



Vol. V Issue 4

# Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



December 2010

## ***Tim Mazzoni Memorial Timeline Display***

***By Tom Cook***

In honor of volunteer Tim Mazzoni, the Historical Society will be creating a horizontal timeline display featuring the historical events of our community. An official listing of historical events has been a goal of the museum since its inception. Now it will happen.

However, attaining agreement among historians as to the dating of specific events is always challenging. Thus the technique of Peer Review & Consensus will be employed. In this process, a preliminary collection of dated historical events will be circulated back and forth many times between the Peer Group until agreement is reached. Arbitration is governed by prior publication of the event by those who were present at the time. The Peer Group consists of two Archeologists, two Museum Managers, four Local Historians and a Genealogist. The process of creating this timeline may take a year.

Using contributions donated to our past Board Member and dear friend Tim Mazzoni's Memorial Fund, this horizontal Timeline of Historical Eras and Events will feature visuals and be displayed in our RBHS Museum. I wish Tim were here to participate.

## ***General Meeting In October A Great Success***



Members of the RB Historical Society enjoyed an informative program presented by Suzanne Emery, a docent at the Poway Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center. Suzanne delighted the audience with stories, a slide show and a table full of artifacts such as tools and artwork. Interpretive Trails tours are held every Saturday morning between 9am and 11:30am.

## ***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 16 through December 19. Holiday musicals will be performed, horse and carriage rides are 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!



P.O. Box 27314  
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## Officers

**President**  
Karen Rott

**1st Vice President**  
Carolyn Hess

**2nd Vice President**  
Gary Powers

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Valerie Schmitt

**Treasurer**  
Faye Schell

**Museum Director**  
Susan Floyd

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Janet Atkin  
Frank Auwarter  
Sue Bair  
Nancy Canfield  
George Cooke  
Sally Edwards  
Fred Gahm  
Jane Harmon  
Margarita Logan  
Hilda Teel  
Nancy Willson

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## President's Corner *By Karen Rott*



**Dear Rancho Bernardo Historical Society,**

A big “Hip Hip Hooray!” for Nancy Canfield who has so energetically and effectively led the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society as President for the past two years. When I think of all she has done, I remember Ginger Rogers who is said to have done everything “backwards and in high heels.” Nancy has done it all while managing her business and taking care of her husband and twin grandchildren. WOW! Nancy, how do you do it?

Through her leadership first as Development Chair and then as President, the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society has

- hosted six Pancake Festivals and two Concerts on the Green
- produced two antique appraisal fairs
- participated in the Cultural Center of RB Alive inspired by Nancy
- took part in the Fourth of July Parade with award winning entries
- opened a new museum at the Winery
- raised funds needed to build the new museum.

Nancy, you're amazing! I know I speak for all of us when I say that we deeply appreciate your friendship and all that you have given to the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society.

All members of RBHS must know that a record such as this is somewhat daunting. When you asked me to serve as your president, my first thoughts were overwhelming. How can I live up to this tradition? First of all let me say that I am deeply honored that you have asked me to serve as your president. I know that I can never repeat Nancy's past achievements but I certainly will do all that I can to enhance and continue the dream for a history museum in Rancho Bernardo.

In the coming months, Jane Harmon is planning an antique appraisal fair as well as our sixth annual pancake festival. Gary Powers has some exciting ideas for another fund raiser in the fall. Carol and Fred Gahm are preparing for our annual meeting in the October. And Sally Edwards will most assuredly have plans for our new members.

Finally, I've saved the best “Tadah” announcement for last. At the annual Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 23rd, the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society was awarded a \$500 grant to build Speaker Programs for our museum. RBHS will develop speakers and materials focused on local history. This will make an outstanding contribution to our programming as well as increase public awareness and strengthen our position in the community.

We're ready for the New Year and I'm looking for my high heels. Wishing you all a happy, health, prosperous 2011.

Fondly, Karen

## Introducing Four New Volunteers Joining the RBHS Board

The Historical Society welcomes four new members to our Board of Directors. **Frank Auwarter**, a Chicago native and retired lawyer, has served on the Rancho Bernardo Community Council for several years as a district representative and past President and also presently is Chair of the Maintenance Assessment District, an organization which oversees the green spaces in our community. Frank volunteered for many years at a local elementary school and now enjoys lawn bowling in his free time. **Sue Bair**, a graphic designer, was raised in Ohio and moved here in 1981 and set up the firm EGADS (Electronic Arts and Design Services) with her late husband.



Frank, Sue, Nancy and Fred

After working for the RB Chamber, she eventually became Vice-President of Communication for the San Diego North Chamber. Sue is active in Soroptimists, the RB Library Assoc., and the Ed Brown Center. Her hobbies include traveling and reading. **Fred Gahm** is our only native Californian who moved here from the L.A. area in 2006 when he married Carol. He spent 30 years in computer manufacturing and retired from the State of California after a 13 year career in computer training. He has served on the Irvine School Board and is a past member of the RB Planning Board. He enjoys woodworking and genealogy and looks forward to helping our Historical Society develop an outstanding reputation. **Nancy Willson**, also from the Midwest, moved to San Diego in 1960 and is good friends with Sue. Nancy worked in Financial Services for an industrial loan company and several local banks where she held the position of Vice-President. In 1997 she became Controller for the RB Chamber and still works part time for the Chamber as Member Relations. Nancy is active in Soroptimists, a member of Ed Brown Center and past President of Altrusa. The RBHS is fortunate of have volunteers with such unique talents and community involvement.

### Battle of 1846 Reenactment

Sunday, December 5  
10am and 2pm  
Activities and Food  
San Pasqual State Park  
(East of the Wild Animal park)

### Sikes Adobe Farmers Market

Every Sunday from 10am-5pm  
Pony Rides—\$3  
Wagon Rides—\$2  
Free Homestead Tours  
From 1-3pm

### New Members

John Colclough  
Patti Green  
Mickey & June Greer  
Donna Kordela  
Bill & Wilma Mc Clain  
Gary Powers  
Denny & Midge Seymour

## Museum News—December Update

The present museum exhibit features eleven framed photographs which previously had been displayed in the Community Room of the San Diego National Bank. These historical sepia tone images capture the early development of Rancho Bernardo, Lake Hodges and the Bernardo Winery. In addition, the museum will be displaying magazine covers from the historic Brandings publication's holiday editions and early items from the Rancho Bernardo Inn. The museum will be open from 5-8pm during Holiday Nights on December 16—19. We will be serving hot cider and sweet treats. If you able to volunteer for these open house hours, please call Susan Floyd at 858-487-4599. Stop by to say Hello and enjoy this exhibit!

## So Much To Be Thankful For

By Nancy Canfield



Five years ago, I was approached by then RB Historical Society President Tom Cook, to head up the fundraising to build a new museum at the Bernardo Winery. I protested that I had no fundraising experience, but he thwarted me on that.

“You were just made Honorary Mayor of Rancho Bernardo based on fundraising, you can do that with us,” Tom replied. Us was he and Susan Floyd, and a small handful of dedicated volunteers. The current museum was comprised of a prefab building, about 10x10, used for displays, and a storage container that served as office and display in front, storage of historical treasures in back. To the people who had been growing the museum since 1982, this was a big step up from prior years. To me, it was a no-brainer: Something had to be done.

Well, the initial \$100,000 that I agreed to raise was quickly increased to \$600,000 – Tom is quite a salesman. Half of that sum would be used to build the museum, the other half to create an endowment, so that the new museum would never have to be closed for lack of operating funds. In my naiveté, I thought we could raise the first half in a year. In a year, the economy went south.

We set out on a course of developing events, merchandising, volunteers, docents, membership, our website, a blog. Together, we got that building fund in place between cash and in-kind donations like paint, flooring, a bathroom built. But, just as we were ready to accept the building permit from Poway, we learned their were some legal obstacles, and our construction had to be put on hold.

We knew we still needed to make an immediate change to safeguard our existing collections, and those that had come in steadily since we began fundraising. The Winery offered us a rental space, and we set about moving everything there. Director Susan Floyd led that effort to clear out, paint, and set up. What a job! What a masterpiece!

Over the following year, we were generously offered a half dozen alternate sites, but as we explored each, we realized that this could be a forever decision, and it had to be just right. Each sight had an insurmountable incompatibility for the long term, so we stayed put. Perhaps, as the economy comes out of the recession, a White Knight will appear, offering us a site where we can build the Rancho Bernardo Museum. In the meantime, we will stay put, grow our displays and collections, and try to build the endowment that will keep the museum going, long after it is built. We Believe! We will prevail!

Family demands have nudged me out of the Presidency. My step daughter ships out for another seven month tour next week with the Navy, so my husband and I will continue to care for her 3 ½ year old twins who were born into our home. I have no qualms whatsoever handing over the reins to the very capable Karen Rott. It is a testament to the outstanding job that our team had done that we have attracted someone with Karen’s tremendous experience, and we are so grateful to have her. I look forward to working with her on the Board of Directors of the RB Historical Society, and helping to keep the dream alive. Thank you Karen, and thank you to the community of Rancho Bernardo for their consistent, visionary help. But most of all, thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers of the RB Historical Society.

Happy Holidays! Nancy



## Its Time To Review Your Tax Situation

As we near the end of 2010, 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, 2010.

**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.*

## Rancho Bernardo Cultural Center, Steeped In History

**By Nancy Canfield**

On Dec. 4, the Carmel Mountain Ranch Holiday Festival will be brought to you by the North County Chamber of Commerce. Amidst all the lively stalls at the street fair, loads of entertainment, and rich smell of foods, you'll discover the Cultural Center. The Rancho Bernardo region is so rich in history: The Kumeyaay Indians, the Spanish, the Jesuits, and numerous explorers, to name a few.

Represented at the Cultural Center will be the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society, with panels depicting Rancho Bernardo's history, dating back to the Spanish Land Grants of 1789. Many people think Rancho Bernardo sprang up in its present state back in the 60's. But when those developers first cast an eye over these hills and valleys dotted with farms and cattle, they were seeing the heritage of those early Rancheros. See [www.RBHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.RBHistoricalSociety.org) to learn more.

Sikes Adobe of the San Dieguito River Park Group, bringing you up to date on their natural open space park, reaching from Del Mar to Julian, <http://www.sdrp.org/>. It's objective is to 'preserve and restore the land as a regional park system, and protect natural waterways and cultural resources.'

Culture is not just about history. This Cultural Center will include twenty local area authors, under the leadership of Mary Quigley. Bonnie Williams has organized another dozen or so local area artists and their works. Muralist Lisa Davis will be giving free drawing lessons to children.

Another great contributor to the culture of our area are the many libraries. On hand will be the Friends of the RB High School library, and we're hoping the robotics department will be included. In the past, the young students of robotics have brought their remote controlled robot and wowed the crowd with its antics. And what would a library be without a book sale. Books are exchanged for donations, and the proceeds are used to update the High School library. <http://www.rbhsfriendsofthelibrary.org/>

I hope you will stop by and enjoy all the of the areas contributions to the rich life we enjoy in and around Rancho Bernardo.



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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 Tuesdays and Fridays 9-12 during regular museum hours and during the popular December Nights sale on 12/16, 12/17 and 12/18.

Please support the RBHS while giving friends and family a classy gift.



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

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

