

Capitola Sunset

SUMMER 2018

CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

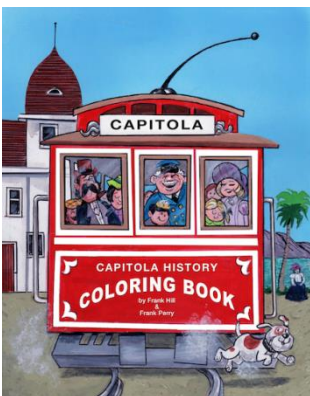
NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

"Providing a future for our past"

Capitola History Coloring Book

By Frank Perry, Curator

The museum is pleased to announce the publication of the *Capitola History Coloring Book*, with illustrations by local resident Frank Hill. The idea for the coloring book grew out of my video interview with Frank for the Capitola Memories Project. We got to talking and thought a coloring book would be a great thing for the community.



The book is a basic history of Capitola, told through the drawings and captions. I provided Frank with photos from the museum's collection on which to base most of the illustrations. For others, Frank based them on his own memories of Capitola in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s.

Frank has been a professional illustrator and cartoonist all his adult life, working for Warner Brothers, Marvel Comics, and the Newspaper Enterprises Association, among others. His syndicated "Short Ribs" strip ran in newspapers around the nation. He worked on "Peanuts" spin-off products for Charles Schultz and assisted Hank Ketcham in drawing "Dennis the Menace."



For several years, young visitors have been coloring pictures from an earlier coloring book done by Barbara Reding and now out of print.

It was a great honor to interview Frank Hill and then collaborate with him on this project. Even at age 87, he is still bubbling over with ideas—a necessary trait for anyone who did a daily cartoon strip.

The book is available exclusively at the museum and all sales benefit the museum. It makes a great souvenir or gift for young and old.

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Beach Festival Looks Back and Moves Forward

By Laurie Hill

At the conclusion of the 65th and final Begonia Festival, the Capitola Begonia Festival Board of Directors developed a plan to honor past festivals and launch a new festival.

Bringing the Begonia Festival to a close, the Festival Team honored the 65 year history with a donation to the Capitola Historical Museum, asking the museum to archive the treasured past and to curate exhibits about the festival. To honor the past, the festival presented a check for \$10,000 to the Capitola Historical Museum to archive and curate the history of the festival.

Moving forward, the board formed the Capitola Beach Festival Committee. Scheduled for September 29 and 30th, the beach festival will continue the traditional Sand Sculpture Contest, Fishing Derby, Rowboat Races, and Horseshoe Tournament. Plans are also underway for a three mile foot race and a Lighted Boat Parade. Replacing begonias, the committee will launch the first lighted boat parade on Soquel Creek.

The Begonia Festival ended in 2017 with the retirement of the Brown Family at Golden State Bulb Growers. All of Capitola's begonias came from Golden State's tuber growing fields. They recently sold their AmeriHybrid® and Antonelli tuberous begonias to Pan American Seed (PAS) based in Chicago, Illinois. PAS plans to market and grow these begonias on a much larger scale for growers and consumers throughout the world. Begonia seeds can be ordered at: custserv@panamseed.com.

Begonia Festival Gives Donation to Museum

By Frank Perry

We are most grateful for the Capitola Begonia Festival's very generous donation of artifacts and funding for a festival archive at the museum. Earlier this year, the festival presented the museum with a check for \$10,000. Soon the festival's fabulous collection of photographs, color slides, posters, and other begonia memorabilia will be transferred to the museum.



The funding will go towards cataloging the collection and storing it in archival sleeves, folders, and boxes that will protect it from dust and deterioration. The funding will also go towards creating displays from time to time to help rekindle fond memories of the annual festivals that ended in 2017 after a 65-year run.

Long after begonias were no longer grown here, the festival preserved memories of this important local flower industry. Now the museum is charged with preserving the history of both the festival and the industry. It is a task we welcome. A century from now, people will still be talking about the begonia festivals.



The Riverview Rascals float from last summer's Begonia Festival. The Rascals and many other float teams supported the Begonia Festival by competing for many decades on end.

Welcome to the Capitola Museum Family

By Georgette Neal

In April 2017 trustee Dave Peyton of the Capitola Museum Board voiced interest in enhancing the museum's volunteer program. He suggested that the board create a subcommittee or task force to address volunteer duties, recruitment and training. Unanimously approved, the task force met in May and thereafter monthly, with myself, also a board trustee, Frank Perry, Museum Curator, and former board trustees Stephanie Tetter and Kathleen Church often in attendance.

The focus of the task force was to update the volunteer desk binder, museum instructions and training protocol.

In addition, the task force prepared for the Volunteer Orientation held in February 2018 to present the upcoming exhibit, FAQ—Frequently Asked Questions to volunteers and to promote the volunteer program. Trustee Pam Greeninger was the public relations liaison, along with Frank, securing space and writing articles for county publications in Santa Cruz, Capitola and Aptos. Stephanie Tetter prepared name tags and staffed a sign-in sheet for the orientation event based on volunteer lists consolidated by Kathleen Church under the guidance of Frank. Dave and I assisted greeters, making individual introductions to attendees and answering questions as they arose. Trustee Gordon van Zuiden recorded Frank's presentation, a digital copy of which is still available to all volunteers upon request.



The Volunteer Orientation held earlier this year was a smashing success due to the efforts of the task force committee. Image credit: John Nicol.

Twenty-nine applications resulted, which Stephanie charted for task force members to train. Of those 29, 18 are currently registered in Volgistics, the volunteer scheduling online data base, and have been filling shifts at the front desk since April 2018. Three are in process, bringing the total number of "active" volunteers to 48 at this writing.

Although the task force has been disbanded for the near future, we further invite volunteers to assist with special upcoming museum hosted events at the Capitola Art and Wine Festival and the Capitola Beach Festival. Fundraisers are opportunities to participate in the community on behalf of the museum, and an engaging way in which to meet people.

We encourage volunteers to use the desk wall bulletin board and box to post ideas for improving our service and the enjoyment of volunteering. Please also join us for special volunteer occasions such as teas, field trips and dinners, as they arise.

The board meets every first Tuesday of the month at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. Please consider attending as an observer. Agendas are available at the City's website <http://www.cityofcapitola.org>.

We are delighted to welcome our new volunteers to the Museum Family for an educational and entertaining experience among seasoned volunteer ambassadors for Capitola at the "gem of the village," the Capitola Historical Museum!

Kathleen Church Retires From Museum Board

By Niels Kisling

Kathleen Church served on the Capitola Historical Museum Board for three years. She decided not to apply for another term, but according to Kathleen she will serve the museum as a volunteer.

Kathleen was a busy and active board member during her tenure, always volunteering for our public outreach events. She is a good event organizer and makes some killer baked goods including her death-by-chocolate, cookie bars. And she always shows up with a smile on her face and boundless energy. She also served as the Treasurer of the Capitola Museum when Kristen Petersen stepped down to join the Capitola City Council.



Retiring board member Kathleen Church always shows up with a smile on her face and boundless energy to match. She is pictured here picking begonias for an annual outreach event called; Begonias-to-Go.

Her most important work for the museum recently was serving on the Volunteer Task Force. This committee is responsible for all the great volunteers we signed up recently as a result of the outreach they did in conjunction with the Volunteer Orientation held this winter.

We will miss Kathleen's smiling face at our board meetings. But, I'll bet we don't have to miss her too much as she will still be volunteering for the museum.

Save the Date!

Saturday, July 21, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Capitola History Coloring Book book-signing with illustrator Frank Hill and writer Frank Perry. Meet the creators and have them autograph your book.

The Capitola History Coloring Book is available for a suggested donation of \$8.00.

Parking: 1 hour free parking next to Museum; longer paid parking in lots behind City Hall. Come at 11:00 and avoid the summer crowds. Refreshments will be served.

Giving Thanks to All City Volunteers.

Volunteering for the City of Capitola is a great way to feel a sense of community—like you are where you belong. The city recently hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Margaritaville and city volunteers showed up from the many organizations and committees that make our city sponsored events happen.



From left to right; Larry Laurent, Assistant to the City Manager, Frank Perry, Museum Curator and Mayor Mike Termini.

The Capitola Museum was well-represented with about 20 volunteers who served in 2017. Three museum volunteers received 5-year service pins from Frank Perry and Capitola Mayor Mike Termini.

Receiving 5-year service pins for museum service were:
Ron Beck, Patty Bradley and Kristen Petersen.

Top row from the left: Georgette Neal, Dave Peyton, Kathleen Church
Middle row: Kristen Petersen, Patti Bradley, Pam Greenginger
Bottom row: John Nicol, Anne Nicol, Dave Dominguez (without Koa)



Capitola Rod and Custom Classic Car Show

The cars don't talk, but they do tell stories from the past.

Cars from many generations came to Capitola Village earlier this month for the annual Capitola Rod and Custom Classic Car Show. The show is brought to us by the Capitola Public Safety and Community Service Foundation.

Once again, the volunteers *make it happen*. The cars speak for themselves.



This 1956 Chevrolet Nomad two door station wagon looks like it will probably get you to the supermarket quickly!



If you are going out to the country for a picnic, this 1930 Lincoln Continental Touring Car is a most graceful way to travel in elegance.



These cars from the 1930s tell a story of our country recovering from The Great Depression. The car on the right is a 1936 Sedan Delivery.



Get to the surf on time in this first year production 1951 Ford Country Squire Woody Wagon.

The Saba Safe is still safe.



When the Saba Club & Caribbean Ballroom burned to the ground in 1957, the office safe, along with other debris, was pushed into the ocean after the fire. The safe, being a huge metal box still 'surfaces' sometimes when the sand is washed away from it.

I saw the safe when I took this image on June 13. It is unusual to see the safe during the summer months. Look closely and you can see the hinge at the bottom.

Better yet, go to the beach and you might get lucky and be able to see it for yourself. The worst case is that you don't see it, but you still got to go to the beach...

The Capitola Museum has recently received generous donations from:

Steve Burbank
 Al DaDalt
 Ron Graves
 Carin Hanna
 Kathleen King
 Sally and Brian Legakis
 Paul Parsons
 Schwab Charitable

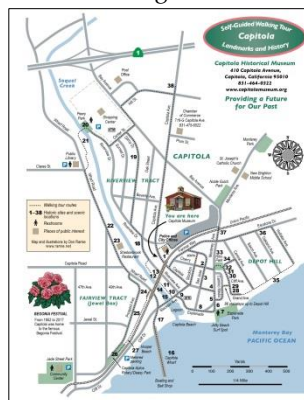
Michael and Barbara Clark
 Carol Fuller
 Lani Hall
 J. Jensen
 Lynn K. Lance
 Joan Gilbert Martin
 Barbara Reding

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

John Nicol: Surf image of two of the 'Usual Suspects' from Esplanade Park

Anne Nicol: Vintage Valentine's Day cards

Unknown Donor: Capitola promotional brochure from 1926 received through Pam Greenginger



Just in time for summer! The Museum's self-guided Capitola Walking Tour has been recently updated. It includes all of Capitola's Blue Plaque homes and buildings, along with other historic landmarks and secret stairs & pathways. Pick up a copy at the museum to share with friends, family and visitors.

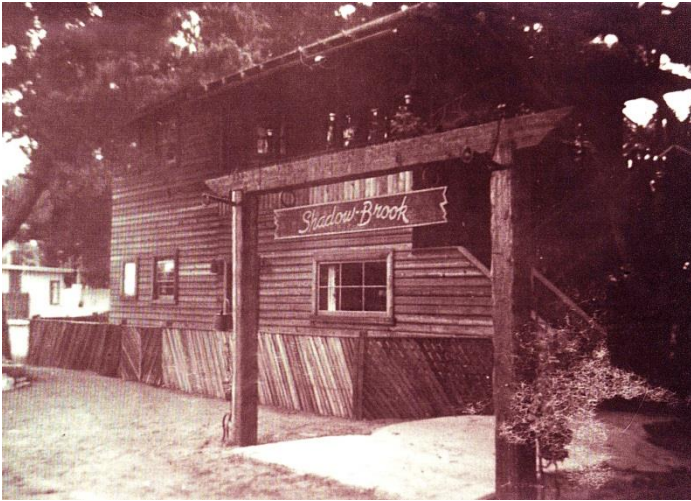
Capitola Reflections

By Niels Kisling

Note: I originally wrote this story in 2011. With summer upon us, I still have those warm feelings from my childhood here. Part of what makes Capitola Capitola are those cool, foggy mornings, gentle breezes and sunny afternoons. My boys Christian and Jack are now 17 and 14. Christian goes off to college this fall and Jack is returning this evening from a trip to Denmark that he took without me. It humbles me to think of my little boys almost all grown up. Enjoy!

I was 12 years old when my father retired in 1971. Looking for a nice place to retire, my mom and dad traveled the entire West Coast from Southern California to Washington State. They both fell in love with Santa Cruz County and particularly, our sleepy, little village of Capitola. A real estate agent showed them many properties in town, but they ended up buying a strange, little redwood “log cabin” from a friend of theirs who lived in Soquel.

The two story house at 122 Wharf Road only had two bedrooms, one upstairs and one downstairs—and the stairs were outside! With two kitchens, the house provided an odd layout that my mother could not imagine living in.



In the early 1950s my house sat in front of the Shadowbrook restaurant. The Shadowbrook sign in the foreground is still there and gives you an idea of the former location. Photo provided by Shadowbrook Restaurant.

Luckily my father had the vision that by adding four bedrooms, two up and two down, the place could become two units. My dad and my brother, Poul, began building the addition that spring and when school was out I came north from our home in SoCal to help. I was paid fifty cents an hour to sweep, clean up scraps, move wood & sheetrock, and paint. My least favorite part of the job was stuffing bats of fiberglass insulation between the studs.

My dad, brother and I lived in our strange, little log cabin all summer while working on it. I noticed right away that my new home town was always foggy until about noon

with the cool, chilly mornings leading to afternoon sunshine. I also quickly realized that there was a nice beach close to our new home.

While my dad and brother finished the interior, I was soon put to work staining the outside of the house. In those days we used real, oil-based redwood stain. It was runny, thin and very messy—at least it was for me. After a day of staining, the red stain ran down my arms, covered my face and soaked through my shirt. I was red and sticky!

My dad and brother knocked off at 4:30 each day to straighten out the job site. After a brief clean-up at home, I would walk down to the beach. Paint thinner took most of the stain off of my body, but I preferred a good swim with body surfing in the waves and sand for the final clean-up. I remember many times walking down the hill, itchy and scratchy, covered with fiberglass dust or paint. I soon found bliss by jumping into the cool water and scrubbing myself with wet sand.



In 1951 Shadowbrook co-founder, Brad Macdonald and his father, Jack moved my house a few hundred yards down the street to its present location. Jack and Mabel Macdonald lived in the house until the late-1950s. Image provided by Ed Hill.

Little did I know that these days in 1971 would be among my most precious days spent in this little town we call Capitola. Forty years (47 years today) later, I still own the strange, little redwood cabin up on Wharf Road. My children, Christian 9 and Jack 7 (in 2011), are living the Capitola life and someday they’ll probably realize that these years are among the most precious for them. Last week, while sitting on Hooper’s Beach, I felt a little tear of pride mixed with nostalgia running down my cheek as I watched Christian ride his boogie board in the surf with Jack splashing around nearby.



Volunteer Spotlight—Kim and Skip Natuk

By Georgette Neal

Kim and Skip Natuk are a volunteer team, serving shifts in tandem, with skills developed since they began serving at the Capitola Historical Museum in July 2017. While they are not the only volunteer husband-wife combo who frequent the old, red museum, they are the first to set the training standard we follow today.



Their love story with Capitola begins at opposite ends of the country. Kim grew up in the Santa Clara Valley, Silicon Valley today. She spent childhood and teenage summers "over the hill" at the beaches from Natural Bridges to Sunset. Skip grew up in New Jersey. In the early 1980s, having tired of cold winters, he ventured west to California, and stopped in Capitola to visit with two friends at Mr. Toots.

Kim and Skip met shortly thereafter. They married in 1990, settling in Marin County to raise their only son. Sharing also their mutual love of the ocean, they have vacationed along the coasts of California, Hawaii, Florida, and the Caribbean.

Although Kim had grown up in the Bay Area and had come to Santa Cruz many times, even working there for a couple of years, she had never heard of Capitola. "It took Skip from the East Coast to introduce me to the quaint little town," she confides. "He suggested the Venetians for one of our earliest vacations together. It created our first fond memories of Capitola."

Then, according to Kim, Skip read an article about the 20 Best Places to Retire, which listed Capitola. In 2015, they found a home for their golden years in a condo reminiscent of their previous beach resort vacations. Although they currently divide their time between Marin and Capitola, their goal is to eventually make Capitola their full-time residence. "We both love it here—it's living a vacation lifestyle. As beautiful as Marin is, Capitola has become our preferred location. It's been on Skip's radar since 1981."

Another mutual interest Kim and Skip share is museums for the history, science and art. "Whenever we travel, we gravitate toward beaches and museums. So, it was natural for us to check out the Capitola Historical Museum when walking and exploring our new hometown," Kim says. They stopped by when Kathleen Church was at the front desk. "We peppered her with so many questions, she quickly assessed that we might be candidates for volunteering," Kim continues, agreeing that Kathy was right. "We saw volunteering as an opportunity to learn about Capitola and meet new people. We were right."

Since the Natuks live in-between, they are protective of their time, mindful of over-extending their commitments. Still, Kim helps a disabled neighbor in Marin by caring for and walking her dog. In Capitola, she has taken on projects to assist the Board of Directors at their Capitola condominium complex. On their "almost" daily beach walks, Kim and Skip clear plastics and other debris harmful to the ocean.

Of the precious hours they have given to the museum, Kim says, "We have really enjoyed our first year as volunteers. Everyone has been friendly and helpful. Dave Peyton's enthusiastic and thorough training got us off on good footing. We are learning each new volunteer day how to answer the questions that visitors ask. Frank's Companion guide has been a very valuable "go-to" resource and we love the new FAQ exhibit—perfect for us newbies. We have been able to attend the Volunteer Tea, the Volunteer Orientation to this year's exhibit, and Appreciation Dinner. These occasions were great for us to socialize with the Museum Volunteers."



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Capitola Twilight Concerts (thru August 29)	Wednesdays 6-8 P.M.
Wharf to Wharf race finishes in Capitola	July 22 after 8:30 A.M.
Sunday Art and Music at the Beach	Ongoing thru 8/19
Movies at the Beach	Aug. 24, 31/Sept. 7, 14
Capitola Art and Wine Festival	September 8 & 9
Opera at the Beach	September 16
First Capitola Beach Festival	September 29 & 30
Firework Show by the Monte Foundation	October 7

Capitola Sunset is published by:

The Capitola Historical Museum

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

Curator: Frank Perry

Board Members: Niels Kisling (President), Pam Greeninger (Secretary), Rebecca Hobson, Georgette Neal, David Peyton and Gordon van Zuiden