



Vol. VI Issue 3

# Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



December 2011

## November Speaker A Great Success

Over 60 people filled the Museum on November 4 to hear Jack Templeton's presentation. His love of our community and his wonderful before-and-after photos were much appreciated by the audience. Three local media were there to cover the event, which was the last of a series of six speakers who took us on a wonderful journey from the Kumeyaay Indians to Modern Rancho Bernardo. After the program, the Annual Meeting was held to welcome new Board members, elect officers for the upcoming year and take care of Society business.

## Timeline Ribbon Cutting Dec. 16

The official unveiling of the new timeline exhibit will be held on Friday, December 16 in the Museum at 6pm. This project has been developed as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Over a year in the making, this complete history of our community traces 2000 years of progress. The research for this volunteer-based project included 17 Board members, 10 local historians, and 4 archeological experts. The 10 foot long display will be attached at waist level so children as well as adults can easily see the historic photos and read about the local milestones. At a cost of \$3500, the timeline was manufactured by a local company specializing in museum signage. The entire community is invited to come and celebrate Rancho Bernardo's 50th Anniversary year with this special event! Refreshments will be served.



*Jack Templeton, local historian (left) and Tom Cook, project manager of the timeline, pose holding up a draft of the Rancho Bernardo timeline prior to the November Speakers Series Program.*

## Santa Claus Is coming To Town - The Winery presents Holiday Nights



**By Hilda Teel and Nancy Canfield**

The Winery Village will be lit up in the spirit of the holidays with thousands of lights, arts and crafts booths, plus all the Village shops and our Museum will be open for Holiday Nights December 15 through December 18 from 4-8pm. Holiday musicals will be performed, horse and carriage rides will be available, plus Mr. and Mrs. Santa will be arriving for the enjoyment of youngsters and the young at heart. Join the strolling carolers singing holiday favorites.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend the Holiday Nights before, imagine a traditional carriage ride around twinkle-lighted grapevines, a stroll through decorated shops, the sound of jingle bells, the smell of mulled cider, a glass of wine in the tasting room or a special dinner at Café Merlot. You can skip all the mall madness and do your holiday shopping here.

Do yourself a favor and come have a Merry Little Christmas at Holiday Nights!



## Officers

### President

Karen Rott

### 1st Vice President

Carolyn Hess

### 2nd Vice President

Frank Auwarter

### Secretary

Valerie Schmitt

### Treasurer

Faye Schell

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Alethea Altenbern

Janet Atkin

Sue Bair

Nancy Canfield

Tom Cook

Sally Edwards

Fred Gahm

Kathy Gomez

Jane Harmon

Raenell Hooten

Lorraine Kaa

Margarita Logan

Gary Powers

Hilda Teel

Nancy Willson

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[RBHistoricalSociety.org](http://RBHistoricalSociety.org)

## President's Corner *By Karen Rott*



Dear Members of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society,

It's that time of year again, a time to count our blessings and look forward to the new year. This is a special year in which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rancho Bernardo and give thought to the rich history of our community and how it has grown since it began in 1961.

At our Annual Meeting on November 4th, Jack Templeton presented "Expanding Rancho Bernardo, from 1982 to present." We realized that Rancho Bernardo is no longer a new town but one that has been shaped into a remarkable community through the vision of the people who moved here over the past 50 years. We understand the responsibility of the Rancho Bernardo History Museum not only to preserve this history but also to maintain and improve upon the dream.

During our meeting, we were given a sneak preview of the Rancho Bernardo Timeline spanning from 2000 BC to present and identified six distinct periods of history in this area. We are grateful to Tom Cook and a team of 17 board members, 10 local historians and 4 archeological historians who diligently worked over a year to bring this into existence. The timeline will be on display in the Museum beginning December 16th when we officially cut the ribbon and present it to the public.

Following our Annual Meeting, we held the election of new board members and officers. We elected four new members: Lorraine Kaa, Kathy Gomez, Raenell Hooten, and Tom Cook. This brings us to a total of 20 members serving on the 2012 Board of Directors.

I am deeply honored that you have asked me to serve as your president and will certainly do all that I can to enhance and continue the dream for the Rancho Bernardo History Museum. Serving with me on the Executive Committee are four people that I couldn't do without:

1st Vice-President, Carolyn Hess

Secretary, Valerie Schmitt

2nd Vice President, Frank Auwarter

Treasurer, Faye Schell

In the coming months, Jane Harmon is planning an Antique Appraisal Fair as well as our sixth annual pancake festival. Gary Powers will bring us another RB Tastings in October. And Nancy Canfield is planning another Speakers Series guaranteed to be more dynamic and informative than this year. It's going to be a very good year.

Wishing you all the best for this holiday season and a healthy, happy prosperous New Year.

Fondly, Karen

## Introducing Four New Volunteers Joining the RBHS Board

The Historical Society welcomes four members to our Board of Directors. **Tom Cook**, a ten year RBHS member who has served previously as Board Member, President and Display and Speakers Program Chair, is a dedicated historian. Along with our Society, Tom has been a Board member of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteers for 15 years, serves as Trail Historian for the San Dieguito River Park and organized the Wagon Rides and Farmers Market to generate revenue for Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead. Tom has been project manager for the new Timeline Exhibit, and as RBHS Business Manager, he oversees equipment, submits county reports, keeps records and creates capital budget plans. Prior to retiring from Abbott Laboratory, he enjoyed a career as a Certified Value Engineering Specialist. He and his wife Jackie moved here in 1985 and have 4 children, 2 grandchildren and one great-grand son.



Raenell, Kathy, Lorraine and Tom

**Kathy Gomez**, a professor at SDSU since 1974, has a Ph.D. in Education, teaches Educational Foundation classes and supervises teacher credential candidates. Her philosophy is “everything has a history” which she emphasizes as she works with her students. An alumna of *LEAD San Diego* for 25 years, she promotes student service learning and volunteer opportunities. Kathy loves to read historical and educational publications, is interested in developing community-based teaching tools, and would like to encourage school children to participate in our museum activities. She and her husband John moved to Rancho Bernardo in 2002 and live close to 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Kathy’s hobbies include regularly reading multiple major newspapers and our local papers to follow current events and she is currently involved with some home renovation projects.

With an advanced degree in history, **Lorraine Kaa** was a docent at the Museum of Man for fourteen years. She taught high school history, middle school World Cultures and lectured at San Diego State’s extension program. She studied archaeology and participated in digs throughout San Diego, including San Pasqual Battlefield, as well as observing excavation from the Colosseum in Rome to American sites like historic Jamestown, Virginia. Lorraine served on the Board of The Fort Guijerros Archaeology Project at the naval sub base. Lorraine, her husband Tom and their son have lived here since 1984. Unfortunately, when they lost their house in the 2007 fires, Lorraine lost all of her history books, research materials and her artifact collection from the Amazon Jungle. Recently retired, Lorraine is now a docent extraordinaire at our museum.

Another outstanding new docent is **Raenell Hooten** who has volunteered at the museum every Saturday afternoon for the past 9 months. Raenell is a valuable asset to the Board because of her 25 year career with the local media. She worked at the Pomerado Newspapers for 18 years and, as a Rancho magazine writer, she featured local artists and reviewed area restaurants. A history major in college, she is delighted to share the information in our museum with all the visitors who come through our doors. Raenell met her late husband Bill when they both served in the Air Force. They moved here in 1982 and have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. When she is not working in her beautiful succulent garden, Raenell is playing Bunko or browsing through her huge cookbook collection to plan an ethnic dinner party with friends. RBHS is very fortunate to have volunteers with such unique talents and community involvement.

### Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead

“Festive Farmhouse” with Old-Fashion Decorations - Sunday, December 4, 1-3pm

\$3 per person/\$5 Family at door - Please call for reservations 760-432-8318

**Certified Farmers Market** Every Sunday from 10am-3pm





## Museum News—December Update

### ***Rancho Bernardo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit By Frank Auwarter***

The Historical Society Museum is featuring an exhibit this fall honoring the Fiftieth Anniversary of the community of Rancho Bernardo.

In November, 1961, the newly formed Rancho Bernardo, Inc., purchased 5400 acres of land north of San Diego for the development of a planned community. The land was the Daley Ranch, an expanse of rolling hills and valleys bisected by highway 395 and inhabited by horses, mules, cattle, and about fourteen people. The Daley Ranch was a small part of what long before had been Rancho San Bernardo, one of the vast Mexican land grant ranchos that blanketed Southern California. "Rancho Bernardo," a contraction of Rancho San Bernardo, was chosen as the name of the new community.

The master plan envisioned a community with a variety of housing accommodations for persons of all ages with an atmosphere conducive to harmonious living. An early example of a planned community, Rancho Bernardo was to be as fully functional as a small city. The plan included parks, churches, schools, retail stores, a fire station, a branch library, an industrial park, and even an air strip. There would be an emphasis on outdoor recreational facilities, including a championship golf course.

The development was annexed by the City of San Diego in February, 1962. Not long thereafter construction began on some of the key elements of the community. The Rancho Bernardo Golf Course, at the site of the present Rancho Bernardo Inn course, was one of the first construction projects, as was Rancho Bernardo Road. The Interstate 15 freeway was built through Rancho Bernardo in 1967, greatly improving access to downtown San Diego. Another milestone of 1967 was the purchase of a majority interest in Rancho Bernardo, Inc. by Avco Development Corporation, which oversaw the development of Rancho Bernardo for the next two decades.

The museum's exhibit includes a diagram of the original plan for Rancho Bernardo, and tells the story in words and pictures of the origin and early development of the new community.



### **Its Time To Review Your Tax Situation**

As we near the end of 2011, many of us consider charitable giving as a strategy to reduce our Federal tax liability. We thank you for your past support and hope that you will include the Historical Society as one of the beneficiaries of your year-end giving this holiday season. Contributions must be made before Dec. 31, 2011.

**YES, I want to make a year end Tax Deductible Contribution to the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society.**

Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Checks should be payable to the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society.

Please charge my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ To Visa.....To Mastercard

Name on the card\_\_\_\_\_

Account Number\_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date\_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit Auth Code\_\_\_\_\_

My Contact Information: Names(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

This Gift is in Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about sending a tribute card.

This Gift is designated for \_\_\_\_\_ This gift is a Corporate Matching Gift\_\_\_\_\_ Please call me for more info.

*RBHS will never release or sell your personal information.*

## RB Tastings Nets \$9K

The revival of the Art & Wine Festival for Rancho Bernardo, now the RB Tastings Festival featuring music, art, food, beer and wine has been deemed a financial success by organizers, according to its chairman. "We are so grateful to the people who came," said Gary Powers, RB Tastings Festival chairman. Powers said over 900 tickets were sold which after expenses provided a net profit of \$9,200 from our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RB Tastings at the Bernardo Winery. The money will go toward Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Museum operating expenses. He said the profits met organizers' goal and was accomplished through \$7,300 in sponsorships, along with ticket, art and buffet plate sales. Powers added that reviving the fundraiser was a good move to supplement the other popular fundraiser event — an annual pancake breakfast on Memorial Day weekend — which netted around \$3,300 for each of the past three years. The Festival, which was previously organized by the then-Rancho Bernardo Chamber of Commerce, had been on hiatus since 2002. "The music was great and people had a great time," he said, adding some attendees told him it reminded them of the Concert on the Green series. Powers said the large crowd was due to the Festival combining five elements — music, art, food, wine and beer — so there was something for everyone. On a positive note, he said some restaurants had to keep cooking because they were running out of food and some participating wineries had to bring additional bottles midway through the Festival to accommodate demand. "The beer was overflowing, that's a good thing," he added. Powers said the Festival will become an annual event and likely be held around the same time because "the weather is perfect. It's a good time of the year." This event takes over 100 volunteers, 50 vendors and 20 sponsors to make it successful. The website will remain live all year long [www.rbtastings.com](http://www.rbtastings.com) and help continue our recognition of our sponsors and vendors. If anyone is interested in volunteering for next year, please e-mail Sue Bair at [egads26@gmail.com](mailto:egads26@gmail.com).



## Antique Appraisal Faire

The Historical Society will be holding their annual Antique Appraisal Faire on Saturday, March 10 from 10am-2pm at the Museum. Cost is \$10 per item with a limit of three items. Reservations are needed. More info to follow closer to the event.

## Battle of 1846 Re-enactment

Sunday, December 4—10am and 2pm  
Activities and Food  
San Pasqual State Park (East of the Wild Animal Safari Park)

## Thank you RB Tastings Sponsors



**Sunday, October 2, 2011**

### Presenting Sponsors

Belmont Village Senior Living  
Bernardo Winery

### Gold Sponsors

Casa de las Campanas  
The Remington Club

### Silver Sponsors

First America Trust  
RE/MAX Associates  
Silvergate Bank

### Bronze Sponsors

George Cooke  
(Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage)  
George Plumbing  
PAR Jewelry  
Print Pros  
Rancho Financial  
San Diego Digital Solutions  
The Roth Law Firm

## Thank You Pancake Festival Sponsors

### Gold Sponsor

Ralphs fresh fare 4S Ranch

### Silver Sponsors

Cabernet Jewelers  
Valerie Schmitt

### Bronze Sponsors

George Cooke  
Greenway Lawns Aeration, Scott lawn  
North County Credit Union  
RB Oil Change, Ken Myers  
Rancho Financial  
UBS The Pacific Point Group, Steve DeMatteo



### Special Thanks

Kiwi Jump  
Rancho Bernardo  
Kiwanis Club



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## **A Special Holiday Sale of Unique Gifts**

***By Margarita Logan***



The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Museum at the Bernardo Winery has a number of items for sale that would make lovely, inexpensive and practical gifts for the upcoming holidays. Why not give the book “Rancho Bernardo Memories” to the history buff (\$10), a roomy and elegant tote bag to the busy community activist/craftsperson (\$12) or a sun visor for the outdoors lover (\$10)? Among the less expensive items we have an assortment of note cards for as little as \$1.25 for 3, or a license plate holder for \$5. Most of these items bear the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society logo and are available for sale on Tuesday 9-12noon, Friday 10-1pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-3pm during regular museum hours and during the popular Holiday Nights on 12/15 through 12/18 from 4-8pm. Please support the RBHS while giving friends and family a classy gift.

Welcome New Members— Allen Gates and Gary Turner

Give the gift of a membership to the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. The gift that keeps on giving!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR RBHS BOARD AND STAFF!**

***May you cherish the history and traditions of your own family and friends this season!***

