

# Capitola Sunset

SPRING 2018

CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

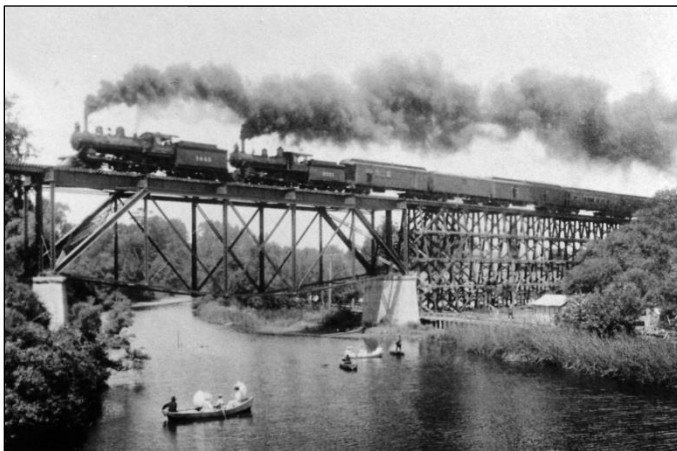
*"Providing a future for our past"*

## New Exhibition Has the Answers

Have a question about Capitola history? The Capitola Historical Museum's latest exhibition may have the answer. "Capitola FAQ" is designed to answer some of the most frequently asked questions by visitors to the museum.

"It is a fun way to tell the history of Capitola and touch on many of the most popular topics," says curator Frank Perry. Each display addresses a different question, such as: "Where was the airport?" "When was the wharf built?" "How did Capitola get its name?"

"In setting up the displays, we found them to be a marvelous vehicle for exhibiting historic photos and artifacts from the museum's collection that have not been on display for a while. We don't have room to display everything at once, so that is why we change exhibitions each year," says Frank.



Is the railroad trestle still used? The new exhibit answers this question and many others. You will have to visit the museum to find out the answer to this most-popular question.

There are 16 questions and answers, though Frank readily admits the exhibition omits THE most common question by visitors, namely "Where are the restrooms?"

The opening reception on March 17 was a big success. The event drew visitors from as far away as Boulder Creek. Some of the recent donations displayed include a

painting of the historic Lodge Mansion done in the 1960s and a credenza from the same house. Thanks to all those who attended and thanks to those who supplied goodies for the event: Pam Greeninger, Niels Kisling, Stephanie Tetter, and Gayle's Bakery.

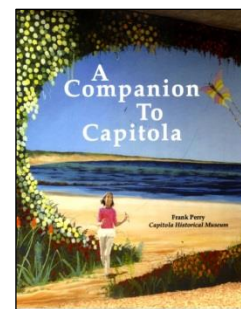


The exhibition will run from March through the end of the year. The museum hours are Thursday through Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. plus some holidays.

## A Companion to Capitola

At the Capitola Historical Museum, we are asked hundreds of questions each year about Capitola. Many visitors want to know certain dates, such as when Capitola was incorporated or when the railroad trestle was built. Others are curious about people, places or historic buildings.

This publication is an attempt to answer these questions in the form of a quick reference guide. It includes people, places, events, agricultural products, natural features, public art, schools, parks, churches, books about Capitola, movies made in Capitola, and assorted other topics. Each entry includes a brief description and significant dates.



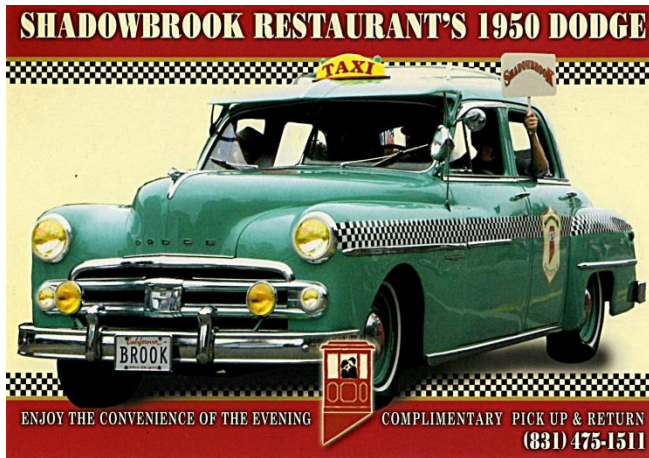
*A Companion to Capitola* is provided to all museum volunteers, in part, as appreciation for their service. Museum visitors can walk away with their very own copy for a suggested \$10 donation to the museum.

## Community Tuesday Fundraiser at Shadowbrook is a Big Success

By Pam Greeninger

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU from the Capitola Historical Museum Board of Trustees to all of our volunteers, family members, and friends who dined at the Shadowbrook Restaurant last November for the Museum's Community Tuesday Fundraiser Night!

We especially want to recognize Council Members Stephanie Harlan and Kristen Petersen who welcomed supporters of the Capitola Museum to the restaurant between 5 and 7 p.m. In addition, we are grateful to Ted Burke, owner of Shadowbrook Restaurant, Shannon Marsh who coordinates the Community Tuesday Program, and all those hostesses, waiters/waitresses, busboys, bartenders, chef and kitchen staff, etc., who provide excellent service to guests of the restaurant. Capitola is fortunate to have such a special restaurant in our own backyard.



Shadowbrook Restaurant was recently featured in an episode of California Dream Eater. To see it, Google, California Dream Eater and click on "Capitola's Most Romantic Restaurant" on the home page.

It is my pleasure to report that Shadowbrook Restaurant donated a check in the amount of \$635.25 to the Capitola Historical Museum for our participation in this fundraising opportunity. That amount represents one-third (33.3%) of all food and beverage sales in the bar and dining rooms to supporters of the Capitola Museum. A total of 42 guests supporting the museum dined that evening. This is the second year we have participated in Community Tuesday. Last year 38 supporters dined for the museum and we received \$536.57—this year's amount was almost \$100 more! Our board is really thankful for this opportunity to raise funds for the museum. We can't think of a more fun and easy way to raise money—gathering with friends and enjoying a delicious meal at Capitola's very own Shadowbrook Restaurant!

We are hoping to be invited back again this year to participate in the Community Tuesday Program at Shadowbrook Restaurant. Watch for information in our Fall *Capitola Sunset* Newsletter.

## If You Host It, They Will Come

By Niels Kisling

Your Capitola Historical Museum recently hosted a Volunteer Orientation to the new exhibit: Capitola FAQ. This turned out to be the most successful orientation we have ever had. This speaks well of the momentum we are enjoying under the leadership of Museum Curator, Frank Perry.

Museum Board Members scrambled that day to find enough chairs to seat everyone who showed up to the Community Room at City Hall.

In front of a packed room Dave Peyton explained to potential new volunteers what museum volunteers do. We do not require any minimum service and volunteers choose their own hours from our on-line schedule. Volunteers serve as ambassadors for Capitola by greeting museum visitors during their two hour shift.



Frank Perry (right) explains the new exhibit to a room full of current volunteers and potential new volunteers. Dave Peyton, Assistant Master of Ceremonies looks on from the left hand side of this image. (Both images for this article were contributed by John Nicol)

Frank Perry continued the meeting by presenting an overview of Capitola history, and sharing details of our new exhibit with the crowd. He occasionally slipped in a subtle joke here and there to keep the audience amused. Frank's presentation spanned present day Capitola on back to the very beginnings when Capitola was first inhabited by our original settlers—the people commonly known today as the Ohlone.

The Ohlone that settled here in Capitola/Soquel spoke a unique dialect called Awaswas. They are differentiated from other Ohlone by having this unique dialect.



Attendees of the Volunteer Orientation were treated to a sneak peek of the new exhibit. If you are wondering what the most frequently asked question is you will have to visit the museum to find out for yourself.

The success of the Volunteer Orientation can be measured by the number of potential new museum volunteers we spoke to that day. It takes a village to run a museum and we always need willing volunteers to staff the front desk and greet museum visitors.

**Kathy D'Angelo—  
The Woman Behind the Camera**  
By Pam Greeninger

In 2015 the Capitola Historical Museum initiated the *Capitola Memories Project* and set out to interview citizens of Capitola and our environs who had a story to tell about our past.



The woman behind the camera is Kathy D'Angelo. Kathy grew up in New York and moved to Santa Cruz in 1979. She became interested in videography, and in 1994 she began volunteering for Community Television of Santa Cruz County,

where she learned everything she could about video production. When searching for the right person to capture the interviews for the *Capitola Memories Project*, former Museum Curator Carolyn Swift and Council Member Stephanie Harlan recommended Kathy D'Angelo because of her video experience, as well as her background and interest in Capitola history.

I first met Kathy in the 1980s when I was Capitola City Clerk and she was the technician covering the City Council and Planning Commission meetings, which were televised live on Charter Cable Channel 8, and then rebroadcast on Community TV. Kathy could be found in the small (“teeny tiny” as she says...) equipment room adjacent to the Council Chambers just about every Thursday night for over 15 years. She also covered Candidate Forums for the Capitola-Soquel Chamber of Commerce on meetings of the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission when they were hosted in Capitola. Over the years Kathy became familiar with, and had the opportunity to meet, many of the local politicians and city staff and learned a great deal about Capitola.

Kathy established her graphics and video production company, VisualContact, in 1995. She has produced hundreds of programs for Community Television of Santa Cruz County, as well her own independent programs over the last 23 years. When asked what projects she is most proud of, she mentioned her first big production where she directed a five-person crew videotaping an opera written by her friend Louise Canepa called, “The Sicilians of Monterey.” She also directed her first music video called “Hourglass.”



I asked Kathy what she liked most about her work for the *Capitola Memories Project*, and she said she enjoys hearing their stories about how things were in Capitola “way back when.” She particularly enjoyed capturing Jo Jo Urbancic’s interview as it was fun to meet him and hear his stories of Capitola.

Kathy lives in Santa Cruz and has two daughters and four grandchildren who live within a few miles of her home.

In addition to her video and graphic work, Kathy enjoys creating unique 3-dimensional art, including the one shown here in the photo.



If someone you know wants to document family history, Kathy would be happy to help you with that project. She can be reached at 831-818-6628 or via email at: [kdangelo@cruzio.com](mailto:kdangelo@cruzio.com)

Be sure to check out the *Capitola Memories Project* videos on YouTube! There are 16 interviews currently available to watch, including former Mayors Jerry Clarke, Ron Graves, and Mick Routh; Supervisor Robley Levy; Barbara Reding, Dick Arthur, Jo Jo Urbancic and more.

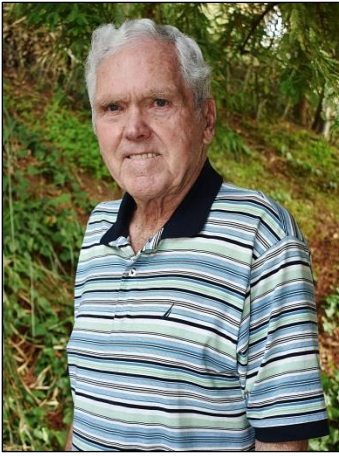
NOTE: The following instructions will get you to the videos.

Just go to your Internet browser and insert [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). On YouTube, type “Capitola Historical Museum” in the “Search” box. Click on “Capitola Historical Museum” again, and our channel will come up. Just click on the video you are interested in viewing. Have fun and enjoy these moments in history.

Thank you Kathy D'Angelo for bringing history alive through the *Capitola Memories Project*!

## Volunteer Spotlight—George Wightman

By Georgette Neal



George Wightman was nine years old when he fell in love with Capitola. That was in 1948 when his family stayed at the Six Sisters while vacationing in the village from their home in Sunnyvale. A few years later in 1954, the family vacationed in Capitola with a trailer, setting up camp with two tents for George and his three brothers. He remembers the site being

behind the current location of City Hall (now a parking lot) and an easy walk to the beach.

The next hallmark vacation memory for George was in 1981, when he rented a house in Capitola Village with his fiancé, Cheryl. The couple married at the Boat House Restaurant, now Margaritaville, on the Esplanade. In 1983, they took up residency as “owner-builders” of their home on Stockton Avenue, a block away, which meant commuting to their respective teaching positions a hundred miles apart.

George continued his career of 38 years in health and physical education, and coached track, along with six other sports at Saratoga High School and West Valley College. Cheryl drove to Pacific Grove High School from Capitola for 20 years, where she’d been preparing students for job internships back-to-back with her classes in accounting and entrepreneurship. In the evenings she also taught at Cabrillo, Monterey Peninsula College, and Chapman University. Prior to that she taught at Heald’s Business College in San Jose and she taught classes in psychology at Carmel High School, too.

A foot racing enthusiast, George ran the first wharf-to-wharf race in Santa Cruz County in the early 1970s. He returned for the 6-mile run every year, for over 10 years thereafter. He’s been a professional foot race director, overseeing 60 races in towns between Carmel and San Francisco.

In 2000, George retired, sort of. While he no longer taught, he worked as a marshal at Carmel’s Rancho Canada Golf Course and was a supervisor of teacher credential candidates for Chapman University for 10 years. He volunteered at New Brighton Middle School for three years supervising during lunch. Then in 2016, he began volunteering at the Capitola Historical Museum.

If you have the pleasure of stopping in to the Museum when George is at the desk, you may get a tour of the

Wightmans’ latest pictorial album, personally created to memorialize their latest adventures around the globe. They are ardent travelers having visited 74 countries, and most of the United States, with trips facilitated by being able to rent their fashionable Victorian-styled Capitola home through local agencies during their summers off while teaching. They are doing a lot of travelling now, although they are no longer renting their home.

According to George, he and Cheryl, “love the sense of community in Capitola and enjoy the many events here such as the Art and Wine Festival, the Begonia Festival, the Car Show, and the Halloween Parade to name some, as well as, the many summer events including the Wednesday night music and dance. What a special place we all live in here.”

The Capitola Museum does not require minimum service hours from our volunteers. But, volunteers that give us hours ‘above-and-beyond’ deserve recognition. The following volunteers served the museum by giving us the most hours in 2017:

**Georgette Neal**  
**Betty Mello**  
**Paul Parsons**

**Dave Peyton**  
**Kathleen Church**  
**George Wightman**

The Capitola Museum has recently received generous donations from:

**Bruce & Dori Arthur**  
**Rickey Feldner**  
**Marvin Jensen**  
**Betty Mello**  
**Gayle & Joe Ortiz**  
**Patrick Teutschel**  
**Jerry & Robynn Walters**  
**Kenneth Wood & Vicki Price**

**Margy Cottle**  
**Ron Graves**  
**Bob McLean**  
**Jed & Helen Myall**  
**Stanley D. Stevens**  
**Ann Thiermann**  
**Susan & Nels Westman**  
**Yvonne Zannis**

**Diane Cooley to honor Carolyn Swift**  
**Margy Cottle in memory of John McPherson**  
**Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors**  
**Santa Cruz Oldtimers**

Recently, the following artifacts were generously donated to the Capitola Museum:

**Dean Reynolds:** Vintage newspaper clippings  
**Native Daughters of the Golden West:** 1939 Bronze Plaque  
**Janine Canada:** A collection of local vintage postcards in memory of her mother, Harriet L. Duzet.

Capitola Sunset is published by:  
**The Capitola Historical Museum**  
410 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010  
Website: [www.capitolamuseum.org](http://www.capitolamuseum.org)  
E-Mail: [capitolamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:capitolamuseum@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 831-464-0322

Museum Hours: Thursday through Sunday 12-4 P.M.

Curator: Frank Perry  
Board Members: Niels Kisling (President), Pam Greeninger (Secretary), Kathleen Church (Treasurer), Georgette Neal, David Peyton and Gordon van Zuiden