours, had record weekend visitation with over 330 visitors and more who explored the special Begonia Festival displays in the City Hall Community Room and City Council chambers.



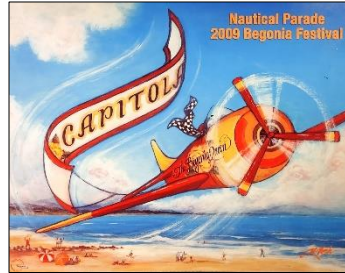
Museum Vice President, Dave Peyton passionately chats up visitors at the Capitola Begonia Tribute set up by the museum in council chambers. He and Andrew Baumhardt were an important part of the museum's special exhibit.

The tribute was the brainchild of former Begonia Festival director, Laurie Hill, who along with a cadre of former Begonia Festival volunteers, set up colorful display panels and video documentaries in the Community Room which traced the history of the beloved festival from 1954 to 2017.

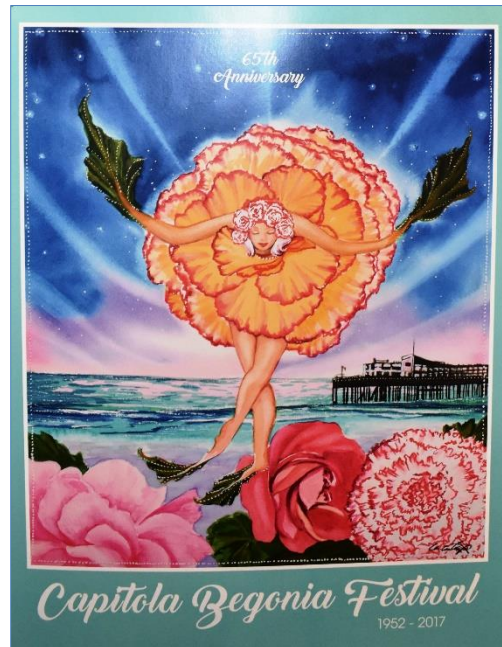
Museum Curator Deborah Osterberg, who donned a circa 1960 costume, set up three special Begonia related exhibits: Begonia Queens at the Capitola Library; Begonia posters and the 1970 Begonia Queen's dress (worn by Susan Wright) in the City Council Chambers and Begonia Awards in the Capitola Historical Museum (which will continue until December). Free concerts were held at Esplanade Park on Sunday and Laurie Hill set out hanging baskets of her homegrown begonias at the museum and on the Trestle Building on Capitola Avenue.



Laurie Hill and Sharon Kenny donated dozens of vintage Begonia Festival posters to the museum. The posters, along with a silent auction of a rare 1978 festival poster by high school student Nadine Ann Reimers, helped the museum fundraise over \$1,100 that weekend.



Editor's Note: The vintage posters were a hit with my family visiting from out of town. My son Jack bought the 2009 poster for his dorm room at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. This poster has special meaning for Jack because he drew the image of the airplane for his 5th grade art project nine years ago. Coincidentally, or not, Jack is majoring in Aerospace Engineering.



Images from 2017 along with the last poster from the final year. This 65th Anniversary Poster is from the last Begonia Festival in 2017. It features the theme, BEGONIAS—Take a Bow. Scan the QR code for link to more images.

Special thanks go out to Museum Board Vice President Dave Peyton and volunteer Andrew Baumhardt for helping to set up and take down the special display and the dedicated Museum volunteers who helped us cover the extended holiday weekend hours.

Capitola Museum Annex at Art and Wine Festival

By John Mulry

Capitola's 39th Annual Art and Wine Festival, September 10th and 11th saw, as always, Capitola at its loveliest. Our local artists and wineries never fail to impress. Something not everyone knows is that the people filling the glasses in the wine tents are volunteers, who year after year provide the friendliest conversation (and pours) to the folks enjoying sun, sand, art, and a tipple.

Your Capitola Historical Museum, all volunteers as well, brought their passion for local lore to our annual booth. Curator Deborah Osterberg radiated her love of history in a 1920s Rispin Era ensemble showcasing this year's museum booth theme, 1920s through 1950s dance and music venues of Capitola. The display included many of the museum's wonderful period pictures highlighting the changes to Esplanade Park over the years, from the Hotel Capitola, the Capitola Ballroom and Beach Club and the famous (or infamous) Saba Club.



Board members Emmy Mitchell-Lynn, John Mulry, and those constant museum stalwarts President Niels Kisling and Vice President Dave Peyton along with Museum volunteers David Biancalana and Ron Kustek rounded out the booth talking Capitola history and offering interested folks information on becoming a museum volunteer, a commitment of two hours as docent at the museum, at least once a month.



Long-time (notice we didn't say old) Capitola Museum Volunteer, David Biancalana, staffs our annex exhibit under the historic Canary Islands Date Palm in the village. David has been around long enough to talk about Capitola history first-hand.

It's hard to say what was most popular, questions about which venue burned down when (a lot of fires afflicted social venues in the era), was that really the same Castle House in the pictures still standing unchanged on Depot Hill, or are the pictures for sale? For that last one the answer is yes, it can be arranged.

Those interested in obtaining copies of local historic photographs should contact the museum at 831-464-0322 and arrange an appointment. For a donation of \$30, the museum can provide the requestor with a high-quality scan or have an image brought to a local photography studio for the requestor to pay for a photographic print.

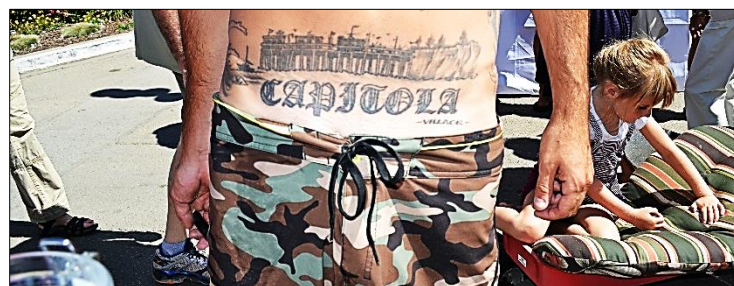
The museum conducted some fundraising activities including offering vintage Capitola Begonia Festival posters (posters are still available at the museum). The museum also held a drawing for a signed print by former Capitola resident and artist Olaf Palm, a forerunner credited with developing the wild but well-respected art community which thrived in the beachside village through the 1960s and 1970s. One lucky winner went home with the rare, signed print.



Museum Trustee, Emmy Mitchell-Lynn, and her most-significant other, Ron Kustek, provided exceptional conversation for everyone who visited our special museum annex in the village.

The highlight for me as always was all the great folks who come to enjoy the festival sharing their memories of the Capitola Village. I heard stories about riding the beach carousel, the derby cars, and the arcades of yore. A few old timers even told tales about attending the clubs in our pictures, or stories their parents told them of times older still—of bonfires and great surf days, dancing the nights away after long relaxing hours on Capitola's beach, whose fame as the best family vacation spot on the California coast goes back to even before the opening of Camp Capitola in 1874.

The fog burned off early, the sun shined, another perfect Capitola day. See y'all next year.



Museum Outreach—Taking it to the People

Your Capitola Museum Volunteers, Board and Curator worked hard in September with several outreach events. We created extra exhibits for the Begonia Tribute, Art and Wine Festival and for the Capitola Beach Festival. The special exhibit set up outside the museum for the beach festival speaks for itself with the following images and captions:



Museum Curator captures visitors as they pass by on their way to the beach festival with most activities being held near the beach.



Dave Peyton and Joshua Henshaw take a break at the museum from their demanding volunteer committee duties at The Capitola Beach Festival.



Our Museum Curator doesn't miss a chance to dress up in period costume capturing visitors' attention and promoting Capitola History at the same time.

Museum Collections:

Our Curator is focusing on the proper care for several pieces of art in the collection. She recently arranged for local, professional conservator Robert Watson to carefully clean the surface of two Olaf Palm paintings to remove old varnish stains. The paintings never looked better and in November they will go on exhibit in the Capitola City Council Chambers. She is also having the conservator do preservation framing of the Frank Hill murals from the old Capitola Post Office. The murals, each on a piece of sheetrock cut from the post office wall, are getting light weight, but sturdy metal frames that will allow them to be used for future exhibitions.

New Accessions:

Steven Burbank donated a cap and ball (percussion type) muzzle loading pistol, circa 1820s-1840s. The pistol was reportedly discovered at a depth of 85 feet in Monterey Bay on February 23, 1965, by divers Jim Berning and Elden Ross. Mr. Burbank's father ran estate sales in Oregon and that is how his family acquired the weapon. We are trying to conduct further research on this artifact. Anyone who may know the story or the divers, please get in touch with our Museum Curator at 831-464-0322. Mr. Burbank also provided a 1938 special edition of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. **Ronald A. Fritzsche** donated a Switzer-Fritzsche family photograph album, a silver "Capitola" spoon, and a wooden walking cane. **Norman Davis** donated a program from the 1904 Young Women's Christian Association conference

New Research:

The newly donated YWCA program was of special interest since our curator just published an article about the YWCA conferences held at Capitola entitled, "*A Gathering of Earnest Women – Young Women's Christian Association Students' Conferences in Capitola 1900-1911*," which has been posted on the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History's Online History Journal. The article provides new insights into Capitola's role as the original "Asilomar" for YWCA conferences in this region.



You can access the article through the Capitola Historical Museum website or scan the QR code:

<https://www.cityofcapitola.org/capitola-museum/page/historical-essays>



David's Great Museum Day – this could happen to you!

Imagine David Biancalana's surprise when someone recently walked in the door during his museum shift and asked him if the museum wanted an old musket from c1840. It was recovered by two local divers in The Monterey Bay in the 1960s. When you volunteer to meet and greet people at the Capitola Museum this kind of thing that happens often.

The caption on the plaque reads:

(One hundred and twenty years under the sea)

Cap and bail (percussion type) muzzle loader, undoubtedly used in the conquest of California by Mexico about 1820-1840.

Discovered in Monterey Bay in approximately 85 feet of water by divers Jim Berning and Eldon Ross of Santa Cruz. Feb. 23, 1965

If anyone knows more about the back story, please contact the Capitola Museum. The whole story needs to be told.



In Memoriam - Joan Gilbert Martin (1930-2022)

Joan Gilbert Martin was a long-time local historian who will be greatly missed. Joan's careers included working as a technical writer and editor and serving as a high school history teacher. Upon her arrival in Santa Cruz County in 1966, Joan became interested in local history. Working with Stanley D. Stevens at the Special Collections Library of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Joan assisted in the transcription and indexing of the Leon Rowland card files. In 2007, Joan co-authored with Colleen McInerney-Meagher, the book, *Pogonip, Jewel of Santa Cruz*. Joan was named Historian of the Year by the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History's History Forum in 2009. Harkening back to her earlier career, Joan helped edit many local history publications and served as principal editor of two Santa Cruz County History Journals, 2009 *Pathways in the Past* (No. 6) and 2016 *Do You Know My Name* (No. 8). She was also the author of "A Gift to the City: The Santa Cruz Post Office Murals of Henrietta Shore," (Santa Cruz History Journal No. 6, 2009); "Rancho Bolsa del Pajaro: Squatters and Recipients," and "African American Churches in the City of Santa Cruz: The Early Years," (co-authored with Stanley D. Stevens in the Santa Cruz History Journal No. 8, 2016). In 2022 Joan was inducted into the Researchers Anonymous "Santa Cruz County Historians Hall of Fame". Joan was also a long-time supporter and donor to the Capitola Historical Museum.



Joan Gilbert Martin: Right

Celebrating 75 Years

By Ted Burke

Begun as a log cabin in Capitola, Shadowbrook Restaurant has opened its doors to friends, neighbors, and visitors for the past 75 years! Shadowbrook first opened for business on October 13th, 1947, when the cost of a postage stamp was \$.03 cents and California's minimum wage had just increased to a whopping \$.65 cents an hour.



Ted Burke, who was hired in 1972 for the summer as an hourly employee on his way to graduate school never left and has been the managing owner since 1978. During his 50 years with Shadowbrook he has seen many changes and challenges.

Certainly, the pandemic that completely closed the restaurant for eight months heads the list; but occasional earthquakes, floods, economic recessions, and culture changes have also been significant challenges.

Shadowbrook and all its 149 employees are especially proud that the restaurant has not only survived but has indeed thrived as the "go-to place for all types of business, family, and personal celebrations, and for successfully maintaining *Romance in Dining* which was the opening theme in 1947 and is still ever present in 2022!

Shadowbrook has flourished in a sea of challenges and changes. It respects its vintage beginnings but is always evolving to meet the menu and service needs brought on by culture changes, technology advancements, and patron demands.

As the restaurant celebrates its 75th year in operation, we marvel that we are still here, still loved, still relevant, and still packed. We honor that legacy and do all we can to deserve the ongoing faith and trust of our many fans from around the world who value romance and beauty.

For a complete history visit the website below or scan the QR code:

<https://shadowbrookrestaurant.wordpress.com/2015/01/20/the-version-of-our-history/>

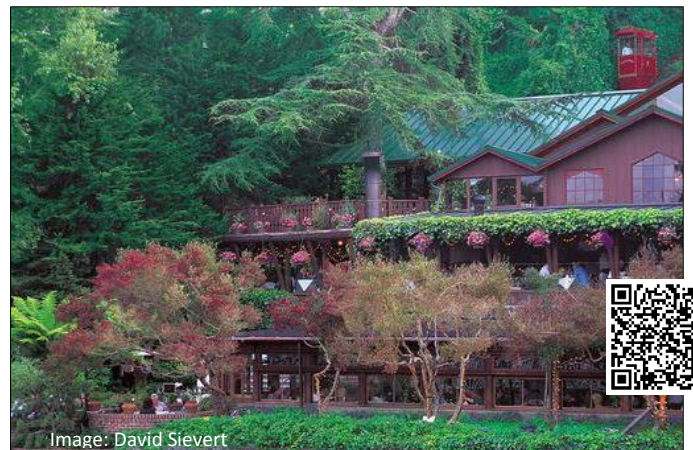


Image: David Sievert

Welcome Two New Museum Board Members



Mary Hay is our newest Board Member. Mary is no stranger to volunteering for Capitola starting with working part-time for the Capitola/Soquel Chamber of Commerce after moving here in 2003. Although a paid employee, Mary quickly found out there were many volunteer opportunities available.

Prior to moving here, Mary started her BS/BM at University of Phoenix Campus in Fairfield, CA. There she expanded her skills by working with study groups, researching the assignments, and learning the necessary art of Critical Thinking. Mary continued her degree in San Jose driving Highway 17 twice a week for 2 years and obtaining her degree in 2005.

While living in Capitola, she and her partner built a Victorian on Jewel Street, which was no small feat! She learned the inner workings of the City Planning Department as well as the City Council. Living in such a small community was the start of her love of volunteerism.

Mary's volunteerism took root while working for the chamber. She was quickly involved in recruiting volunteers for the events from large to small and started with the annual Capitola Art and Wine Festival. Moving on to the Capitola Rod and Custom Classic Car Show, which registration ran at the same time as the Art and Wine Festival, she quickly found out that it was quite akin to a juggling act! Mary recognized that through the chaos, she found joy in all the people she encountered while recruiting the myriad number of volunteers for all the events.

Through her work at the chamber, Mary ultimately became involved with Capitola Police Department's VIP (Volunteers in Policing) Program. As a volunteer in this capacity, she wore many hats, such as manning barricades for events, directing traffic for the annual Wharf to Wharf Race, and working with a partner for the New Year's Eve Safe Ride Home program by insuring all who needed a ride, after a night of celebration, arrived home safely.

Mary currently works with the Santa Cruz County Senior's Council as a Senior Companion by reaching out to the isolated and underserved in the county. Mary embraces her museum shifts as being a "friendly helper" to all who come through its doors and is grateful to be on the Board of Trustees who help promote the Capitola Historical Museum.



John Mulry, our newest board member, is no stranger to Capitola. He and his wife have celebrated 19 out of 20 wedding anniversaries in the Village, making their lifelong dream of moving to Capitola a reality in 2020. Married to his college soulmate at age 21, John graduated with a BA in English

Literature from Vanderbilt University before moving to Los Angeles by way of London. John's career saw him work campaigns from Gore to Bush to Obama before becoming a stay at home dad to his two little lads, aged three and six. Specializing in Equal Marriage rights, he has nurtured many small orgs like our Capitola Historical Museum, helping them grow towards their future. John has never missed the Capitola Rod and Custom Classic Car Show and looks forward to being in the vanguard of a new generation of Capitola Civic Volunteers.

Board Member Legakis Leaves the Board

Brian Legakis resigned from the museum board earlier this month citing a need to travel and explore the west with his wife Sally. Brian contributed to the board with his deep knowledge of art history, inspirational observations of museums around the west, and a good vision of where the museum needs to be in the future. Brian was also an active volunteer at the front desk. His service will be missed.

Going Above and Beyond

The museum board wishes to recognize a few volunteers for their service to your museum that ranks above and beyond the call of duty.



Kim Natuk recently inventoried and cataloged the books that we keep in our museum library. When Kim is not organizing, and cleaning, she's keeping an eye on her husband, Skip. 😊

Kris Houser volunteers at the desk almost every Friday and while she is there, Kris is constantly sweeping the entryway, organizing, and cleaning.

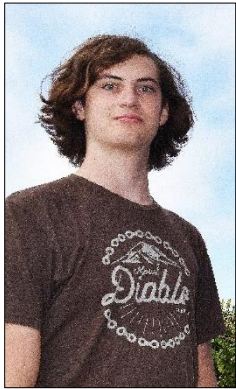
Patrick White works every shift with a smile on his face and a story to tell. He is always up for a special task, and he recently assembled the new museum store shelf and helped organize the museum store.

Volunteer Spotlight—Joshua Henshaw

By David A. Peyton

There are many ways to volunteer your service to the museum and though most volunteers serve as museum greeters, others support the museum during city-wide special events, and still others care for the museum in often unseen ways. We are grateful to you all.

This Volunteer Spotlight features our youngest volunteer who has, in a relatively short time, made a huge impression on those who have met him.



The Capitola Museum Board is saying so long, and thank you to our outgoing youth representative, Joshua Henshaw. He will soon be heading off to college after four years of active participation as a member of the museum's board of trustees. In 2019, Joshua became Capitola's first youth representative to serve on a board/commission while an eighth-grade student at New Brighton Middle School. Another representative joined the Art & Cultural Commission soon after and others have followed Joshua's lead as the city endeavors to engage its youth in the "sausage making" of government and the experience of public service. Josh's position on the museum board will soon be filled by another youth member.

Joshua identifies himself as a typical beach-town teen with a strong interest in surfing, collecting beach glass and, along with his mother and younger brother, tackling huge jigsaw puzzles (5,000 and more pieces covering a sizable portion of their living room). He soon became a valuable member of the museum's board. As an enlightened world-wide traveler with youthful perspective and high energy, Joshua was immediately welcomed and put to good use.



Joshua inserts himself into a newly completed 5000-piece puzzle. It's a family affair working with his brother Jacob and his mom, Jessica.

As Joshua began to satisfy his curiosity about Capitola history and settle into his role on the board, he volunteered to assist with other city-wide events such as the classic car show and the Beach Festival. He volunteered sometimes in conjunction with the museum's tie-in to these special events. It is no exaggeration to note that Joshua became a favorite of the organizers of these important special events. Joshua gave long hours with tireless good humor, gained a wealth of experience, exhibited leadership and problem-solving skills, and grew before our eyes (did he ever!).

Joshua not only gained in stature, but he also grew as a confident young man comfortably engaging adults and thoughtfully tackling challenges. Joshua will be busy with school, a part-time job, and pursuing dreams, but he promises to return for special museum events. With great appreciation for his time on the board and assistance with major festivals, the museum bids Joshua a fond farewell with an open invitation to join the regular corps of volunteers when he's ready.



Joshua is pictured here patiently teaching Dave Peyton how to count to ten during a museum event held at Jade Street Park. 😊

Thank you, Joshua. We will miss your infectious smile and helpful attitude.

The Capitola Museum has recently received generous donations from:

Jennifer Anderson	Andrew Baumhardt & Heather O'Hara
David Biancalana	Calvin B. Cornwell
Margaret Ann Cottle	Philip Ray Curtiss
Carol Fuller	Carl M. & Janette Jensen
Karen Katz	Kathleen King
Nancy A. Lenox	Joan Gilbert Martin
Karen A. Masters	Kim Mollenauer
Gayle & Joe Ortiz	David A. Peyton
Cathie Lee Porter	Barbara Rediing
Susan & Alan Schenck (donation for guided costumed walking tour)	
Seniors in Retirement, Inc. - S.I.R.S. (donation for history talk)	

Published by the Capitola Historical Museum

410 Capitola Ave., Capitola, CA 95010

Phone: (831) 464-0322

Website: www.cityofcapitola.org/capitola-museum

Email: capitolamuseum@gmail.com

Museum Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday Noon-4:P.M.

Museum Curator: Deborah Osterberg

Board of Trustees: Niels Kisling (president), Dave Peyton (vice president), Mary Hay, Emmy Mitchell-Lynn, John Mulry, Gordon van Zuiden

Youth Board Member Emeritus: Joshua Henshaw