



# THE ELECTROLIER

Newsletter of the St. Helena Historical Society, Winter 2007, Vol.5 No.1

## ST. HELENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANTIQUE SHOW

A child's miniature sewing machine, a newspaper clipping from the 1700s, ivory carvings, and an old mandolin were some the fascinating family treasures brought to the St. Helena Historical Society's Antique Show on Feb 18. Informal evaluations by dealers and appraisers gave the owners of these items new information about their treasure. Nancy Eckland, a certified appraiser with wide expertise, stayed busy throughout the day.



Members Tom & Gail Price talk with Nancy Eckland

paired by Restoration Studios. Those with a chair to be re-caned could visit Jan's Cane, who demonstrated caning throughout the day.

More than 70 lots of antiques and collectibles were in the silent auction to benefit the Society. Items included books, kitchen utensils and cookbooks, vintage photos, decorator items and wine. Bidders went home with treasures and supported the efforts of the Society to preserve local history. Special thanks to the many members who donated items for the silent auction.

Over 30 Society volunteers worked to make the event a success. Thanks to everyone who helped and to Roberta Oswald, who coordinated the volunteers. Plans have begun for the next antique show in the same place in conjunction with the Hometown Harvest Festival on October 20. Watch this newsletter and [www.shstory.org](http://www.shstory.org) for details.

Antiques and collectibles were also available for purchase. Dealers brought dolls, glassware, silver, prints, furniture, jewelry and porcelain antiques to sell. Paula Huber, the Doll Lady, brought beautiful examples of dolls made of porcelain, leather, cloth and composition. While Paula evaluated many vintage dolls, a Kewpie doll brought smiles from all. Silverado Antique Center had a large double space with a wide array of interesting items, including glassware and collectibles. Elizabeth Heidt from Maxwell Silver Merchants brought striking silver antiques to sell. Gail Gum from Vintage Vogue wore a glitzy orange sequin jacket from her shop in Calistoga. Kernberger Kollectibles had a large selection of Viewmasters and the picture wheels to go in them for sale.

People brought china and porcelain items to be re-



Karen Sternad, of Restoration Studios, talks to member Nancy Brennan about repairing her porcelain dish.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

We're starting a new year here at your St. Helena Historical Society. Our goal is to be the premier repository of St. Helena History and to be the best historical society we can be. We are now in the telephone directory: our number is **707-967-5502**.

To accomplish our goals, we need a larger team of regular volunteers. Elsewhere in this newsletter is the list of jobs crucial to the everyday workings of the group. In addition, there are interesting but intensive jobs such as the oral history program and collections management, for which more volunteers are needed. Almost all tasks can be done on a flexible schedule, many at your home. Please contact Gwen Becker to find out more.

The year began with our photography class, which we are sorry was not up to our standards. We'll do better next time.

In February the program was the "Discover Hidden Treasures of the Valley" Antique Show on February 18 (see article). With the help of one of the dealers, we hope to repeat this event in conjunction with the Hometown Harvest Festival on October 20. Watch this space for details.

Our next program will be the Textile Preservation class on March 6 at the up valley campus of Napa Valley College. Sandra Ericson will teach us about caring for heirloom garments, linens, etc. You are invited to bring your family vintage textiles to show the class and have Sandra examine them. Please call 967-5502 to reserve a space.

The Bale Mill will be our destination on April 10, as we get a special historical tour with surprise guests. The rangers requested us to start our visit at 2pm, which is earlier than most of our programs. Hopefully this won't prevent anyone from coming. The surprise guests are still being confirmed as of newsletter time, but they will be interesting.

Our May program will be our first ever dinner meeting at the White Barn from 6-9pm on May 8. We will rejoice in the accomplishments of the Society, recognize board members and volunteers, and have an amusing historical program to boot. The June program has not been finalized.

Looking further into the future, the "Spirits of St. Helena" Cemetery Tour will be on November 3. This year's theme is "Crimes & Misdemeanors—Infamous stories from St. Helena's Past". Don't miss this one! Plans are also being made for the third "Museum for a Day" in February 2008.

Mark your calendars for these great events! Watch the website for more details.

*Mariam Hansen, President*

### ***I'd like to join the St. Helena Historical Society!***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$30 Family \$50

Business/Organizaton \$150 Life \$500

***I would like to:*** Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Make a donation to the Society \_\_\_\_\_

St. Helena Historical Society

P.O. Box 87

St. Helena, CA 94574

Voice mail: 707-967-5502

Email: shhs@shpl.org

Website: www.shstory.org

### **Officers and Directors**

Mariam Hansen, President

Susanne Salvestrin, Vice President

Gwen Becker, Secretary

Kim Farmer, Treasurer

Frank Harrison

Larry Hlavsa, Ex-Officio Director

Skip Lane

Roberta Oswald

John Sales

Tricia Westbrook

### **Committee Notes:**

The **Collections Committee** coordinates and manages the acquisition of new materials. It meets the last Monday of the month at 9:30am in the library upstairs meeting room. Current chair of the committee is Frank Harrison. You can email him at jackielfrank@aol.com

The **Events Committee** plans and presents events to teach the public about our local history. Plans have already begun for the annual Cemetery Tour, Nov. 3. Call Mariam Hansen, 963-5748 for more information.

Questions? Comments?

Call or email the Newsletter editor,  
Kim Farmer, at 963-0630,  
ksfarmer@seedgrain.com

### **Are you on our Email list?**

If not, you may be missing timely announcements of our events. Please send your email address to  
[gcbnapa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gcbnapa@sbcglobal.net)

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACTIVITY BRIEFS

### TEXTILE CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION CLASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 6 FROM 3-5 PM

NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE ROOM 2, ST. HELENA

St. Helena Historical Society presents a textile conservation and preservation class at Napa Valley College Upvalley Campus on March 6 from 3-5pm.

Bring your heirloom clothing, linens and other precious textiles to this presentation by Sandra Ericson, who will teach about caring for and storing valuable fabrics. See vintage clothing from Sandra's own collection.

Sandra is a leading educator in the Clothing and Textile field, teaching the textile, fashion design, pattern making, draping and construction courses at City College of San Francisco for over 30 years. She holds both a BA and an MA Degree in Clothing and Textiles from San Jose State and San Francisco State Universities. She has collected and preserved her own textiles and vintage clothing, dating from the 1700's to contemporary, and consulted for many other collectors during her career. The event is a benefit for the St. Helena Historical Society and donations will be accepted at the door.

Seating is limited and reservations are required. Please call the Society at 967-5502 or email [shhs@shpl.org](mailto:shhs@shpl.org). Include name, phone, email and number attending.

JUST A SMALL AMOUNT OF YOUR  
TIME CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Choose from below and help make St. Helena Historical Society be more productive!

- Publicity Correspondent: write press releases for events and email to publications and other outlets
- Collection Committee Correspondent: Fill out, send, and track Temporary Custody and Deed of Gift Forms
- Make welcome phone calls to all new members when they join to answer questions and ask if they want to volunteer
- St Helena Sentinel Researcher: read hard copy of newspapers and list important articles' dates and topic so others can search Star microfilm to print for society files: Two hours week
- Historical Research: Short term, but important, research jobs

Phone Gwen Becker at 942-0940 or email her at [gcbnapa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gcbnapa@sbcglobal.net) if you can help.

### OLD ADS FROM THE ST. HELENA STAR

**THE PLACE TO EAT**  
IS AT  
**Cafe St. Helena**  
Entirely Renovated and Changed.  
**First-Class in Every Respect.**  
Clean and Tempting.  
**The Best of Cooking.**  
**OYSTERS IN EVERY STYLE.**  
Special Care Taken of Our Country Friends.  
**Meals, - - 25 Cents.**  
**COX BROS., Proprietors.**  
Main St., opposite I. O. O. F. Building.

Nov. 24, 1905. Meals for 25 cents!

**Get Your Money's Worth.**  
Just as soon as you decide that  
YOU WANT  
**The Best Clothes**  
your money will buy, head yourself  
for our store, and keep your feet  
working until you get here.  
We'll show you BUSINESS SUITS  
such as you see in this cut; and if  
you don't like that style, we'll show  
you one you do like.  
We've got the right clothes for  
you; the  
**Hart, Schaffner & Marx**  
label is on them—a small thing to  
look for, a big thing to find. You'll  
find it by looking for it here. It's  
like finding clothes money—you  
get so much for your dollar here.  
**Call and See Them.**

**BELL BROTHERS,** Richie Block, St. Helena.

Sep. 23, 1904. Located where Goodman's is now.

## CALENDAR

*Call our voicemail to reserve a space: 707-967-5502. See our website: [www.shstory.org](http://www.shstory.org)*

### March

**Mar 6:** Textiles program, 3-5 pm, Napa Valley College (see below and inside for more info.) Reservations required.

**Mar 30:** Collections Committee Meeting, 9:30 am, Library Community Room.

### April

**Apr 10:** Bale Mill tour, 2-4pm at the Old Bale Mill Reservations required.

**Apr 30:** Collections Committee, 9:30 am, Library Community Room

### May

**May 8:** Annual Meeting for all members with catered dinner at the White Barn, 6-9 pm. Invitations will be mailed

**June 5:** TBA

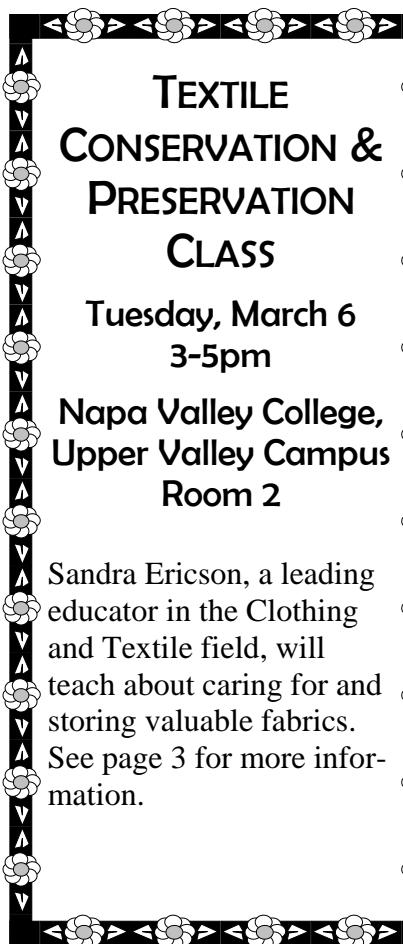
**Oct 20:** Discover Hidden Treasures, Antiques Event at Native Sons' Hall.

**Nov. 3:** "Crimes and Misdemeanors" Annual Tour of St. Helena Cemetery

**Dec. 4:** Annual Christmas Party, time and location, TBA

### *Mission Statement*

The St. Helena Historical Society is a public educational organization. Its mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and provide access to historical materials of all kinds from our community as well as to promote public awareness and participation in the collection of such materials.



## TEXTILE CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION CLASS

Tuesday, March 6  
3-5pm

Napa Valley College,  
Upper Valley Campus  
Room 2

Sandra Ericson, a leading  
educator in the Clothing  
and Textile field, will  
teach about caring for and  
storing valuable fabrics.  
See page 3 for more infor-  
mation.

St. Helena Historical Society  
P.O. Box 87  
St. Helena, CA 94574