



THE POPPY PAPER



Official Monthly Publication of the
Boosters of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park
A Non-Profit Organization

January 2018

Volunteers in the Park

By Tim Downing, Volunteer Coordinator

I can't believe 2017 is over! Seems like we just started not too long ago. It was a great year for volunteers here in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. We expanded our volunteer family by forty new members. We participated in fifteen special events, held five volunteer social gatherings, gave out five department awards, five *Poppy Awards* and one *Superior Achievement Medal*.

Some of the notable things that happened in 2017 with our guilds were:

- > Our *Cooking Guild* moved to La Casa de Machado y Stewart, where they have learned to cook using the horno, and they have made some amazing bread and cookies! You can find the cooking guild at the Machado-Stewart on the second and third Saturdays of the month.
- > The *Woodworking Guild* has grown to eight woodworkers, who are working on projects needed for the museums. The woodshop is open the 4th Saturday of each month, and most Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- > Our *Historic Contra Dance Guild* now has an 1860s Steinway piano! We had it moved from La Casa de Estudillo museum to Seeley Stables in October and placed it up on the stage. It is a great asset for the guild, so come on by the first Saturday and dance with us!
- > Our *Historic Music Guild* is growing! You will find Rebeca and William playing mostly with the *Contra Dance Guild* with their fiddle, mandolin, harp and piano. Now and then, you will find them and others playing for Park guests. We have a few other musicians who may join us in 2018. One is a Hammer Dulcimer player! If you have not had the opportunity to listen to them play, you're missing out! Again, stop by the Seeley Stables the first Saturday of the month to listen to them.
- > The guilds in *Threads of the Past* got together to discuss how the guilds operate in the museum. While this may not seem like much, this is huge because it shows how many volunteers are in the guilds that operate out of that location. We will continue to fine tune these guilds and try to open *Threads* more often.

Last year we brought on a new group of volunteers, the Young Christian Missionaries Services (YCMS). These are the young men and women from the Church of Latter-Day Saints who volunteer Monday–Friday. Well, the YCSM has done their first full year here in Old Town, and they have donated over 2,200 hours! This accounts for almost 20% of our volunteer hours in 2017. This group has been invaluable in helping the Park run Monday–Friday. Having them here has freed up the staff for the school program and Park Tours, as well as keeping the McCoy House and School House museums open for greater numbers of hours.

For far too long the Park has been missing a *Californio* presence. The third Saturday is now *Californio Saturday*. We have Steve Van Wormer and Mary Stout to thank for this, for they have been the inspiration for this day! They saw what we did at Fiestas Patrias, and are working to expand *Californio Saturday* in 2018. So, make sure you come on out and take a look on the third Saturday of the month!

Continued on page 4...



Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

November was another good month for BOOT with \$2,955.03 ahead in the checkbook, after all the bills were paid. So, that helped make up for last month, and will also help when you see the figures for December. *Poppy Paper* readers will recall that every year BOOT gives the State Park funds for two PCA accounts: \$5,000 for the blacksmith and animal handler, and \$8,000 for park aide salaries to keep the schoolhouse open three days a week. This year, the paperwork for these accounts arrived late in December, so there will be lots of red ink when I write the checks and balance the accounts for December. In addition, Gregg Giacomuzzi and Richard Dennison reconciled the July 4th and Stagecoach Day budget late in December, as well. That will mean another big check for salaries, in addition to a large check for supplies for those two events.

Since I usually start with income, I thought I would tell you about expenses first this month, so I can end on a more positive note. As per usual, I will list expense categories that were over \$300.00:

- \$2,200.08 - The Park Store (inventory replacement)
- \$ 716.00 - Period Attire Bank and Subsidies
- \$ 521.24 - K9 First Aid Kit

Sixteen other categories were under or at \$300.00.

Now, onto the income side of the ledger. The Park Store earned roughly \$5,700.00 in November. In addition, Gregg Giacomuzzi earned \$291.67 with his "Day of the Dead" marigold project. These funds will be earmarked for Volunteer in the Park (VIP) needs in FY2018. Park Aide Vanessa Jones also sold \$623.00 in clothing and fabric in November, so that balances the funds that are listed above for the Period Attire Bank. Finally, the daily average for the museum donation boxes was \$46.30, which is somewhat low for this time of year.

As the holidays approached, the yearly trends followed a regular pattern, as VIPs and staff rushed to use their period attire subsidies. Funding requests came in fast and furious, as folks sometimes keep their receipts for repayment until the last minute. The Park Store and Visitor Center was also more quiet. For some reason, Park visitors do not do the main part of their Christmas shopping at our wonderful little store. Perhaps we can try to change that next year by shouting from the rooftops that The Park Store has unique items, and all crafts are handmade. Soon it will be time to do the year-end balancing, the tax forms and the annual report. Alas...how did 2017 go by so quickly???



From the Editor's Desk...

Freezing temperatures and harsh weather conditions cover much of our country, cancelling holiday plans and celebrations for many. Yet, we San Diegans are still wearing our shorts and flip-flops during the winter months! But, no matter what attire is necessary, there is no doubt about it, 2017 has come to an end!

Ah, the beginning of a new year...a time to say goodbye to visiting holiday guests, pack up all of our precious holiday treasures, make our resolutions...and get ready for taxes! Some of us need to start figuring out how to set the alarm clock again, after a few days or weeks off from work. Some might need to figure out how to get their kids back to bed on time for their impending return to school and a scheduled life. But, what struck me, as I worked on this issue of *The Poppy Paper*, was the fact that practically every submission made reference to the age-old adage of time flying by much too quickly. So, I will leave readers with one of my favorite quotes:

“Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.”

-Dr. Seuss

Happy New Year and Happy Reading!

Ruth French, Editor, poppypapereditor@gmail.com

(Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.)

Upcoming Changes in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

by Gregg Giacomuzzi, State Park Interpreter I

As we ease into 2018, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park prepares for another year of interpretative projects, special events and construction. Below is a list of goals Park staff, stakeholders, volunteers and association members are working toward in the New Year.

- The public restroom facility (near Lot A) is currently being rehabilitated and will be open again soon.
- La Casa de Estudillo accessibility improvements are underway and will be completed in late January.
- Casa de Maria Restaurant, formerly known as El Patio Restaurant, is now open serving lunch and dinner.
- California State Parks Headquarters has awarded Old Town San Diego State Historic Park \$30,000.00 to rehabilitate, repair and improve signage throughout the Park, including refabricating the buildings' boot scraper signs and repainting the adobe wall monument signs.
- The temporary foam core interpretative signage, throughout Seeley Stable Museum, will be replaced with new permanent signage. Funding for this signage was provided by a generous donation from the Boosters of Old Town (BOOT).
- Jennifer Calder has been selected as the District Concession Specialist, facilitating concession compliance and improvements.
- A new maintenance supervisor position will be advertised soon, to replace Jodi Whelchel. Jodi has received a promotion to San Elijo State Beach.
- Parkwide improvements for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, facilitated by the Service Center, will go out to bid. This includes restroom upgrade (behind Toby's Candle Shop), deck repairs, etc.
- A revived Californio Living History day has been planned and will present interpretative activities on the third Saturday of the month. This day will be a joint effort among our existing guilds, specializing their presentations in Californio activities and demonstrations.
- Riverbank (immediate public use project) at the former CalTrans property will be going out to bid soon.
- Old Town Trolley will be partnering with Old Town San Diego State Historic Park in marketing and selling tickets for our daily paid walking tours, which depart from the Visitor Center one to three times a day.

While these are some of the bigger projects, there continues to be work towards continuous park improvements and programs throughout the year.

Superintendent's Message

by Richard Dennison, Sector Superintendent

By the time this newsletter has gone out, Christmas is over, Thanksgiving is just a memory, and the New Year is here. Yet, this time of year is always a time to reflect, a time to be very thankful for all our family, friends and blessings, even in the simple, mundane or difficult times. Working for California State Parks, I am thankful for being able to every day walk in to something new, exciting, challenging and rewarding...making a difference in caring for the State's most treasured natural and cultural resources. Being a part of Old Town San Diego, I am thankful for each person who is connected to the bigger picture of contributing to the Park's mission of presenting opportunities for our visitors to experience the history of early San Diego. Our staff and volunteers provide relevant connections to the past through programs, facilities, and the look and feel of the Park. Some ways our mission is accomplished is through wonderful programs and projects, such as the historic trade and craft guilds, living history programs, animal program, educational tours, The Park Store, tours, unique museums, housekeeping, curatorial, technical services, retail concessionaires, period attire, descendants, gardeners, and so much more.

We are always looking for friendly people who love history. So, spread the word in the new year. Let's find a few more staff and volunteers to join us! As with each year, 2018 will be challenging, yet it is important to focus on the present, supporting one another and the Park's mission.



The Public Lands Alliance is a national organization that works for the nonprofit partners of America's public lands. We connect the public lands community, strengthen their efforts through education and training, and represent their interests at the national level.

For more information, contact CALPA: gloyer@gmail.com

Volunteers in the Park (continued from page 1)...

Some changes to look for in 2018 will be guild meetings, guild leader meetings, and a change in the focus of the VIP meetings. The guild leads and I will organize meetings to discuss planning and other items of concern. It will also give us the opportunity to talk about take-home messages for our Park guests. I will be having meetings with all the guild leads to make sure I am meeting their needs. This is something we have not done in a while. I do try to meet with each guild when they are in the Park, but I think it's important to meet as a group to make sure we are all working together on the mission of the Park.

The format of the VIP meetings will be updated to help all of our volunteers, new and old, with the mission of the Park. Some of the topics will include period attire, interpretation skills, living history programs, and take-home messages for our guilds, just to name a few. We will also invite BOOT Board members to talk about their role in supporting all of the programs in the Park.

I have Old Town parking permits for all volunteers, to be used only in the Old Town parking lots. For those volunteers with 50-200 hours in 2017, I have your permits and will be contacting you soon. If you do not hear from me, please send me an email as a reminder.

Please stay on top of your hours in Volgistics in 2018 on the days that you volunteer. Having hours logged into the system on a timely basis ensures insurance and liability coverage while you are in the Park.

I am very much looking forward to working for you all in 2018! You are the best volunteers around!

Thank you for all you do!

Native Plant Landscape Volunteers, wheelbarrows and small wagons needed!!!

Saturday January 13, 9:30 to Noon



We'll kick-start 2018 with an important work party! The Native Plant Landscape volunteers will place large protective rocks at the edges of the vehicular paths that run through the Landscape to prevent vehicles from running over irrigation equipment and plants. We are short on wagons, so even if you can't help with the work, we'd be grateful if you can loan us your wheelbarrow or wagon for the morning. Old Town's Native Plant Landscape is at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets.

Questions? email oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!



Cold Stone in Old Town San Diego

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BOOT Website:	http://boostersofoldtown.com/	
Park Website:	www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego	



BOOSTERS OF OLD TOWN

San Diego State Historic Park
4002 Wallace Street
San Diego, CA 92110

Membership Application or Renewal

- _____ **\$20.00 Senior (62 yrs. or older)/Single Student**
- _____ **\$25.00 Single Supporting Member**
- _____ **\$30.00 Senior Couple (62 yrs. or older)**
- _____ **\$40.00 Family (2 or more individuals)**
- _____ **\$155.00 Life Member (62 yrs. or older)**
- _____ **\$55.00 Corporate Basic Membership***
(includes window decal and 1 month business card sized ad in *The Poppy Paper*)
- _____ **\$130.00 Corporate Enhanced Membership***
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- _____ **Donation Enclosed (Or Gift in Honor of: _____)**

**Corporate applicants only: Please enclose a business card or logo for inclusion in The Poppy Paper.*

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