

Around The House
The Victorian Society of Heritage House Newsletter
March-April 2010
Editor Paul Jones

Privy Council 2009-2010

Prime Minister Jack Reynolds

Minister to Friends Board Ben Rogers

Minister of Schedules Cheri Hansen

Minister of Tutorials Dana Waite

Co-Ministers of Programs Nancy Bishop,
Jorice Maag

Minister of Teas Adrienne Barnes

Minister of History Diane Bott

Minister to Volunteer Advisory Committee Pat Bailes

Co-Ministers of Amusements Kay Foster,
Pat Bailes

Co-Ministers of Collection Care Rick & Carol Ritter
Dana Waite
Kay Foster
Jorice Maag

Minister of Planning Joyce Rosenthal

Minister of Communications; Paul Jones



From the Prime Minister's Pen....

On Thursday April 8 there will be a new exhibit opening in the Nikkei Museum, here at the Arboretum. It is entitled " Dirty Hands, White Gloves: Rethinking Gender in Victorian Orange County". The exhibit will feature articles and possessions drawn from our own collection.

Our Society has the opportunity to support the opening and I invite all docents to attend in their Victorian attire and give the exhibit a good sendoff. The opening will begin about 6:30 PM and run until about 8:00. I hope to see you there.

In Her Majesty's Service,
Jack



Privy Council Meeting

By Paul Jones

The Privy Council met on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7 pm at Jack and Carol Reynolds home. The meeting was open to all members to obtain maximum input on the Victorian Candlelight Christmas event.

Cheri Hansen requested volunteers to fill 11 “holes” in the February Fullerton school schedule. Members did their best to provide the necessary support. However, the limited number of docents available is adversely affecting the Society’s ability to conduct tours.

Cheri announced that the Superintendent of the Fullerton School District would observe a school tour of Heritage House on March 11th.

Volunteers were solicited by Jack to support a CSU Fullerton Volunteer Fair on campus next week. Carol and Rick Ritter volunteered to cover the event for the Victorian Society on Feb 3rd and Paul Jones volunteered to cover on Feb 4th. This fair offers the Society an opportunity to recruit new members from the university.

Jack discussed a request from the Friends for support to a CSU Fullerton intern effort to set up a display in the Arboretum museum using items from Heritage House. Jack will head a committee to interface with Harriett to make the necessary arrangements.

The rest of the meeting covered the Victorian Candlelight Christmas, which will be held the first weekend in December 2010. Jack will chair an overall committee for the event, which will be

organized by sub-committees for the major venues, such as Heritage House, Oak Hall, etc. Ben and Marylou Rogers will head up the Oak Hall sub-committee.

Jack presented a draft bookmark developed by Jodi Heard for review by members. The bookmark will replace the post cards for the Fullerton 3rd graders touring the House. Several suggestions for changes were made. Jodi will update the draft.

Jack also brought up a request from the Johnston-Hargitt House volunteers to do a joint activity, perhaps a wedding, at their house. Carol Ritter will explore this initiative.

Paul provided an update on the volunteer drive for the Society. Please see separate article below.

Board Snippets from February Meeting

By Ben Rogers

- Liz Gilmore and Caroline Chey to shepherd the Gala this summer and Janet McGarvy’s position is not to be replaced
- New Volunteer shirts are available
- 200 varieties of tomatoes and 100 varieties of peppers are to be at Monster Tomato Sale
- 78 vendors so far for Green Scene, last year there were 99
- The Arboretum is awaiting the metal gate for the front entrance
- Our windmill is to be repaired soon? (Windmill people have their own time schedules)
- Part of the problem with printing (i.e., printing is frozen until further notice) was little of it was budgeted, but some of the printing was in support of activities that brought in money, i.e. Candlelight Christmas

February Meeting - General Membership

By Paul Jones

The monthly meeting of the Victorian Society was held on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

The following visitors were introduced: Linda Herman, Doris Sadoski, Veronica and Scott FitzGerald, Amanda Tewes, and Barbara Priestley. Scott FitzGerald drew the pen and ink etching which was sold as a limited edition printing for a fundraiser for HH in 1972-3. Amanda Tewes is the CSUF intern who is putting together the upcoming Arboretum museum exhibit.



Michelle and Richard enjoying the refreshments

Cheri and Nancy introduced the refreshments for the evening, which followed a Valentine theme. The script by the ladies was hilarious and the subject of much frivolity on the part of attendees...being spiced with numerous references to the Goddess Aphrodite and explanations of the aphrodisiac- like effect of many of the evenings treats.

Linda Herman, our guest speaker, presented a talk on "Cameos and Men's Jewelry" and passed around numerous examples of jewelry of the Victorian period.

A very enjoyable social period followed the presentation.



Noteworthy, a Barbershop Quartet from the Empire Chorus

Steve Hansen introduced "Noteworthy," a barbershop quartet from the Empire Chorus in Orange County, which entertained members with several enjoyable numbers. Steve sang the final number with the quartet.

Victorian Society Calendar April to May '10



Contributors: Jack Reynolds, Kay Foster, Pat Bailes, Nancy Bishop & Jorice Maag, Adrienne Barnes

April 8, 2010

Event

No monthly meeting due to Green Scene

**Airing of the Quilts and May Pole
Dancing**

By Cheri Hansen

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 1:00-4:00. Please be there 30 minutes early.

Dancers: Marylou and Ben Rogers, Kay and Kenny Foster, Ed and Dana Waite, Sarah Ritter and Roger Bailes

April 16, 2010

Event Set Up for Green Scene
Time 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Program/Speaker N/A
Location Heritage House
Refreshments N/A
Remarks See schedule emailed by Marylou & Ben for set-up duties.

April 17-18, 2010

Event Green Scene 5th Annual Porch & Attic Sale & Walk Thru Tours
Time 10:00 am to 4:00 pm sales, 12:00 – 4:00 pm Walk Thru Tours
Program/Speaker N/A
Location Heritage House
Refreshments N/A
Remarks See schedule emailed by Marylou & Ben for Cash Sales & Walk-Thru Tour duties

House Docents	1:00-2:30	2:30-4:00
Kitchen	Adrienne Barnes	Adrienne Barnes
Bedroom	Pam Harrell	Joyce Rosenthal
Dining Room	Sallie Rae Lonner	Carolyn De Maio
Parlor	Melinda Dooley	Jorice Maag
Dr. Office	Darlene Smart	Darlene Smart

May 1, 2010

Event Airing of the Quilts & Winding the Maypole
Time 1-4 pm
Program/Speaker See article below
Location Heritage House
Refreshments See article below
Remarks

Quilt lecturer: Nancy Bishop
Quilt holders: Dyke Dooley, Rick Ritter

Cash box: Steve Hansen

Volunteer table: Pat Bailes, Dana Waite

Quilt Stand: Dan Smart (1-2:30), Les Bishop (2:30-4:00)

May 13, 2010

Event Monthly Meeting
Time 7:00 pm
Program/Speaker TBD
Location Heritage House
Refreshments TBD
Remarks

Refreshments: Lauren Andrews, Les Bishop (1-2:30), Dan Smart (2:30-4)



Entrance to the House

By Dana Waite

Some questions have been asked concerning the entrance into the parlor of Heritage House. Guests would have entered by the "family" door and would have found a portiere hanging across the entrance to the dining/family room. (I was told this drape was in macramé when the House was first opened.) Therefore, guests would have used the pocket door that lead from the hall into the parlor. The pocket door was on the wall there the hall tree is located now. The carpenters who reconstructed the House at the Arboretum in 1970's found structural evidence of the door, but no door.

Once inside the parlor the guests would have seen a fireplace located on the wall where the closet is now. The granddaughter of a later owner told me she remembered the fireplace, but no closet. Since the house was made into a duplex during the housing shortage of World War II (as I was told), the pocket door was probably eliminated and the House was "split" into two units. The fireplace was eliminated as a furnace was added. Closets are self-explanatory!

Therefore, the House exhibits the passage of time and usage as does the various styles and dates of furniture in the House. We have no house plans for the House, therefore we have difficulty verifying information that is questioned by some visitors or received from interested parties. There has been some question whether the House was a pattern house from a large retailer, such as Sears. No information has been found on this subject and numbered jousts have not been found to my knowledge. The House and its configuration is somewhat of a mystery to be solved as time passes.

History of the Coverlet in the Bedroom

by Carol Ritter, Collection Care

Many docents have noticed the new bedcovering in the bedroom, and asked about its history and date of 1856.

It was a gift from a local family who wrote the following upon donating it:

"My wife, Betty Woods Anspach inherited the coverlet when her grandmother, Grace Bell Woods, passed away. The coverlet was probably woven for Grace Bell Wood's mother, Sarah Frances Bell, by an itinerate weaver. The date of 1856 established the date of the weaving. Itinerate weavers generally came to a farm and carded, spun, and dyed wool. He would then weave items for the farmer's family. His pay was board and room and a portion of the wool. The coverlet was probably originally red, white and green. The green was yellow dyed over blue. The green has faded over the years leaving a red, white and gray. I am sure Betty would be happy to know that you are going to occasionally display this piece of her history."

Victorian Society Volunteer Drive Status

By Dana Waite, Pat Bailes and Paul Jones

The following is a status report on the Victorian Society Volunteer Drive.

A. Goal: To add 15 volunteers during 2010 to ease our shortfall in docents during the Fullerton School tours.

B. Background

1. Per the Arboretum, we currently have 41 volunteers. According to Cheri, 30 of these are active docents. This gives us a docent participation rate of 73%.
2. Cheri estimates we need 10 more active docents for a total of 40 to alleviate our scheduling challenges.
3. If we expand our numbers from 41 to 55 and keep the same docent participation rate, we should have 40 active docents and our scheduling challenges will be eased.

C. How Current Members Were Recruited into the Society

How I Happened to Join the Society	Number/Percentage of Responses
Heard about Society from a friend, spouse, significant other or acquaintance	48% (12)
Article in newspaper/newsletter	12% (3)
Talked with a Docent at Heritage House	12% (3)
Member of Friends & developed an interest in the Victorian Society	12% (3)
Arboretum flier announcing special event	8% (2)
Arboretum interest form	4% (1)
Volunteer recruitment event	4% (1)
Total	100% (25)
Survey participation rate – 58% of 43	

The operative word in the most productive way of recruiting new volunteers listed above is “acquaintance.” Most of us have probably canvassed all of our friends, and certainly our

spouse, as to their interest in the Society. However, when we have just met someone, that person is an acquaintance and, if they exhibit an interest in anything historical, a potential Society recruit.

We all need to keep our eyes & ears open and, like “Paula and Paul,” keep an eye out for acquaintances that might be potential members whom we can invite to join the society.

D. Initiatives for expanding the members of the society. Many more suggestions than the ones listed below were received by committee members. The ideas were great and all have been retained. However, due to manpower (and womanpower) limitations, the recommendations listed below were selected as those giving the “biggest bang for the buck” based on how our current members were recruited into the society. In addition, one or two suggestions were selected because they were easy to implement and could possibly add some members (i.e., they were “low hanging fruit”).

The initiatives and their current status are listed below:

1. Implement a 3 and ½ month drive. Evaluate where we are May 15th and see if we have met our goal of adding 15 members. **(Action: Dana, Pat & Paul; Due: May 15, 2010)**
2. Come up with a name for the volunteer drive. **(Action: Dana, Pat & Paul; Due: Done) Name is “15 by 15!” (i.e., 15 new members by May 15th)**
3. Write & submit articles in local newspapers **(Action: Paul; Due: Done. Volunteer drive article send out Feb 4th as Arboretum News Release to over 150 newspapers, TV and radio stations from Los Angeles to San Diego. Shorter version will be published in Arboretum weekly email newsletter**

with rotating pictures for four weeks starting the weekend of Feb 13-14.)

4. Encourage members to pass out Heritage House fliers to acquaintances who might be interested in joining the Victorian Society **(Action: Paul; Ongoing, “Paul & Paula” skit at January monthly meeting and additional fliers will be passed out at Feb meeting)**
5. Complete design & estimate for Heritage House bookmarks to pass out to Fullerton 3rd graders with Heritage House information after post cards run out. Coordinate with Privy Council. **(Action: Jack & Jodi; Due: Feb 11th)**
6. At major events like, Green Scene/Wind the Maypole/Victorian Christmas set up a volunteer table for questions in the back of the Heritage House as people leave the walk thru tours. Construct a handout for the docent manning the table to provide to the prospect to fill out and return at the table. **(Action: Dana, Pat & Paul; Due: Start at Green Scene, continue at Wind the Maypole)**
7. Ask new & present docents for suggestions on recruiting new volunteers and provide suggestions for implementation. **(Action: Paul; Due: Done. Members “stories” requested, received & tabulated)**
9. History majors--short term, warm bodies. Michelle has one of the history profs as an advisor and she said she would be in contact with him for suggestions. **(Action: Michelle; Due: Done)**
10. Michelle and Richard said they would compose a bulletin (use Heritage House flier) for their face book pages and would let us see it first. Said they have numerous contacts and some would

probably be interested. Also that would be YOUNGSTERS. We now have THREE!!!! **(Action: Michelle; Done)**

11. Distribute the HH Flier to the Fullerton, Placentia, Brea and Yorba Linda libraries. Maybe it would generate some interest. **(Action: Dana-Fullerton, Pat-Placentia, Paul-Yorba Linda and “Need an volunteer” – Brea; Due: Already started, On-going)**
12. Have Nancy Bishop, Darlene Smart, etc. (those with a multitude of groups they belong to) see what recruiting ideas they use to recruit members with a specific interest. **(Action: Nancy Bishop & Darlene Smart; Due: Feb 28th)**
13. Add programs a year in advance to the master for the Heritage House flier **(Action: Paul; Due: Done)**
16. Add Children’s League ladies to distribution for “Around the House” to encourage greater involvement with the Society. **(Action: Paul; Due: Done)**



[Odds & Ends](#)

Everyone who receives “Around the House” is encouraged to submit articles, notes, pictures or links to videos, which might be of interest to fellow readers to be published in the newsletter. If you would like to submit an item for inclusion in the newsletter, please send it via email to the editor at

pjonesjr2000@sbcglobal.net prior to the 15th of the month.

- a. **Wedding Hostess Wanted (Ben):** Liz Gilson, Arboretum Facilities Manager, has an opening for a Wedding Hostess. For details call Liz at 657-278-4791 or email at egilson@fullerton.edu
- b. **White Gloves (Dana):** Please return the white gloves that were in the bottom drawer of file cabinet. I had 3 pair that were used for training. After washing them, I found NONE in the cabinet as I returned the gloves.
- c. **Editor, “Around the House” (Paul):** We are coming up on that time of year when those who are interested in volunteering for a Privy Council position will need to advise Jack. This will include the position of Editor of “Around the House.” The current editor’s last edition of the newsletter will be the May 2010 issue.