



MSHPA Annual Meeting

Banner Year for Christmas in the Adobes

The Annual Meeting of the Monterey State Historic Park Association was held on Saturday, January 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Monterey District office of California State Parks.

Jan Houser, past president of the board of directors, opened the meeting. She introduced keynote speaker Julianne Burton-Carvajal, local historian and author. Julianne gave a specially prepared presentation based on her new book, *Artists' Honeymoon*. The book includes a collection of photos taken by painter Rowena Meeks Abdy and Harry Bennett Abdy while living in Monterey and traveling in California. Julianne focused on places of local historical interest, especially those that are now state or national parks or monuments. She will be giving a different presentation to our volunteers on February 7, by which time we hope to have the book available for sale at the Cooper Store.

Incoming Co-president Bende Kelly

began the formal portion of the meeting by introducing the 2015 Board of Directors: Susan Miller, Co-president; Toy Bryant, Treasurer; Kimberly Wright, Secretary; Gayle Paul, Membership; John Klein, Website; Pat Friedrich, Education and Retail. Members Kathy Miller, Jill Lynch, Kevin Hanstick, and Jeanie Sturges and State Parks Cooperating Association Liaison Jo McMenemy were unable to attend the meeting.



Keynote speaker Julianne Burton-Carvajal with her new book, *Artists' Honeymoon*.

—Photo by George Wright

Toy presented financial information on profits from the museum stores and Christmas in the Adobes (CITA). The Cooper Store made a profit of more than \$5,000; totals aren't in yet for the Pacific House store, and the final

credit card reports for 2014 have not yet been received. 2014 was a banner year for CITA. Gross profits totaled \$37,781; expenses totaled \$15,973, for a net profit of \$21,808. MSHPA was able to give \$30,000 in funds to Monterey State Historic Park; this was matched by a state grant under AB1470, yielding a total of \$60,000.

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Cooper Status Report

Don't expect to see any construction crews around Cooper adobe for a while. There won't be any construction crews around Custom House either, but State Parks has committed to making it ready when the time comes to move the volunteer-run museum store from Cooper-Molera to Custom House.

Cooper-Molera, a 2½-acre property in downtown Monterey, is slated to eventually contain a restaurant in Spear Warehouse, performance space in the barns, and new

retail tenants in what is now the general store. The current museum shop, operated by Monterey State Historic Park volunteers, will move into Custom House, near Fisherman's Wharf. The two homes of John and Encarnation Vallejo Cooper (the small one-story "Diaz" adobe adjacent to the general store and the two-story Victorian adobe next door) will remain museum space within the Cooper property.

This "repositioning" of Cooper is

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Cooper Changes Still in Planning Stage

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referred to as a shared-use model, with income from commercial leases paying for much-needed maintenance and repairs and the ongoing operation of the house museum spaces. The Cooper gardens will be available for public functions, like the children's educational programs currently operated by MSHPA, and for outdoor commercial activities, such as seating for the restaurant and indoor-outdoor commercial events.

The latest report from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which owns the Cooper adobe property, is that the repositioning of Cooper "is still very much in the planning stage." Katherine Malone-France, the trust's vice president for historic sites, says, "We have

been working with Foothill Partners [the developers] and our architects to develop a suitable approach for the seismic retrofit of the barns and the design of the new infill kitchen building," which will serve the restaurant in Spear Warehouse. "We are also still in the process of determining exactly what infrastructure upgrades [power, sewer, water] are needed," she added, "and how those upgrades would be accomplished."

As for what all this is going to cost, Malone-France says, "We are still working to develop the capital budgets and the financial models for the shared use partnership at the site, and until we have those settled, we won't be in a position to move forward."

She adds, "I'm hoping to have a better idea on all this in the next month or so and will be happy to keep you apprised as the picture become clearer." The trust had previously indicated that it might be willing to help with the cost of moving the volunteer store to Custom House. However, it "won't be able to finalize this type of assistance until the larger financial models are complete," Malone-France now says.

Meanwhile, State Parks is mulling over what it will cost to provide a volunteer-run museum store in Custom House. According to Eric Abma, sector

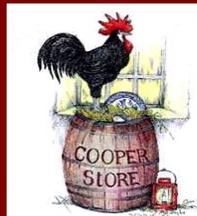
superintendent for Asilomar and Monterey State Historic Park, "We have had a couple of meetings to scope this project and hope to accomplish it in the next fiscal year" (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016). He adds, "I don't have many details beyond this, but it is in the queue to be developed further."

The National Trust has owned the property since 1968, when the Coopers' granddaughter, Frances Molera, willed it to the privately funded nonprofit organization. However, Cooper adobe has been operated by Monterey State Historic Park. MSHPA volunteers have run a museum store there since the late 1980s.

Store proceeds have been used for school-year and summer camp educational programs for children. Storekeepers have also served as volunteer docents, keeping at least a portion of the property open daily from 10 am to 4 pm and providing an introduction to the only adobe in Monterey still surrounded on all four sides by adobe walls and never modernized with running water or indoor bathrooms.

However, the State Parks' contract for operating Cooper ends in 2016. Parks has indicated that it can no longer justify spending money on a property it doesn't own when steadily shrinking budgets make it unable to properly staff and maintain the hundreds of parks it does.

—By Susan Miller,
MSHPA Co-president



Cooper Museum Store Hours

Monday-Sunday
10 am - 4 pm

2015 MSHPA Board of Directors

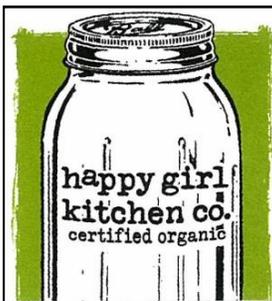
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Kimberly Wright, *Secretary & Newsletter Co-editor*
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Jo McMenemy, *Cooperating Association Liaison*

Monterey State Historic Park Association

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Cooper Museum Store
Monterey State Historic Park Association



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State of State Parks

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Bende described MSHPA's accomplishments for 2014. The \$60,000 made available to the park funds interpretive programs pays for staffing at Custom House and Pacific House and guided tours. We funded the production of a Spanish language translation of the park brochure. The Title I school program is slow in getting started, but should gain momentum later in the year. The school programs at both Pacific House and Custom House are going well, although more volunteers are needed. Overall, 2014 was a good year, and she hopes that 2015 will be just as good.

Eric Abma, Asilomar Sector Superintendent, gave us the State of State Parks report. He expressed gratitude for the good relationship between Monterey State Historic Park (MSHP) and MSHPA and the grant from us and matching grant from the state. Of the \$60,000 in funds obtained for the park through the efforts of MSHPA, \$30,000 remains, supporting park programs through the end of the fiscal year on June 30. It will be necessary to reduce opening days of the park buildings and guided tours from three to two days per week for a while. The parks department is negotiating with Governor Brown to maintain the current level of service at the parks for the next fiscal year. If MSHPA is able to source more grants, this would allow the park to add to what it can offer. Michael Green commented that he has

never before seen such reliance on a cooperating association for staffing support.

Eric updated us on Parks Forward. The final report has not been published, but the department is al-



State Parks Sector Superintendent Eric Abma reports on the State of State Parks while Michael Green listens.

—Photo by George Wright

ready moving forward with many of its recommendations. A Transformation Team composed of experienced parks staff and outside consultants has been appointed to implement changes.

As part of the changes to the Cooper-Molera property planned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, it will be necessary for the MSHPA retail operation to relocate to the Custom House. The first stage of work necessary at the Custom House is ADA access, which has already begun. The Monterey District is fortunate in that it has a resident specialist architect, so it can move quickly once the date is known.

A special opportunity has been offered to Eric on the park's behalf. The Maritime Museum of San Diego is constructing a replica of the ship *San Salvador*, which under the command of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo was the first European ship to reach America's West Coast. In the spring of 2016 the ship would be brought to Monterey and made available for education and fundraising.

Michael Green, Interpretive Program Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, described how the state parks volunteer program continued to support the park in several ways: with storekeepers and school programs, through CITA and HistoryFest, and at the Stevenson House. Volunteers gave 5,100 hours in 2013, increasing to 5,400 hours in 2014. Michael has planned a heavy volunteer recruitment and training this spring.

Fifteen volunteers each turned in 70 hours or more of volunteer service in 2014 and received district-wide parks passes through the Volunteers in Parks program. Jan thanked Michael for all of his work with the volunteers and especially CITA.

Bende thanked Jan for her service as Co-president and said that she will rely on Jan's experience in the future. Jan was presented with an orchid plant as a token of appreciation.

The meeting concluded with a potluck luncheon.

—By Kimberly Wright,
Newsletter Co-editor

An advertisement for 'TAQUITOS Nayarit'. The sign features the restaurant's name in large, colorful letters. Below the name, there is a menu listing 'CARNE', 'ASADA', and 'DOBADA'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'Tel: (831) 763-1094 (Ernesto) Cell: (831) 227-1287 (Maria) Cell: (831) 588-8168'. The background shows a food stand with various items on display.

An advertisement for 'Green's CAMERA WORLD'. The logo features a stylized 'G' with a camera lens and the text 'Green's CAMERA WORLD SINCE 1921'. The background is a light blue and white design.

555 Del Monte Center
Monterey CA 93940
(831) 655-1234

The logo for 'THE PAUL DAVIS PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS'. It features the company name in a serif font, with 'ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS' in a smaller font below it. There is a small graphic element at the bottom.

The Paul Davis Partnership, LLP
Architects and Planners
286 El Dorado Street
Monterey, California 93940

Pirate Picture Books Update Print

One of the things I like best about winter is that I can finally indulge in all the great books I've been meaning to read – without feeling guilty about staying indoors. The same can be true for your kids. Instead of listening to them whine, "I'm bored! There's nothing to do!" because it's too cold (or dare I suggest too rainy?) to play outside, gather everyone under a woolly afghan, pour some piping-hot cocoa (with a healthy splash of rum in yours, perhaps), and enjoy a favorite storybook. Or, better yet, a brand new storybook. And this one is truly special, because the hardbound book comes with a unique digital interface that's easy to download and makes the tale seem to jump off the page.

The Search for Captain Ben, put out by Dover Publications, is the second in what promises to be a series of five tales written by self-styled maritime historian Steve Buckley, with charming illustrations by British artist Ruth Palmer. Here you'll rejoin the ursine buccaneers you may recall from Buckley's first book, *Blackbear the Pirate*, as well as meet some new friends. Each a different type of bear, the characters are all styled after infamous real-world mateys like Edward Teach, a.k.a. Blackbeard, the most notorious cutthroat; Israel Hands, his first mate; Captain William Kidd; and Anne Bonny, one of the few female pirates ever to ply the seas. Others who have inspired characters in Buckley's books are "Calico" Jack Rackham, so named for his brightly colored clothes, and Bartholomew Roberts (dubbed Black Bart), who was credited with creating the pirate code.

These men lived during the era known as the Golden Age of Piracy,

broadly between 1650 and 1730, when the high seas experienced their greatest incidence of maritime marauding. Some were privateers, sailors with their own ships

In the early part of the 18th century, following the War of Spanish Succession, a fresh crop of pirates emerged. They hailed largely from the West Indies, England, and the American colonies, and they attacked the Caribbean and the eastern seaboard of America, as well as the Indian Ocean and the west coast of Africa. With no honest jobs available, these former military sailors turned to piracy. It was during this period that some of the best-known captains rose to prominence: Calico Jack, Black Bart, Captain Kidd, and Blackbeard. Eventually, better naval controls and strict new legal measures ended the activity, but not before it passed into the annals of seafaring and became the stuff of adventure in popular culture.

In general, pirates earned a reputation for being cruel outlaws. Captains were known for their autocratic rule and harsh shipboard punishment. The pirate code called for any man who robbed another individual to "have his nose and ears slit and be put ashore where he shall be sure to encounter hardships." And the cost for secreting a woman on board was death.

But many marauders were simply sailors out of a job, and many ships were run democratically. That same pirate code, for instance, stated: "Every man shall have an equal vote in affairs of moment. He shall have an equal title to the fresh provisions or strong liquors at any time seized, and shall use them at pleasure

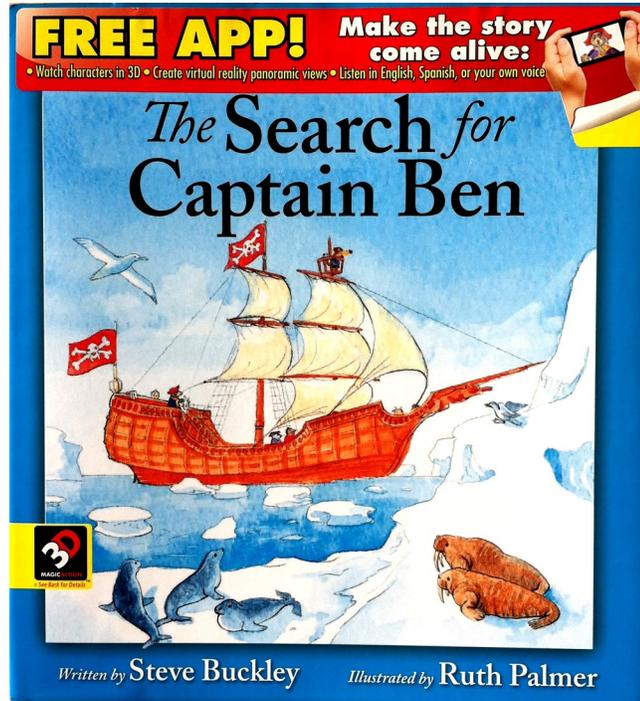


Illustration by Ruth Palmer; © 2011 by Steve Buckley

who were legally sanctioned by a country to fight enemy vessels and then keep a small portion of the booty for themselves. Blackbeard started out as a privateer. (Sir Francis Drake, known in California for his landing in what is now Marin County, was one as well.) Unfortunately, it was all too easy for these galleons to "mistake" another ship for an enemy and then enjoy all of the plunder.

Some men, principally from the island of Hispaniola, were buccaneers, who turned to piracy after being driven from their homes by the Spanish. They eventually made nearby Tortuga their stronghold, and in 1655, Port Royal, Jamaica, became a leading base of their operations.

With Digital Technology

unless a scarcity makes it necessary for the common good that a re-trenchment may be voted.”

Author Buckley's pirates, of course, are far from cutthroats. In fact, you won't see a cannon or cutlass anywhere, because they carry no weapons and exact no punishments. These mateys are all about camaraderie and lighthearted der-ring-do. In *Blackbear the Pirate*, the crew sets sail in its ship, the *Annie* (named for Blackbeard's real vessel, the *Queen Anne's Revenge*), to the mysterious isle of Bearataria in search of the great pirate king, Bearfoot. Just as in real life, they discover that sometimes the most fun is in the journey itself, not the destination.

In their latest tale, the swashbucklers head north for Bearavia, a snow-encrusted island where they hope to find Blackbear's long-lost pal, Captain Ben, who lives aboard his own ship, the *Adventure*. Along the way, readers learn some important lessons about the value of friendship and perseverance. In 2011, *The Search for Captain Ben* took home the Children's Award at the New York Book Festival.

The heavily illustrated 36-page volumes are intended for beginning readers ages 3 to 8. But many youngsters today are playing with our smartphones and digital tablets before they can even read. And more and more adults are augmenting — or outright replacing — their paper-book libraries with digital titles. Recognizing how much children (of all ages!) love electronics and how comfortable the tikes are with them, Dover has included a free “3D Magic Ac-

tion” app for both *Blackbear* and *Captain Ben*.

The apps download easily to any camera phone or tablet, using the QR code printed on the frontispiece of each book (they require separate apps). In case you're not familiar with QR codes, those ubiquitous little squares that look like they have a tiny maze inside, you'll first need an app to make the code work. Try ScanLife for iOS devices or QR Droid Code for Android systems if your phone or tablet didn't come with one already installed. Then just aim your device at the code, as though you were going to take a picture of it, and you're in-

the book. At first your screen will just show what's printed on that page. Then suddenly the beautifully rendered two-dimensional drawings transform into 3D virtual-reality, with sounds and sometimes music. Press an onscreen button and the vantage point changes; now it's as though you're a bird looking down upon the *Annie*. Press another button and a voice begins to read the story aloud, highlighting each word on your screen as it's spoken. This allows children to follow along with the reader. You can choose to read and hear it in Spanish or English ... or to read it out loud yourself in

any language, so little ones can hear it played back later in your own voice, even when you're not with them, and in any language you choose, from Tagalog to Urdu.

Buckley says that his love of pirates was inspired by classics like J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, which is also sold at the Cooper Museum Store. The shop carries a wide variety of books about pirates, from Daniel Defoe's *General History of the Pyrates* written in 1724, to *The Book of Pirates*, a compendium of tales and illustrations by Howard Pyle, dating from the 1880s and '90s. Another

historical adult book is *The Pirates Own Book: Authentic Narratives of the Most Celebrated Sea Robbers*, originally published in 1837 in Boston, Massachusetts, by the Marine Research Society.

The Cooper Store offers many additional young children's titles

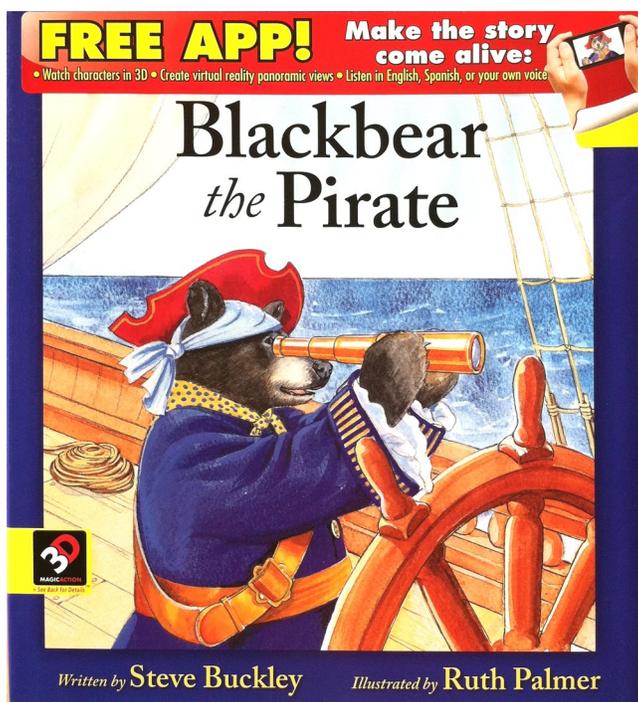


Illustration by Ruth Palmer; © 2009 by Steve Buckley

stantly transported to a website, no URL needed. The QR code in *Captain Ben* lets you download the 3D Magic Action app to your device, much like you might download *An-gry Birds*.

Once you launch the Action app, aim your device at any page of

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Pirates

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on this subject, like the Dover Little Activity Books *Fun With Pirates: Stencils; Pirate Ship Sticker Activity Book*; and *Pirate Stickers*. With the tiny paperback *Pirate Tattoos*, you can give your youngster fake tats that are as easy to remove as they are to apply. For coloring books, try *Blackbeard and Other Notorious Pirates* or *Pirates and Buccaneers*, both of which include explanatory text at the bottom of each page of illustrations. For budding artists who want to go one step further, there's *How to Draw Pirates: Captain, Crew, Ships & More*, which offers simple step-by-step line drawings to follow. *Make Your Own Pirate Ship* and *Amazing Automata: Pirates* are two more fun activity toys-in-a-book. And don't forget the most important part — treasure! — in the form of authentic reproductions of Spanish doubloons.

Two more Blackbear books — *The Treasure Hunt* and *Calico's Ghost* — are due out this spring, and the Cooper Museum Store will be carrying them as well.

—By Holly Haynes,
Newsletter Co-editor

- ✦ Do you have an idea for a newsletter article?
- ✦ A question you would like answered?
- ✦ Want to write an article?

Contact co-editors
Holly Haynes -
hf.haynes@gmail.com
or Kimberly Wright -
kimberlywright@baymoon.com



Coordinator's Corner

The new calendar year gets us to the halfway point in the State Parks budget year and gives us time to pause, reflect, and make plans for the remainder of the fiscal cycle, which ends on June 30.

Gratitude and Reflection

Much support came in the form of grant funding from the Monterey Community and Nancy Buck Ransom Foundations. We're glad to report that grant funds from both sources have been well spent on staffing, educational materials, and improvements to Pacific House Museum video equipment. In addition, significant Monterey State Historic Park Association (MSHPA) donations were matched by state legislation AB1478. Combined with grants, that provided \$60,000 to expand the tour schedule and increase payroll funds so we can serve more visitors during the tourist season.

We welcomed Guide I Callista Turner as our school program coordinator, who works with Hands-on volunteers in Native American and Cooper programs. Her desire to succeed and enthusiastic approach have been a great plus. I urge MSHP volunteers to please consider joining the group of dedicated souls who find rich reward in educating 3rd and 4th graders by adding meaning to their classroom instruction through hands-on experiences. If interested, contact Callista at 831-649-7109.

2014 saw volunteers supporting MSHP with 5,490 hours of service as storekeepers, hands-on instructors, and special event interpreters. However, only a fraction of that time translated into Monterey Peninsula College reim-

bursement funding, as the school modified requirements that resulted in fewer volunteer registrations.

Both the July 4th Living History Day and Christmas in the Adobes were fun and successful. The latter provided MSHPA with record receipts despite pouring rain and a two-hour power outage on Friday night. Many people who had originally planned to enjoy CITA on Friday switched to Saturday, which caused us to (nearly) run out of Saturday tickets! Each of the State Park adobes reported more than 900 guests over the weekend; Larkin House had the most, with a whopping 1,174 visitors.

Future Plans

As we continue to look for a stable, permanent funding source to operate Monterey State Historic Park, we turn to volunteers to serve the public's needs and interpret the rich heritage this community offers.

This spring a chunk of the volunteer budget will go into recruiting and training new volunteers, particularly Cooper Store clerks and Hands-on instructors. And, MSHP staff are discussing the possibility of augmenting interpretive programs by asking volunteers to provide walking tours and monitoring shifts at the Custom House on days not ordinarily covered by park staff.

Mostly we are thankful for the dedication of so many MSHP volunteers who continually go above and beyond. As G. K. Chesterson said, "Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." Volunteers made us wondrously happy in 2014.

—By Michael D. Green,
State Park Interpreter III

Title 1 School Programs Provide Opportunity

State Parks has been increasingly interested in expanding its visitation to reach new user groups. To this end, we at MSHP have been actively promoting our educational programs to Title I schools, defined by the U.S. Department of Education as those “with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families.” It may be surprising how many of our local schools fall into this category; it’s not just an inner city phenomenon. Monterey Peninsula Unified School District oversees nine, and the Salinas City Elementary School District has 12. Even Carmel Valley and Pacific Grove are home to one Title I school apiece. It is saddening to hear over and over, from so many teachers, about children who live just 25 miles away but have never had the chance to visit a Monterey state historic park or the bay.

The goal of the Education Department is to “clos[e] the achievement gap between high- and low-performing children, especially the achievement gaps between minority and nonminority students, and between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers.” Local Title I schools use MSHP’s interactive activities, such as those at the fourth-grade Cooper-Molera Hands On program and the third-grade Rumsien Native American program, to provide stimulating educational opportunities and create lifelong memories for the children. Former students who are now in their twenties come to MSHP and reminisce about their day-program experience. One man

who visited last month said he still has the staves that he designed in the Rumsien program.

MSPHA has been instrumental



Callista prepares for “Hands On” branding in the Cooper Garden.
—Photo by K. Lewand

in providing the support needed to make sure these programs succeed. Docents facilitate the school programs by volunteering hundreds of hours each year (in October 2014 alone, they contributed 113 hours of their time), providing a rich history and experience that State Parks’ limited paid staffing is simply unable to match. Additionally, MSPHA used part of its grant from the Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation for Title I schools to purchase more than \$2,300 worth of supplies. These materials ensure that Title I schools are equipped with the same services we offer other schools. MSPHA also provides scholarships for field trips. For instance, a new Title I school, Los Padres in Salinas, will

visit the Custom House and Pacific House at Monterey State Historic Park on two days in March. This will be the first time Los Padres has participated in one of our programs, and 120 students from the school are expected to attend. For many it will also be the first time they have visited Monterey and a historic park.

Next year MSHP will be working actively with local Title I schools to inform them of the opportunities we provide and to facilitate their ability to engage in our programs. Working closely with MSHPA past president Jan Houser, I am developing a strategy to improve the access these schools have to Monterey State Historic Parks. Together we are reaching a new generation and creating a lasting impression by providing quality educational programs to a diverse range of students.

—By Callista Turner, Guide I,
Monterey State Historic Park

Local State Legislators

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January - March 2015

Remember your tax-deductible membership and donation to further support our mission of Children's Programs and Interpretation.

New Arrival

Please join former MSHP Guide and MSHPA Board Member John Klein in welcoming his new son, Casper Klein, to our park family! Born at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula on January 15, baby Casper weighed in at 7 pounds 4 ounces and measured 19 inches long. His hobbies are fine dining, erratic sleeping, and lounging on his changing pad. He can't wait to visit the Cooper garden and meet his MSHP friends. Welcome Casper!



Mama Clementine, Baby Casper, and Papa John

MSHPA Calendar

- Saturday, February 7, 1 p.m. - Presentation for Volunteers at Spear**
Julianne Burton-Carvajal, author of *Artists' Honeymoon*, will tell the story of painter Rowena Meeks Abdy (1887-1945) and her husband, writer Harry Bennett Abdy (1868-1963), before, during, and after their Monterey years, illustrated with their photos. Light refreshments.
- Monday, March 30, 10 a.m. - Storekeepers' Social**
Easter Bonnet Competition, news, Q & A on store procedures, refreshments. Cooper Skylight Room.
- Saturday, May 23 - Volunteer Appreciation BBQ**
Cooper Garden
- Saturday, July 4 - Living History**
Family-oriented activities in the Cooper Garden following the Independence Day Parade.
- Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 3 & 4 - History Fest**
- Friday & Saturday, Dec. 11 & 12 - 31st Annual Christmas in the Adobes**
Our signature event and major fundraiser for educational programs at Monterey State Historic Park. Tickets go on sale October 15.

Have you renewed your membership?

Now you can join or renew online at <http://mshpa.org/membership.html>.