

Around the House

The Victorian Society of Heritage House

July, 2015

News from the Prime Minister:

The "Tank House" is in need of our attention. The lower level could benefit from some reorganization. The upper floor could be much better utilized. The exterior is in a sad state. This may be our major project for the year. What do you think?



Welcome to Our Visitors: To our delight we had visitors to our last Victorian Society meeting. One, Beverly Leach, has graciously extended an invitation to us to visit her home in February and have a special program with a special guest speaker. Charlene Kress did not come to our meeting empty handed! She brought two family members, Mary Gatto and Peggy Kress. All these wonderful ladies are very welcome and it is our hope they will join us in our many activities at Heritage House. Thank you, ladies, and again WELCOME!

An Unconventional Army: Marching, tambourines, bands, hymns, temperance, salvation and doughnuts. What comes to mind? Salvation Army and its many activities for those in need. Martha Leonard presented the Army's 150 year history and the story of its founders, William Booth and his wife, Catherine.

Pictures and script described the journey these two dedicated people traveled in their quest to give those in the poorer sections of White Chapel, London, and eventually the world, a guide to better living conditions and a more spiritual life.

William Booth and Catherine were devout Methodists. Due to personal differences, the church called for their expulsion in the 1860's. Finding many despicable conditions in poor areas of London caused William and his wife to explore ways to improve the lives of the EastEnders. William Booth called all humanity to join Salvationists in meeting the human need. He developed the concept of an army from passages in the Bible. He and his wife were fervent Christians, who developed this army throughout the British Empire and it became known as the Salvation Army.

Catherine noted the heavy dependence on alcoholic beverages and started a temperance movement. She also had disdain for "worldlies", such as decorations on clothing, preferring very plain dress and living conditions and improving one's character/family structure. She was known as "the Mother of Salvation Army". She was basically the family breadwinner and was adapt at conversing with the upper classes and obtaining funds for the Army.

The Army developed disaster relief responses, opened factories, helped with the child labor problem, brought notice to industrial illnesses from dangerous working conditions and battled for sobriety and temperance. During World War I the Salvation Army became a haven for the soldiers in the trenches. Rest Rooms with clean latrines and tents with a touch of home were taken to the battle fields in Europe. Salvation Army personnel created refuges for the battle weary and gave doughnuts to those who came to the refuge. The doughnut became a welcome treat for the Doughboys. (Doughboys was an English term for uneducated young men.)

Today the Salvation Army is known for many of the same causes. Joan Kroc of the McDonald's industry donated money to build recreational facilities under the care of the Salvation Army in 28 states. Funds to help the causes of the Army are also collected through the thrift stores that we all are visit.

Martha also displayed a storyboard on the history of the Salvation Army. Yours truly hopes it is on display at the September meeting for all to view and have additional time to learn more about this historical group.

Filling "Empty Teapots": Creating a respite away from home has become a part of the monthly meetings of the Victorian Society. This refers to the delectable treats and tea served before our programs. A list of the dates for the coming year is now awaiting signatures of those gracious Victorians who will provide some treats for all who come to the meeting. The treats do NOT need to be fancy or professionally made. Just a small savory, a sweet and some hot water for tea will make all Victorians very happy and satisfied. The selection is your choice! September of 2015 and March of 2016 have no one listed to provide treats. Other dates may need an additional someone to help with the "goodies". All of us need to help provide some provisions for our tea table. Please call Nancy Bishop and take a date for the Victorian meeting tea time.

(Hot water pots are stored in the room and need only to be filled and heated before the meetings. In six minutes, the water is boiling. We no longer need the big pot.)

Our Tankless Tankhouse: The Victorian gentlemen in our Society are usually willing to go great lengths to keep the Heritage House a Painted Lady and in tip-top condition. With these principles in mind, three of them investigated the tankhouse/pumphouse. The lower level is used for storage by several groups at the Arboretum. To the surprise of all the lower level has been cleaned and re-organized by some kind, but unknown being. Whomever did this service to all: **Thank You!**

With the space organized the men were able to check the window condition and other spaces for termite damage and other repairs.

The doors have been gnawed by varmints and the closures need to be adjusted. It was also suggested that some faux tank might be a possibility for the top of the tank-less tankhouse. This will be considered after research on the subject, as the roof will not support much additional weight.

It was also suggested as to the possibility of getting a storage shed for the large cables and transformers used for events. This would make the floor less cluttered.

It was also noted that the chimney “brick” may need repair and the “cresting” (decorative edging on the roof edge) needs to be attached more firmly.

All findings will be evaluated and possible solutions will be presented to the Society at a later date.

Scrub-a-Dub: Charwomen and men are being called to the Heritage House cleaning day on Saturday, August 15th. Be at the House at 9a.m. with brushes, brooms, rags, and elbow grease for the summer cleaning event. The inside will be dusted, waxed, shined and polished. The outside will be washed and scrubbed. Bushes may be trimmed and shaped. This twice a year “check-up” keeps the House in good repair and any items that need attention are brought to the Society’s attention.

If you have clippers, garden rakes, or any item you feel may be of use in this cleaning spree, please bring to the House that morning. Many hands make light work, as the old saying is reported to say! When the deed is done about noon, many of us go to Polly’s to restore our energy and stamina. So come for some fun, work and bonding time with us on that Saturday morning. Please call Ben and let him know you will be coming to our cleaning party.

Places to Go, Places to See: The following are various up-coming events that Society members may be interested in attending:

“Sleep-over” at the Arboretum: July 31st. Nature Guides. Watch for night-time critters. Contact Nick for more information.

Paris In A Tea Cup—Contact Pat if you wish to join a group of us for tea on September 3rd at this tea establishment in Old Towne Orange. Reservations are required, so please contact Pat early.

Dickens’ Committee Cemetery Tour: October 11-12th-Riverside

Orange County Docent League Meeting: November 2nd at Stanley Ranch in Garden Grove. More details to follow.

Historical Home Tours: City of Orange-first weekend in November. Group visit not organized at this time.

Dates to Remember:

September 10th: Next meeting. Bring extra garments for exchanging costume items.

Victorian Christmas Walk-through Tours: Part of Arboretum’s new Christmas program with luminaries, lights and entertainment in the gardens. Friday and Saturday night, December 11th and 12th. Details to follow. This will replace our Victorian Christmas program.

Tour of Queen Anne Cottage-L.A. Arboretum Field Trip: December 13th. Tour of L.A. Arboretum on reciprocal pass and \$5 for tour of Lucky Baldwin’s Queen Anne Cottage located in the L.A. Arboretum. This cottage is open to public twice a year at this price. We will be wearing Victorian costumes, touring the gardens and having a meal somewhere/probably! More details to follow.

