

May - July  
2011



# Monterey State Historic Park Association

Presenting News of the Volunteer Program at Monterey State Historic Park

## 2011 Annual Meeting Highlights

Yes, It was awhile ago, but not all 150 members were there, so we will give everyone an update on what happened at Spears on January 22 at Monterey State Historic Park Association's Annual meeting. The food was excellent! We had great salads and terrific chili, with corn bread muffins (while the cook was away, she didn't feel well.)

But before all that we had our State Parks VIP's on hand to tell us what they did to make MSHPA succeed in its quest to help MSHP. Mike Ferry opened up the discussions by telling his audience that statewide, the State Park system is basically in a holding pattern waiting for the next budget cuts. He is not sure how this will affect us locally, but his presentation did generate a multitude of questions. He was followed by Michael Green who generated interest in his volunteer program and handed out district passes to volunteers who worked at least 70 hours in 2010. He also handed out State-wide passes to all of the board members from 2010.

Lisa Bradford, who spends much of her time and expertise with MSHPA personnel and on MSHPA business, explained her role as the California Area Liaison, (CAL) between Monterey State Historic Park and MSHPA. She is the one who asked for funding from MSHPA in 2010 for refurbishing Custom House and money to be used for a special project for the Children's Program. She comes to all the board

meetings representing State Parks.

The new Board was introduced by Marjorie Troutman, the President of MSHPA, and she reviewed for the audience last year's accomplishments. Toy Bryant, treasurer, gave the financial report, and last but not least, Margie Gillaspay, our Editor-in-Chief, was pinned—with a corsage, thanked for her dedication to MSHPA and presented with a life-time membership to Monterey State Historic Park Association. And she had *her* picture taken! Then we had lunch.

— Jan Houser, Vice President

### Save the Date:

**July 4, 11am-3pm  
Living History  
Cooper-Molera Adobe**



Bring the kids and have fun!  
Participate in activity stations that represent the Mexican Rancho-era of Monterey's history. Adults \$2.00; Children 6-17 \$1.00; 5 and under free.  
Donations to offset materials cost are welcome!

Please note: email address — [mshpa@att.net](mailto:mshpa@att.net) and MSHPA phone — (831)655-9886.

### Calendar of Events:

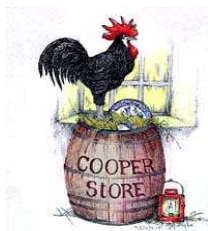
**May 15, 2011: Monterey Public Library House and Garden Tour** - 11am-4pm  
Stevenson House and Copper-Molera will be featured stops on the tour.

**May 21, 2011: "Yeah or Nay for Fanny?" Debate** - 1-2pm; Stevenson House  
House open for regular visitation following the debate.

**July 4, 2011: Living History** - 11:30am—3:00pm; Cooper-Molera Adobe  
Adults: \$2.00 / Youths 6-17: \$1.00 / Children 5 and under: FREE

**December 8 and 10, 2011: Christmas in the Adobes**

# “Well, you used to have...”



## **MSHP Store Hours**

### **Cooper Museum Store**

**Monday-Sunday:**

**10 am - 4 pm**

### **Pacific House Store**

**Saturday-Sunday:**

**10 am - 4 pm**

## **The Debate:**



### **Fanny, the Most Controversial Woman in RLS' Life**

Was she his muse or was she an obstacle to his creativity?

Was she a help or a hindrance?

This will be the question debated at the Stevenson House in Monterey on May 21, 2011.

Starting promptly at 1:00 pm.

Spring has come to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, and also to the Cooper Museum Store. Products from new vendors are arriving all the time. We are also carrying interesting new items from vendors whose wares have been a part of Cooper's product mix since "the beginning." And the search is always on for just the right interpretive products that we don't have yet, but know our customers will love! But what about the old standbys? The tried and true, flew-off-the-shelves, everyone absolutely loved items? Just about everyday, I hear someone talking about something the store used to have that we no longer carry. The comment is made often enough that I thought it would be an excellent topic for this article.

I must admit that I was rather surprised (shocked, really) the first time someone asked why we no longer carry something they purchased at the store ten+ years ago. I couldn't imagine going to one of my favorite clothing stores and asking why they no longer carry the same striped cardigan sweater I bought and loved back at the beginning of the new millennium! But the comment came up again. And again. And again! Our customers, MSHPA Members, and Storekeepers have told me about *many* products they bought and loved, and are certain would sell well again. So why don't we carry those products?! Chances are that the answer is due to one of following three reasons:

#### **1) The product is no longer available for wholesale purchase.**

Just as retailers update their product mixes to stay fresh and competitive, wholesalers update their offerings so that retailers will continue to buy products from them! When an item is still available, it could be available only if a significant quantity is purchased. Some-

times, a company requires that we order only a small number of a particular item, but we must meet a minimum dollar amount. That may not be an option for our small store.

#### **2) The item does not support our interpretive mission.**

The Cooper Museum Store is unique among retailers on the Peninsula in that it has an interpretive focus. What does that mean? The products we sell need to be interpretive of our park and our programming. Although wholesale catalogs are full of beautiful home decor and gift items, only the items that support our mission to connect shoppers to our history and our park are considered. Just before I started as the Store Manager and Buyer two years ago, a thorough review of all merchandise in the store was completed, and some items were not approved for reorder. Something may have been a strong seller or personal favorite, but it just might not be appropriate for the store.

#### **3) We no longer wish to carry it.**

There is only so much space to merchandise products at the Cooper Museum Store, so we have to be a bit selective! We certainly cannot please everyone, but most of our visitors seem to appreciate our inventory choices. We want to make sure that our regular visitors have new and interesting products to consider whenever they come in, and we hope that our product mix will make regular visitors out of first-timers!

I warmly hope that the Cooper Museum Store has something to offer you each and every time you visit. Now, and for many years to come...

— Cooper Museum Store Manager,  
Stacey Jacobs

# Suddenly it was Summer..

.....and the roses were blooming, the birds were noisy (but nice,) and of course, the weeds grew three inches each day. Not just in your yard, but also in the Cooper Garden. Way back when, we had an Annual Meeting: in January. The weather was great, there was a Whale Fest, and the day's program was informative. The speakers spoke of how support by State Parks personnel provide expertise to contribute to a more perfect program for visitors and the residents of Monterey.

Just as suddenly winter was upon us again and it rained, and rained. And it was cold. Then reality set in...

The Board met and talked about its resources. We have a mission statement which the Board accepted in 2008 which stated: "The mission of OMPS (now named MSHPA) is to support interpretation, educational programs, and special events at Monterey State Historic Park and to assist California State Parks by raising funds and increasing pub-

lic awareness." One of the major areas of discussion was the status of our budget and its relation to MSHPA's mission.

We came to the conclusion that we could not continue to support a program which 1) was not in sync with our mission statement, and 2) took a major portion of our income. The 'program' which did not meet the criteria of the Mission Statement was the payment of the salary of Ms. Hirschler, our gardener whose salary took a major portion of our income. The amount she was paid was almost the same as the sum which we had to withdraw from our savings each year in order to maintain a yearly balanced budget. In addition to her annual salary, it has also been necessary to pay for Workman's Comp, considerably raising the cost of garden upkeep. We realized that if we were to continue down this road we would become insolvent in a few years.

We do wish to continue our mission, which is to support State

Parks and to provide an educational program for our youth. If it were possible to find a way to fund Amy and remain solvent we would want to do so. But it is not possible. We had to face the music and withdrawn our financial support of the Cooper Garden.

Ms. Hirschler has been a creative person and a loyal member of MSHPA. Over the years she has spent many more hours working in Cooper Garden than required, with the result that the garden has been a draw for many people to come to visit and enjoy. It has also become a source, through her efforts, of attention by the San Francisco Chronicle, the Carmel Garden Club, and many individuals who have come to visit the informal pleasure of a well-maintained historic garden. We did not wish to have to take the steps to discontinue our partnership with her, but we had no choice. We wish her Good Fortune in the coming years.

— Marjorie Troutman, MSHPA President

A "snapshot" look at MSHPA's income and expenses for the past year. Retail income and expenses are for Cooper Store and the store in the Pacific House. Our fundraising committee raised 4,000.00 to help pay increased expenses for state park personnel for Christmas in the Adobes. Our total income for last year was **\$96,463.06** and expenses were **\$111,075.74** for a loss of **\$14,612.68**.

There are many ways our association contributes to Monterey State Historic Park. Two examples are the Cooper Garden and State Park staff support...

	<u>Garden</u>	<u>State Park Staff Support</u>
2006	\$15,042.95	\$8,664.53
2007	\$18,371.28	\$6,335.00
2008	\$18,754.45	\$6,016.59
2009	\$17,717.85	\$3,285.83
2010	\$18,099.47	\$1,370.10

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>
\$4,140.00	Membership	
\$33,841.13	CITA	\$14,307.99
\$45,377.28	Retail	\$15,439.53
\$5,325.66	Garden	\$18,099.47
\$5,340.90	Los Niños	\$7,145.83
\$446.19	4 <sup>th</sup> of July	\$764.33
\$504.63	Donations	0
\$577.67	CD Interest	0

...for a grand total of \$113,658.05!!!!  
We have truly supported the Monterey State Historic Park. We can be very proud of ourselves.

# Hands-on Crew Delivers History in March Rains

Despite record-breaking rains in March, MSHP's Hands-on Team can't wait to share their passion for history. Thursday, March 24, is a Cooper Hands-On Day, and setting up takes the better part of the early morning hours at Cooper garden; the task isn't made any easier when it's wet. There's rope-making, branding, embroidery, grinding corn and tortilla cooking to do. Even the butter for the tortillas is churned from fresh cream by hand.

A school bus drops off 35 eager 4<sup>th</sup>-graders and their chaperones from Monterey Park School who burst through the front door of the Cooper Museum Store promptly at 9:30. Unfazed by the rainy day and chattering away, they stream through the store to the Cooper Garden where a team of staff and volunteers in period dress have just completed their preparations.

It isn't long before they are riveted to the instructor's words as they come to understand that, today, they will be learning by doing. At the rope-making station, considerably placed under the dry eave near Diaz Adobe, three kids man the contraption that cranks twine into rope while Volunteer Richard Griffith explains how rope is made.

Fascinated, the kids still haven't figured out how the twine becomes rope as Griffith expertly guides the kids' actions. One kid holds twine taut; another holds the paddle that will guide the string into a twisted cord, and a third turns the crank counter clockwise. The kids watching ooh and ah as the kid with the paddle walks slowly toward the end being cranked and the twine seemingly makes itself into a durable six-foot rope! "Do you think

Captain Cooper might make something like this for his kids to use as a jump rope?" Griffith



asks. And, it isn't long before the kids are testing that theory for themselves, chanting classic jump rope rhymes.

At the tortilla making station, Vicki Bruce shows the kids how to grind the corn and press the meal into a flattened pancake. Then she takes over to cook them on an iron griddle, called a *comal*, over an open fire. The butter the students helped to churn

is then spread on the warm tortilla and the kids eagerly devour the tasty treats.

And so the morning went. Thanks to the Hands-on Team, nothing dampened the fun of learning this day. Special thanks to ALL the Cooper Hands-On team members; MSHP Staff: Susan Billingsley and Judy Piper; State Park Volunteers: Vicki Bruce, Kay deRoy, Glen Eubanks, Richard Griffith, Kathy Miller, Louis Perez, Rosie Pettas, Don Schmidt, Suzanne Siegelman, and George Wright. Thanks for creating a great learning experience and some lasting memories!

— Michael D. Green, SPI III,  
Monterey State Historic Park

## 4809 HOURS

What is **4809**? That is the number of hours our volunteers have worked for the Monterey State Historic Park Association in 2010.

Isn't that amazing and don't we have amazing and dedicated volunteers!! Volunteers in the Adobes, Living History Days, and Robert Lewis Stevenson events, and many other activities. They also serve as dedicated storekeepers in the Cooper Store.

The hours our volunteers work count in a financial way too. For every hour that a volunteer works, Monterey Peninsula

college pays our Volunteer fund \$1 (up to a maximum of \$7000 each calendar year.) In order for the hours to count, each volunteer

must be registered with MPC. The application process is easy. It takes about 5 minutes to fill out. It is so important. Michael Green (901-6033) can help you fill out

the application. If anyone is interested in volunteering, we certainly need more volunteers. Let's reach our maximum amount of \$7000 for the volunteer fund. Call Michael Green for more information.

— Betty Crowder,  
MPC Volunteer Coordinator



Don't forget to fill out your application !

## Volunteer Workday Reworks, Reuses, Recycles

On March 22, the "bright thing in the sky" made a brief appearance allowing for a break in the rainy weather, allowing four Monterey State Historic Park volunteers to arrive at 10:00 a.m. for the second Custom House Refurbishment Workday. We had some deft hands in the group, so good work was accomplished in little over an hour! ALL of the burlap and canvas sacks of "cargo" have now been reconstructed and reworked, or recycled as burlap squares used in the embroidery station at the Cooper Hands On Program. With the completion of this task, we will be moving on to a new phase in the refurbishment of our Custom House



interpretive display. Many of these sacks are over 30 years old, dating back to the original cargo display done in the 1970s, and definitely needed some sprucing up.

Many thanks to Kimberly Wright (have needle will sew!!), Carolyn Miller, Rosemary Robert, and Carol Ryan for participating. Many thanks for MSHPA for allocating funds to pay for materials for this on-going project at California's Oldest Government building!

## Los Niños de Monterey Viejo Registration Now Open!!

Registrations for the annual Los Niños de Monterey Viejo Summer Camp are underway! Program brochures and registration forms are available at the Cooper Museum Store, as well as online at [www.parks.ca.gov/mshp](http://www.parks.ca.gov/mshp).

Session dates are: June 20-24 and June 27-July 1 (Children's program); July 11-15 and July 18-22 (Juniors' program).



If you know of a child entering grades 3 through 6, who might be interested in participating in this unique week-long living history camp, please encourage them to sign up. All sessions are currently open, but space is limited.

For additional information, please contact Lisa Bradford, MSHP Interpreter: 831.649.7109.

— Lisa Bradford, Interpreter I,  
Monterey State Historic Park

## Retail Committee Reinstated

MSHPA has reinstated its Retail Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide direction and advice in an effort to enhance the success of the Cooper Store. At its first meeting John Greenwald and Pat Clark-Gray gave advice and provided information to committee members, most of whom were not familiar with the original committee. John had chaired it for several years and shared ideas and raised questions about how best to serve the mission of the Cooper Store. Pat Clark-Gray was helpful in working with the group, presenting guidelines which must be followed when purchasing inventory, and in general, conducting store opera-

tions. Members of the Committee have been concerned about the fact that the Store did not make a profit this last year, although in the past (before the recession) it had come out in the black. They believe it is time to take a fresh look at the store and bring new ideas to its operations.

The Retail Committee is also working on the updating of the operations manual for the store. New storekeepers have no updated written guidelines to follow, so writing a new one is essential.

Stacey Jacobs, the Cooper Store Manager is a real jewel. She has a fine quality which she

brings to the store, along with her buying and merchandising skills. As the buyer of the store, she must work within the guidelines of the state's interpretations of period items which we are allowed to sell. The Retail Committee, is working closely with her on all aspects of store management and operations in an effort to improve sales and to meet store goals.

The Store has several new volunteers, filling the monthly sign-up shifts for store-keepers. As Chair of the Retail Committee, I am happy to answer your store-related questions. Feel free to call me at 656-9305.

— Richard Griffith,  
Retail Committee Chair



# Message from the Park Superintendent

Hi folks, spring is here and it is time to get outside after a long, wet winter. This is a beautiful time to enjoy Monterey - the hills are green and the wildflowers are budding.

An update on the State Park budget crisis is always in order, so I will give you what I know, which is very little! We remain in uncertain times as the state continues its budget balancing act. We do know State Parks will be cut at least \$22 million over the next two years. A State Parks special committee has been going through numerous exercises as to how we will meet these numbers which will most likely mean park closures and reduced services. A closure list is being processed by our department as I write, and closures will

be based on various criteria such as visitation, revenue generation, and practicality of closing a park. This is a complicated process which seems to create more questions rather than answers. My Stetson (ranger hat) goes off to the committee working on these issues. It is my anticipation that MSHP will **not** be on the closure list. When the list will be released to the public is unknown.

Here at MSHP, we continue to look at ways to provide self-sufficient programs and services at MSHP, even if it is in small increments. Last year we opened up the Custom House and Pacific House on weekends. This year, starting in May, we will build on this current schedule by kicking

off "Weekend Adobe Tours"! The plan is to provide weekend guided tours to the Cooper-Molera Adobe and Larkin House. Tours will cost \$5 and will be approximately 45 minutes long. There will be two tours available Saturday and Sunday at Cooper-Molera: 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and one tour available each day at Larkin House at 2:00 p.m. There will be a "Ticket Package" offered, which will include tours of each house and access to the Custom House and Pacific House Museums for just \$10 dollars. Children under 12 will be continue to be free of charge (when accompanied by a paying adult), and State Park Annual Passes will be honored. Please be patient with this process as we are still working out the bugs on this new Visitor Services program.

Strong community partnerships continue to be a priority at MSHP. Ongoing meetings between State Parks, the City of Monterey and other community entities, allow us to work together on ways to improve programs being offered to our visitors, as well as combining and sharing resources in areas of staffing, planning and historic preservation. Budget concerns are on every agenda these days; working together can help all of us to become more efficient and productive.

Finally, I thank all of you for your continued support and hard work. Despite the challenging times we are experiencing, we still seem to get so much done because of YOU! Get outside, have a great spring, smile, enjoy the gardens, and I'll see you at our park.

— By Michael C. Ferry,  
Asilomar/MSHP Sector Superintendent

## MONEY MATTERS!

We have a large membership roster, and numerous volunteers. Unfortunately not everyone is current with their dues. If you haven't yet renewed your membership there is still time! It's a bargain at \$20 - \$35 for a Family Membership - and the benefits include, among other things, 20% off of every purchase from the Cooper Store. You can pick up an application form at the Cooper Store, or you could just turn in your check to the storekeeper when you go shopping. It's easy.

If you are a member but not a volunteer, you may want to consider volunteering with one of the nicest groups of people on the peninsula. You don't have to be a member to volunteer, but it would be a wonderful idea.

**We are always looking for additional way to raise more money, and you can help!!!** Fund raising is probably one of the most important parts of a non-profit organization's activities. Funds are greatly needed to help with our children's programs (**Los Niños, and Hands-on**), **Christmas in the Adobes**, and other projects that are integral to Monterey State Historic Park.

We have a committee that works on fundraising **all year long**. Current projects include calendars with pictures of historic buildings to be sold at Cooper Store and Pacific House Museum, redoing the Path of History Brochure, and **getting sponsors for this year's Christmas in the Adobes**. If you have any ideas for fund raising, or would like to help, please email Jan Houser at [jlhouser@pacbell.net](mailto:jlhouser@pacbell.net)

Preserving Monterey's Historic Heritage



MSHPA  
525 Polk Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Monterey, CA  
Permit Number 248

**Return service requested**

MEMBER ORGANIZATION

NATIONAL  
TRUST  
FOR  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION®

May-July 2011

Remember your tax-deductible membership and donation to further support our mission of Children's Programs and Interpretation.

# Monterey State Historic Park Association

Serving Interpretation and Education at Monterey State Historic Park Since 1975



## 2011 MSHPA Board of Directors

- Marjorie Troutman: President ..... (831) 647-1486
- Jan Houser: Vice President, Fundraising Committee Chair .. (831) 394-7661
- Kathy Miller: Co-Secretary ..... (831) 649-1895
- Mary Powell: Co-Secretary ..... (831) 646-5405
- Toy Bryant: Treasurer ..... (831) 373-1052
- Bende Kelly: Vice President, Membership Chair ..... (831) 649-1750
- Betty Crowder: MPC Liaison ..... (650) 575-9831
- Jean de la Paz: Historian ..... (831) 384-8395
- Lorraine Ellzey: Nominating Committee Chair ..... (831) 754-4881
- Jane Garrettson: Member at Large ..... (831) 484-5945
- Richard Griffith: Retail Chair ..... (831) 656-9305
- Susan Miller: Outreach Committee Chair ..... (831) 624-3375
- Lisa Bradford, California Area Liaison ..... (831) 649-7109

Donations are encouraged and needed. They are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.