

History Lives Here

SUMMER 2020



So What's Been Happening at the PVHA During a Historic Pandemic?

By Lou Arbanas

Since our April newsletter we have modified our operation to conform with Santa Cruz County Health Department directives. We are open during our scheduled times, but only by appointment. Our gates are left closed to spontaneous visitors.

We encourage people who would like to visit, even if it's the last minute, to call us at (831) 722-0305 to see if it is possible.

We've been as busy as ever these past months. We recently heard from Marci Lewis Plank, daughter of Betty Lewis. Extra copies of her books were sent to us, along with best wishes from Monte Lewis who is now in Oregon and doing well.

During the past three months, we've handled just about our normal amount of traffic at the PVHA. We have had multiple donations of photos and clothing. We continue to provide public outreach through social media, local radio shows, and printed media. We have researchers seeking information online, and publishers requesting the use of images.

We continue to attend ZOOM meetings with other Museums and Archives in Santa Cruz and Monterey County to determine best practices for staff, volunteers and visitors to our facilities. The coalition of Museums and Archives is facilitated by Felicia B. Van Stolk Executive Director Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

We are happy to welcome Georg Romero, retired from Cabrillo College Library, as a new volunteer. George has been helping us organize our filing and posting new surnames of deceased to our data base. He is also mastering the PowerFilm negative strip scanner and digitizing R-P negatives. His skills and talent as a librarian are being absorbed like



Georg Romero

See **UPDATE** Page 2



PVHA Digitizes Buddhist Temple Files, More

By Bill Beecher

In collaboration with the Watsovnille Buddhist Temple, we have been digitizing their extensive photographic collection. To date we have scanned over 5,000 large pages that include their main congregation, and their youth and women's groups. They will retain the masters and we will be able to use the files for our curating and research.

Most of this work has been done by our summer intern, Alina Aguilar. With the loss of the younger Japanese-American children from our community, these collections could be lost forever as the older generations pass.

In addition, we have continued to curate photos that were previously

scanned, and added to them those that had been missed or had arrived subsequently.

With the further addition of our Oral and Video Histories, we have added shelving to display them.



6th Annual Stay At Home Fund Raiser



Phone for tickets (831) 722-0305 or on line:
pajarovalleyhistory.org
 click on raffle

Five Spectacular gift Packages

- > **2-Identical Gourmet Wine offerings**
Bernardus, Soquel Vineyard, Alfaro
 19 Bottles red and white mix in addition to
 Sommelier Wine Set, Coasters, and wine
 stopper. **\$1,225** value each package.
- > **2-Dining Out Packages** - Multiple Local
 Restaurants **\$1,050** value each.
- > **1-Mission Inn Carmel 2 night getaway**
 Includes: gift certificate for dining at the
Restaurant at Mission Ranch; gift certifica-
 te for dining at the **Bench at Pebble Beach**;
 gift certificate for **Specialized Skin Care**
 and an assorted Gift Basket.
 Total package value of **\$1,450**

Drawing 10/21/2020

UPDATE

From Page 1

droplets of water in a very grateful desert.

Claudia Mize continues her work, contributing articles for newsletter, web page management, and Facebook.

Priscilla Partridge is constantly evolving with us. She has put her efforts into re-organizing our surname files and folders. She was able to catch many filing errors. Along with Bill Beecher, they have updated our surname database, making it easier to find images and files for the surnames. We look forward to her help as some of us face delayed surgery.

Lynn Clough introduced us to Linda Walls. She joins Lynn on Wednesdays to work on house projects. Our new board member Virginia Avila directs house projects on Sundays.

We owe thanks to our very active board through all of this. Again for the 6th consecutive year Judy Doering Nielson, along with the entire board crafted five fantastic prizes worth over \$6,000 for our annual Stay At Home fundraiser. Appreciation and acknowledgement is overdue for board



Linda Walls

members: Chuck Allen, Virginia Avila, Sharon Bystran Emeritus, Ken Dobler, John Espinosa, Ralph Jacobs, Luann Lausen, Peter Navarro, Tony Scurich, and Phil Ybarra. Supporting our board on this fundraiser are their helpers: Lou Arbanas, Colleen Brunetti, Jodi Frensley, Susan Jacobs, Dominic & Martha Muzzi. You will have a chance to enter the drawing via direct mail, as well as using our on-line option: <https://www.pajarovalleyhistory.org/>



Priscilla Partridge

We are thankful and grateful to all of our volunteers new and old not named who have helped us maintain the history of the Pajaro Valley even now. We have done so while maintaining social distancing, wearing PPEs, sanitizing, and doing temperature checks.

We sorely miss those that have had to reduce their time due to medical issues. You are not forgotten and we look forward to being together again soon.



Celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

by Claudia Mize

The Bockius-Orr house display celebrates the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage.

Vintage clothing is on display, featuring 1920s dresses, suits and hats. Also, on display are memorabilia and posters urging people to vote. The house ladies (Virginia Avila, Mimi Crumpton, Sharon Bystrand, Gerry Martin, Lynne Clough, Alexandra

Browning and Thais Winkelman) started in February, before the COVID-19 restrictions, and continued to work following the guidelines for safety.

If you have a chance, come tour the house and see this reminder of the dedicated people who fought for our right to vote. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, visits are by appointment only. (831) 722-0305



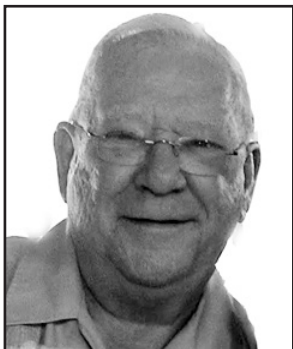
Remembering Joseph Parker, 13-year PVHA Board Member

by Claudia Mize

Joseph Parker died May 30, 2020. He was a devoted Board member who contributed to preserving the history of the Pajaro Valley. He served on the board for 13 years from April 8, 2004 until 2017. Joseph was born to George and Nora Parker on Dec. 15, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois.

He made Watsonville his home in the 1970s and

was a parishioner at Our Lady of Help of Christians Catholic Church, a member of the Knights of the Columbus Council 958 as Past Grand Knight, and a Watsonville Planning Commissioner for 20 years. He was responsible for initiating the Medical Care Program, which evolved to become MediCruz. His legacy of helping to preserve the history of the Pajaro Valley lives on.



Items of Note

As of April 1, 2020

New Board Member

- Virginia Banuelos-Avila

New Members

- Thomas and Virginia Avila
- Sandy Coplin
- Sandra Davidson
- Kenneth and Anne Horner
- Sandy Jurach
- Gwynneth and Daniella Romano
- Steven and Kristin Sigmar Smith

New Volunteers

- Alexandra Browning
- Cynthia Campos
- Georg Romero
- Linda Walls

Donations General

- Marvin and Elaine Del Chiaro
- Ron Rider from Allison Heritage Clocks, repaired two historical clocks.

Research/ Archive

- Betsy Ehm Lobay
- Ted Ichino

In Honor Of Judy Nielsen

- Lou Arbanas

Memorials In Memory of

Ed Bystran

- Marvin and Elaine Del Chiaro

Ellen Mann Christie

- Louis and Geneva Ivanovich

Gene Friend

- Jim and Shirley Spain
- Hugh and Patricia Hudson
- Joyce Kalich

Ruth Peterson

- Steven and Kristin Sigmar Smith

Foster and Ellen Hutchings

- Patrick Sheehy

Charles Bryant

- Jim and Shirley Spain

Marvin Byers

- Harry and Clarice Wiggins
- Lou Arbanas

Jim Resetar

- Jim and Shirley Spain

Velma Williams

- Joyce Kalich

Barbara Ogilvie Butler

- Joyce Kalich

Joseph Parker

- Ralph and Susan Jacobs

Ken McElroy

- Ralph and Susan Jacobs

David Williams

- Robert and Mitzi Williams

Patrick Carey

- John and Judy Eiskamp

Steve Dufour

- Dominic and Martha Muzzi

Memberships

Renewed in April

- Paul and Elizabeth Bachan
- Colleen Brunetti(Brunetti Properties)
- Dan Carrillo (P.V. Printing)
- Marvin and Elaine Del Chiaro
- Erik and Kimberly Claus
- Sandra Davidson
- Nita Gizdich
- Laura Hofmeister
- Hubert and Patricia Hudson
- Betsy Ehm Lobay
- Terry Locke-Paddon
- Geneva Mehl
- David and Steffany McCabe
- Matthew McCluney
- Mike and Bertie McElroy
- Dan and Ann McGrath
- Kathy Oliver
- Priscilla Partridge and David Kikuchi
- Mark and Carol Pista (B. Pista Co.)
- Patrick Sheehy
- Stephen Taylor (Taylor's Office City)
- John and Carol Tietz
- Eugene Valla
- Ms. Mary Altier Walker
- Samuel and Terese Wright

Renewed in May

- Margaret AmRhein
- Lou Arbanas
- Wallace and Tina Baine
- Alvin and Ruby Beilby
- Allen and Betty Bjur
- Robert and Jean Boedikker
- Stephanie Bulich
- Ms. Mabel Cole

- Barbara Corrigan
- Jeanette Crosetti
- Hugh Hudson Family
- Rosa Guerrero
- Edward and Jean Kelly
- Cathy Mello
- Peter Navarro
- SACO
- Phil Ybarra

Renewed in June

- Nancy Buoy
- Sarah Chauvet
- David and Frances Delfino
- Donald Henrichsen
- Gayle Ivanovich
- Lorraine Jurach
- Roseann Kalich
- Terry Locke-Paddon
- Lisa Pollock
- David and Maryann Schnitter
- Steve and Kerry Stringari
- JoAnn Vear
- Bob and Nancy VanGalder

Renewed in July

- Alice Bankhead
- William and Cloy Codiga
- Ken and Anne Dobler
- Rob Edwards
- Robert Katz and Leola Lapides
- Patty Lockett
- Gerry Martin
- Leon and JoAnn Mattingley
- Kathleen Moore
- Dominic and Martha Muzzi
- Stan and Judy Nielsen
- Dr. David South

Renewed in August

- Steve Bankhead
- Nancy Bilicich
- Nancy Codiga
- Joe Costa
- John and Judy Eiskamp
- Robert and Janey Leonardich
- Patricia Lester
- Jane Parks McKay
- Mrs. Donaldine McRae
- Dennis and Laurie Osmer
- Bill and Tanya Passey
- Susan E. Pellis
- Rita Pope
- Les and Joyce Roth
- Tom and GeriAnne Simons
- Gary and Patricia Thwing
- Robert and Mitzi Williams

50th Anniversary of Good Year Blimp Columbia's Visit to Watsonville

Pajaro Valley has long history with dirigibles

by Lou Arbanas

It's hard to believe that 50 years had passed since we were entertained by the visit of the Good Year blimp July 9th 1970. The dirigible was temporarily berthed at the Watsonville Airport for the duration of the Goodyear promotional presentation of the craft to the community.

Nick Milich from the Register-Pajaronian in July of 1970 opined that it had been a long time (30 years) "since blimps trailed their long, lumbering shadows over the Pajaro Valley." He was referring to the WWII days when we had a blimp base at the corner of Highway 1, and Salinas Road.

Aviation was in its infancy with experimenters and their daring flying machines. Groupies, called barnstormers, traveled from town to town selling tickets for airplane rides. Local business people shared a vision of the emerging aeronautical age and 400 of them, in conjunction with civic-minded citizens, sold 5,000 shares of stock to purchase land to build an airport.

They chose an 85-acre site southwest of the city near the junction of Highway 1 and Salinas road in Monterey County because it was the only land close to Watsonville available at a cheap price. In 1931 Governor James (Sunny Jim) Rolph, riding in a Stinson Monoplane piloted by W.W. Bendell of this town, made a low pass over the new airport, cutting a ribbon stretched across the runway to officially open the airport.

It was not until 10 years later in 1941 that it became a US Navy facility. The Navy changed the airport from private aviation to an auxiliary base where they housed their blimps to patrol for submarines off our coast. The blimp flight squadrons were based at Moffett Field and Watsonville was an auxiliary field where a blimp and flight crew were stationed. From here, blimps took off on 12-hour submarine patrols, would escort convoys or help perform air-sea rescues.

Crews stationed here would spend a month before being rotated with another



crew and blimp. Local men stationed at Watsonville were Don Wilson, George Davis, Vern Dietz and Ron Hill. The base lasted until late 1945 and the property sold May of 1947 by the corporation to Edwin and Flora Peterson for a cattle feed lot.

In 1939 efforts were in play by the Civil Aeronautics Au-

thority to create a civil airport in Santa Cruz County and 330 acres were purchased by Watsonville at the current site. The runways were almost completed when Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941. Once again the military choose Watsonville as a satellite station to NAS Alameda.

Fifty years ago the pilot of the Good Year blimp Columbia was Dick Widicombe and was quoted by Nick Milich as saying "If flying an airplane is like swimming through the air, flying in a blimp is something like floating on your back. And always below you is the great big sausage-shaped shadow."



2020 Young Historian Award Contributors Recognized During Pandemic

by Lou Arbanas

Each year at our annual vintage picnic we celebrate and award our community's aspiring young historians who have contributed to helping us preserve the history of the Pajaro Valley.

An idea started several years back by an anonymous donor, coordinating their generosity through The Community Foundation Santa Cruz County. Covid-19 cancelled our picnic when we announce this year's winners. However the Pandemic did not stay the hands or desire of two young contributors competing for the cherished award.



Jared Keith

Nor will the pandemic prevent the acknowledgement of the 2020 Young Historian Award contributors. Both candidates submitted their essays in a timely fashion



Claire Dobler Cagnaccia

and were evaluated by Bill Beecher, Pricilla Partridge, and Alina Aguilar.

First place went to Claire Dobler Cagnaccia who will be a freshman this year at the University of Alabama. Runner up

was awarded to Jared Keith who will be a junior this year at Monte Vista Christian School. Congratulations to both for their success and their projects during this unsettled time.

A Big Thank You to PVHA Board Member Emeritus Sharon Bystran

by Claudia Mize

A big thank you to Sharon Bystran for all the work she has done at Pajaro Valley Historical Association. She was a Board member, house and archive volunteer, active contributor and friend to PVHA for 14 years. Sharon's meticulous attention to detail was apparent in all that she did. She recently moved from Santa Cruz County to be closer to her family. She will be missed. Sharon is now a Board Member Emeritus. Virginia Avila, an active house volunteer, has filled Sharon's position on the Board.



Sharon Bystran



Adi Zehner

PVHA Meets FB Page Owner 'Remembering Watsonville'

by Lou Arbanas

At the end of July, Ken Dobler and I had a chance to finally meet Adi Zehner and enjoyed taking her on a tour of our Archives. She had not been here after the new building opened. We discussed pictures she had gotten previously from us, and talked about the process we might use going forward to help her get more and newer images. We are waiting for a time when schedules will allow that to happen. Adi has a remarkable following of locals, and it would be great for PVHA to share with her.

'To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow'

by Carolyn Davidson

Watsonville is so fortunate to have its own "secret garden" here at PVHA.

Throughout history, gardens have been a source of peace, calm, and beauty: to stroll, to contemplate, to relax. It is sad that COVID 19 has forced our closure. I know the garden would have, but for few minutes, brought assurance that all will be well tomorrow.

With the help of dedicated volunteers we have completed several large projects this year. Right now we are "redesigning" the front lawn water fountain area. Our goal is to keep our gardens in their original glory.

Our garden volunteers are Carolyn Davidson, Mark Clarke, Jodi Frensley, Connie Deller, and Keith and Thais Winklelman.



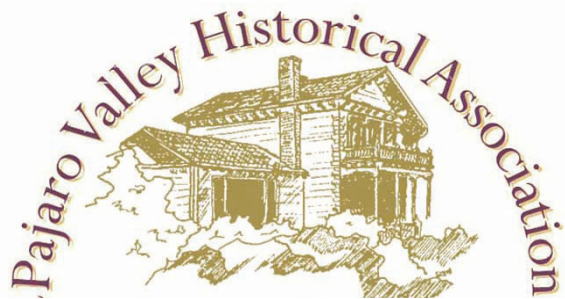
Virginia Avila Joins PVHA Board

Virginia Avila became one of our newest board members on May 21, 2020.

She's also been a volunteer at PVHA since November 2017 and continues to work on our house displays and preserving our clothing collection.

Virginia grew up in Watsonville and has raised her family here in the city of Watsonville, which she calls home.





Preserving the History of the Greater Pajaro Valley
Established 1940 ~ Incorporated 1956

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Chuck Allen, Vice-President
Ralph Jacobs, Treasurer
Luann Lauesen, Secretary
Ken Dobler
John Espinoza
Peter Navarro
Tony Scurich
Phil Ybarra
Virginia Avila

Office Administrator: Jodi Frensley
I.T. Committee Chair: Louis Arbanas

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PHONE: 831-722-0305
EMAIL: info@pajarovalleyhistory.org



WHS Senior Class Photo Shoot at PVHA

by Claudia Mize

The lovely gardens of PVHA served as the backdrop for the Watsonville High School students.

Alex Fuentes Lifetouch Photog-

raphy took pictures of 80 students per day over five days. All covid-19 protocols were followed. PVHA was happy to provide a safe and scenic backdrop for the photo shoot.

Want to join now or need to renew? We'd love to have you become a member of PVHA

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please Make Checks Payable to "PVHA"
PO BOX 623 Watsonville CA 95077

Or join via our website at www.pajarovalleyhistory.org (Visa or Mastercard)

____ New Member ____ Renewal Membership Expiration Date ____

____ Donor \$50 ____ Supporter \$100 ____ Benefactor \$250 ____ Patron \$500 ____ Corporate \$ ____

Other Donation \$ ____ to be used for ____

Name: _____

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(We are updating our database and would like to include your email address please)

All contributions are tax deductible within the meaning of
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Ways to Donate

- Become a Member
- Upgrade your Membership Level
- Make a general donation to the PVHA
- Make a donation to our endowment funds: The Historic Preservation Fund or Archive Fund, both established at The Community Foundation

WE ACCEPT

