

October-  
December  
2015

# Monterey State Historic Park Association

Presenting News of the Volunteer Program at Monterey State Historic Park

## Retail Update:

### New Custom House Store to Open in January

By now most of us are aware that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has decided to make changes to the Cooper-Molera property. Their plan is to implement a “shared-use” model, incorporating both commercial and interpretive functions. That plan necessitates our vacating the space currently used by MSHPA for the Cooper Museum Store, as well as the association office and other storage areas on the property. (A copy of the plan is available for review at the Cooper Store.)

The Trust’s Katherine Malone-France said, “We’ve continued to work through our construction schedule this summer, and we have decided that we will push the start of construction back until the spring now.” She continued, “We do not want to take the chance of starting construction in the winter, only to be stopped by the predicted rains, and we need a little additional time to work through the seismic retrofits to the barns. I hope this change will be helpful to MSHPA’s work – the entire property, including the restrooms, will be accessible for CITA, and this also matches up with your timetable for relocating the store.

“During the summer,” she continued,

“we also completed our pre-construction archaeology in the two areas of new construction and found only very small deposits of artifacts — primarily pieces of ceramics and glass. These were documented and will be added to the collection that eventually will be transferred to California State Parks.” A meeting between representatives of the National Trust and MSHPA is tentatively planned for October.

We are excited to be moving into a new (to us) space at the Custom House, California State Historic Landmark #1. Because we want to leave the large main room of the building available for interpretation, educational programs, and dancing, we opted to use the smaller room just south of that space. It offers less square footage than our current store, but we will tailor our merchandise to suit our new home, focusing on the maritime and Mexican history of Monterey and Monterey State Historic Park. Since the Custom House is near Fisherman’s Wharf and the recreation trail, we are sure to get increased foot traffic. Hopefully, that will lead to increased sales, especially to tourists.

The move provides another oppor-

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## Ticket Sales Open for Christmas in the Adobes 2015

Save the dates! Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, MSHPA’s annual Christmas in the Adobes returns, from 5:00 to 9:00 each night, and tickets go on sale October 15. This is your opportunity to follow the twinkling luminarias, step back in history, and enjoy the romance of a traditional Christmas while sipping cider and nibbling cookies, listening to carols on the piano, and enjoying all of your favorite adobes decked in their seasonal finery.

This year marks CITA’s 31st year, and some additions are planned. Casa Gutierrez will be included on the tour for the first time.

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Dancers at the Custom House

—Photo by Michael D. Green



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# Association Store News

Continued from p. 1

tunity as well. Just as we volunteer storekeepers have kept the Cooper-Molera property open to the public seven days a week, we will soon be able to do the same thing for the Custom House. This comes with a challenge, however: We will need a second volunteer onsite Mondays through Thursdays, when there is no park staff funded for the building (except for holiday Mondays). This volunteer docent position will be purely interpretive, with no storekeeper responsibilities. We will need everyone's help to find these additional volunteers.

In recent years, Monterey State Historic Park has depended on MSHPA to assist with funding to keep the park open; we are now dependent on State Parks to ready our new space. Parks personnel have removed the

exhibits from the room at the Custom House and will be constructing and putting up display shelves. As with all historic buildings, there are limits on the changes that can be made; for instance, no new holes may be drilled into the walls to support shelving units. Fortunately, holes from the previous displays are already in place and can be repurposed. Electrical outlets, phones lines, and Wi-Fi for our point-of-sale system will be installed, too.

According to Eric Abma, Asilomar Sector Supervisor, Mike Zuccaro is working on the design, including the shelving layout and the electrical work. He has been in touch with the company that created the shelves at Sutter's Fort and hopes to receive a copy of their construction drawing so we don't have to reinvent the wheel, so to speak. The initial plans will be finished soon. Mike is also putting together the documents necessary for CEQA and ADA reviews and for approval by the fire marshal. "With some luck," Eric says, "construction will be able to proceed when the final drawings are complete."

As to storage space for the shop and CITA, we will be able to use the southernmost room of the building, which is closed to the public, plus the south tower room. Amenities will include a restroom for volunteers. State parks has reached a trial agreement with the city of Monterey for volunteers working at the

Custom House and on educational programs to park in the wharf lot. Parks has also found office space for MSHPA near the Casa del Oro.

Park staff members have had quite a task on their hands cleaning out all of these spaces for us to move into, and we offer them our thanks. The National Trust has requested that MSHPA be out of Cooper-Molera by February 1, 2016, so we have our work cut out for us! Sorting and packing the contents of the current MSHPA office began in September.

The Cooper Museum Store will be open through the end of the year, closing forever at 4 p.m. on December 31. If all goes according to plan, we will open our Custom House Store at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 16. During the intervening two weeks, we will inventory, pack, and move all of our remaining merchandise. You are invited to come in before the end of the year and help us out by purchasing some of our unique and wonderful items so we don't have to move them!

Christmas items will go on display in early November, and some prices will be marked down. We will also be selling many of our display pieces, so if you've had your eye on something, be sure to ask about it.

In October, we will be celebrating our invaluable storekeepers with an Adios to Cooper luncheon. Before you know it, we will be enjoying Christmas in the Adobes, and then the year — and our store — will come to a close. Please visit us in our old home at least one more time, and then welcome us at the Custom House in January.

—By Kimberly Wright  
Retail Committee Chair



## Cooper Museum Store Hours

**Every Day  
10 am - 4 pm**

## 2015 MSHPA Board of Directors

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## Monterey State Historic Park Association

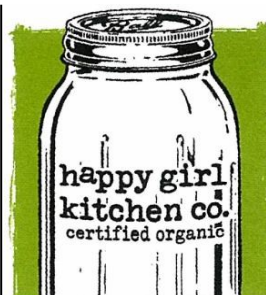
525 Polk Street • Monterey, CA 93940  
Email: [mshpa@att.net](mailto:mshpa@att.net) / Website: [MSHPA.org](http://MSHPA.org)



Cooper Museum Store  
Monterey State Historic Park Association



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Architects and Planners  
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# Christmas in the Adobes Sponsors 2015

## House Sponsors

- ✦ Inns of Monterey—Custom House
- ✦ Fish Hopper Restaurant—Co-sponsor, Casa Soberanes
- ✦ Old Fisherman's Grotto—Co-sponsor, Casa Soberanes
- ✦ Happy Girl Kitchen—Co-sponsor, Pacific House
- ✦ Sotheby's International Realty, Lisa Barkalow #01491728 and Jacquie Adams #01702965—Co-sponsor, Pacific House
- ✦ Stevenson Lodge—Cooper-Molera
- ✦ Kathy Miller, in memory of Dr. Clair A. Weast—Diaz Adobe
- ✦ Mary Powell, in memory of Howard T. Powell/Toy Bryant, in memory of Bill Bryant—Co-sponsors First Theater
- ✦ Supersmith—Larkin House
- ✦ Stevenson School, Pebble Beach & Carmel-Grades PK-12—Stevenson House
- ✦ Sandy Hale—Casa Gutierrez



## Other Major Donors

- ✦ City of Monterey
- ✦ Copy King
- ✦ Peet's Coffee

## Event Sponsors

- ✦ Barkalow Chiropractic and Associates—Stephen Barkalow
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- ✦ Cardinale and Wright Christmas Trees
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- ✦ Trader Joe's



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## Decker and Friends Delight at Stevenson House

On a warm August evening, the perfect combination of entertainment, food, and wine graced the Stevenson House at its annual gathering. Curator Kris Quist set this year's Polynesian mood by hanging Samoan tapa cloth in the sala.

The reason for the Pacific island theme: a Samoan choral group called the Friends of RLS, who opened the event with their delightful singing. At one point, this mostly all family ensemble led the audience in a song dedicated to *tusitala* — a word meaning “storyteller” in Samoan.

It was the ideal introduction to our favorite actor, Keith Decker, who portrayed the Scottish author's travels through California from a script he authored. Decker's interpretations from Stevenson's own correspondence and shared impressions gave us insight into what it must have been like for this stranger in a strange land back in 1879. Decker's ability to deliver the essence of the 19th-century mind transported the audience to a time and place very different from today's — the essential mission of any well crafted drama.

The evening concluded with a wine and refreshment reception in the garden, highlighted by fresh tropical fruit arrangements, compliments of the the Friends of RLS. Many



Actor Keith Decker reprised one of his best-loved roles, that of author Robert Louis Stevenson, for one night in August.  
—Photo by M.D.G.

thanks go to Monterey's Stevenson Club for organizing this occasion in honor of Robert Louis Stevenson.

— By Michael D. Green  
State Park Interpreter III

### Save the Date

Saturday, November 14, 1:00 p.m.

Join the RLS Club of Monterey at the Monterey Public Library for a Keith Decker "unbirthday" celebration. Cake included! For more information and to reserve a place, please call Ruth Anne Krotzer at 831-601-1894 by November 10.



The Friends of RLS, a Samoan choral group, entertained at Stevenson House.

—Photo by M.D.G.

## Concerned about your State Parks?

### Local State Legislators

State Senator  
Bill Monning

Monterey District Office  
99 Pacific Street, Suite 575-F  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Phone: (831) 657-6315  
Fax: (831) 657-6320

State Assembly Member  
Mark Stone

Monterey County District Office  
99 Pacific Street, Suite 555-D  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Phone: (831) 649-2832  
Fax: (831) 649-2935



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

Contact co-editors:

Holly Haynes  
hf.haynes@gmail.com

Kimberly Wright  
kimberlywright@baymoon.com

# Explore Spanish Romantic Literature of the 1800s

In the 1830s, while Captain John Rogers Cooper was establishing himself in Monterey, a cultural movement known as Romanticism was enjoying its heyday in Spain. Following, as it did, the decline of the nobility and the emergence of a dominant middle class, Romanticism placed the individual at the center of society and espoused people's rights and democratic ideals.

Spain was one of the last areas of Europe to experience the major shift that Romanticism brought. In a reaction against the realism and didactics of the Enlightenment, Spanish Romantic literature saw a rise in prose purely as entertainment. Adventure stories and historical novels mixed real-world people with imaginary characters embroiled in fantastic events that reinterpreted the past. These narratives often included a touch of the magical or mystical and were part of the direct literary lineage from Miguel de Cervantes (*Don Quixote*) to Nobelist Gabriel García Márquez (*One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*). Many Spanish Romantic writings were highly critical of society. On the darker side, they sometimes indulged in quiet longing, despair, even madness and suicide.

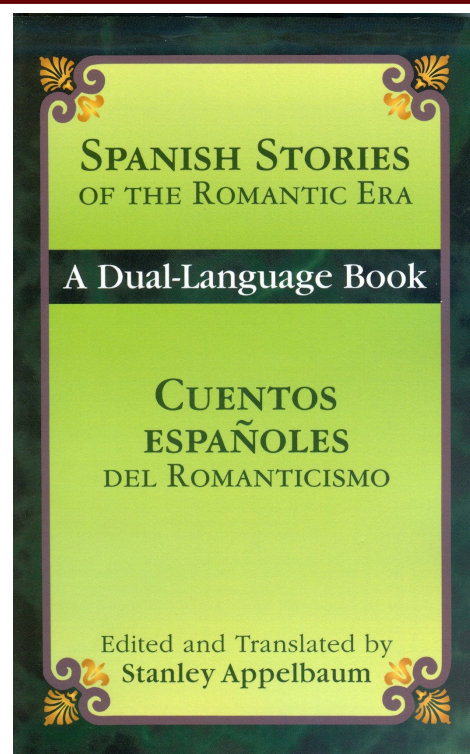
*Spanish Stories of the Romantic Era* (a dual-language book also titled *Cuentos Españoles del Romanticismo*, edited and translated by Stanley Appelbaum and published by Dover Publications, \$13.95) brings together 12 short tales by six well-known writers who worked in this tradition, including Mariano José de Larra, one of the most prominent authors of this period. In his personal life, he seemed to wallow in all of the negative aspects of Romanticism — he had a disastrous marriage and then a brief, unhappy love affair, followed by a failed political career and finally a violent death by his own hand just before his 28th birthday. The book contains three of Larra's pieces, "Marrying in Haste," "The Old Castilian," and "Christmas Eve, 1836." These exemplify a feature

of Spanish Romantic literature known as *costumbrismo*, "a celebration, sometimes patronizing, of regional folkways or of everyday life, largely of the lower classes," Appelbaum explains in the book's introduction.

*Costumbristas* can be quite humorous, from lighthearted and jocular to scathingly satirical. Three other writers in *Spanish Stories* represent this tradition as well — Ramón de Mesonero Romanos, Juan Eugenio Hartzenbusch, and Enrique Gil y Carasco. Consider this amusing example from the beginning of "A Story of Two Slaps," by Hartzenbusch: "... a freshly carved inscription over the doorway frieze ... apparently means 'He was resurrected on the third day, in the year 1600, Mary, Jesus, Joseph, 78' (By the way, that date for the Lord's resurrection seems a bit belated to me.)" And this bon mot from Mesonero Romanos: "Long live Curro and the hindquarters of his neighbor's mule, because they're two of a kind!"

Another great author of Spanish Romantic literature was Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer. Though he was technically a Spanish Post-Romantic (he lived from 1836 to 1870), his so-called legends (*leyendas*), or prose fiction pieces, epitomized the Romantic style because they often dealt with the historical and the supernatural. Bécquer also penned more than 70 poems, so it is perhaps no surprise that his stories have a "distinctly dreamlike, poetic atmosphere," as Appelbaum tells us, with signs of influence from Edgar Allan Poe. *Spanish Stories* gives us three Bécquer legends: "The Green Eyes," "Master Pérez, the Organist," and "Three Calendar Dates."

The sixth writer in this anthology is Fernán Caballero, the pen name used by Cecelia Böhl von Faber, the only woman included in this book. She was born in Switzerland to a Spanish mother, then moved to Puerto Rico, where she began writing.



Eventually she made Seville her home. She wrote several novels and books of Spanish folklore; *Spanish Stories* includes three short works from an 1859 collection of Andalusian folktales. Appelbaum writes that the "Spanish text is full of all kinds of verbal color: idioms, rhyming proverbs, sayings, and unusual vocabulary, regional, obsolete, or both." He adds that the folktales are "flavorful and idiomatic, and their language itself is 'the message.'"

The beauty of the language throughout *Spanish Stories* is indicative of the distinctive manner and style that set apart the gracious Californios of the early 1830s. It was the height of Spanish/Mexican literature at the time and what educated Californios were reading in their leisure. As such, it gives us a remarkable window into their culture.

Both Richard Henry Dana (*Two Years Before the Mast*) and Robert Louis Stevenson were obviously influenced by Spanish Romantic literature. In Dana's personal account of his time as a seaman aboard the *Pilgrim* in the mid-1830s, his realism

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# Coordinator's Corner



With fall upon us and the clock ticking to vacate Cooper-Molera, the National Trust has provided a slight reprieve from pending construction by delaying their work until spring 2016. Nonetheless, they are asking that Monterey State Historic Park Association move its store out by February, so part of the original timetable remains.

Park staff have been working to identify storage areas in downtown adobes where items can be relocated and Hands-on educational materials stowed. Maintenance has built a storage cabinet near the bocce courts for Hands-on instruction materials, and Hands-on sessions will be held in the Memory Garden during the fall and spring, until construction on the barn at Cooper has been completed sometime next year. For MSHPA shop merchandise, areas of the Custom House are being readied to convert into storage.

Meanwhile, MSHPA is moving into Lisa Bradford's vacant office near Casa del Oro. Sector Superintendent Eric Abma was able to secure agreement from the city of Monterey to allow MSHP staff to validate parking for volunteers who use the Fisherman's Wharf lot. This is being done on a trial basis and, hopefully, will be continued indefinitely to accommodate storekeepers at the Custom House.

Planning for Christmas in the Adobes is in full swing, and this year the committee has invited representatives from our many partner buildings to attend the monthly organizational sessions. Casa Gutierrez has been added as a CITA stop, and Azahar Flamenco of Monterey will entertain guests with Spanish guitar music and flamenco dancing. Including this historically important adobe in the event has garnered enthusiastic support.

Since last spring, several new volunteers have joined the family. Please welcome Julia Batchev, Harish Joshi, Hyojung Kim, and Michele Tubman as storekeepers and Hands-on program instructors. Other spring sign-ups include Edna Barker, John Crisel, Ruth Anne Krotzer, Harold Krotzer, Mike Lelieur, and Dana Trainor, who are now part of the Stevenson House volunteer group.

—By Michael D. Green  
State Park Interpreter III

## Spanish Short Stories and More

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went against the Romantic grain, recounting, in his own words, "the life of a common sailor as it really is" — the fierce storms, the hard labor, the social injustice, and the darker sides of mankind in general. Yet Dana's bristling maritime adventure and vivid description of the landscape exhibit qualities of Romantic literature in their own way. Plus, critiques of social injustice were themselves a hallmark of Romanticism, though societal ills were not usually depicted so graphically.

Stevenson, writing his swash-buckling tales of romantic adventure in the late 1800s, full of literary and folkloric traditions, would have been following in the footsteps of the Spanish Romantic authors. As Jason Mark Harris puts it in *Folklore and*

*the Fantastic in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction*, Stevenson "[dazzles] the reader with fairy visions of foreign lands while at the same time testing complacent notions of British cultural dominance."

*Spanish Stories* has been translated page by page, so modern-day readers can enjoy both an English version (on the right-hand pages) and the original Spanish (on the left). They can practice their own language skills, increase their vocabulary, and appreciate some of the more florid passages in the book as they were first written.

Want to read more? The Cooper-Molera Store carries several Spanish-English compilations of Romantic literature, all from Dover Publications: *Introduction to Spanish Poetry*, edited by Eugenio Florit (\$7.95), *Nine Centu-*

*ries of Spanish Literature*, edited by Seymour Resnick and Jeanne Pas-mantier (\$16.95), *Selections from Don Quixote*, edited and translated by Appelbaum (\$14.95), and *Mexican Short Stories*, also edited and translated by Appelbaum (\$14.95).

—By Holly Haynes  
Co-Editor



# A Rousing Kickoff for School Programs

## Pacific House Proves an Apt Site

August 26 was a busy day for me. From 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., I hosted a school-volunteer trial run of the educational programs at our new Pacific House location. Stations were set up in the Memory Garden for a mock program. Staff members and volunteers were able to visualize the area and provide instant feedback.

In addition, I was able to demonstrate the new basketry station we are trying out this school year as part of the Rumsien Native American program. Basketry requires a lot of hand coordination, but once the weaving is started, students pick up the pattern easily. It seems to be successful, because now — about a month later — two classes have already participated, and each child has gone home with a completed basket.

After the volunteer training, I began taking phone reservations for the popular 4th-grade Mexican-California school program. Three hours of nonstop calling later, I had signed up classes for 43 programs. As I mentioned in my last column, we've added a second day to the roster, so this year it's being offered on both Wednesdays and Thursdays.

That has enabled us to boost our schedule from only 26 programs in 2014/15. Last year, some schools had to be turned away; 13 schools in all took part. This year I was able to accommodate everyone. Six new schools signed up, for a total of 19. Thirteen of those are in Monterey county, one is in Watsonville, and the remaining five are located out of the area. Salinas schools were happy to switch to Wednesdays so they didn't have to cut the program short in order to get their school buses back on time.

Diversity is a big theme for 2015/16. Our push to bring in Title I schools has paid off; we will have 10 classes coming from four Title I schools. That's double last year's two schools. In addition, some homeschooled children are even being included this year.

Volunteers for school programs can now sign up online for their shifts at SignupGenius.com, the same website that storekeepers use. (Thanks, Kimberly Wright, for setting this up!) Being able to go online, check the schedule at any time, and add a shift with just a few clicks is



very convenient. Plus, if volunteers need to drop or swap shifts, they can do it themselves without having to contact me as middle (wo)man.

We currently have nine school slots open for the Mexican-California program on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Four of these are in May 2016. Please ask interested teachers to contact me at 831-649-7109 or [Callista.Turner@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Callista.Turner@parks.ca.gov) if they want to secure a spot. Transportation grants are available to qualifying schools.

—By Callista Turner, Guide I  
Monterey State Historic Park

## Christmas in the Adobes 2015

Continued from p. 1

And in keeping with Monterey's Mexican heritage, we plan to display a unique historical Mexican flag (fingers crossed!). Another addition will be James Armstead's portrayal of Mountain Man Jim Beckwourth at California's First Theater.

All of the other State Park adobes will be on view as well: Casa Soberanes, Cooper-Molera Adobe, the Custom House, Larkin House, Pacific House, and Stevenson House. The event also partners with several private adobes that are normally

closed to the public. In particular, Casa Pacheco and Casa Abrego, now a men's and a women's club, respectively, will be open for viewing. The Royal Presidio Chapel, which delights visitors with its adult and children's choirs each year, is hoping to add further entertainment in the courtyard outside the chapel. And this is the one time of the year when the public can enjoy the beautiful garden at Casa Amesti.

One-night tickets are \$25 per adult (only \$20 if purchased by October 31 or with a military ID) and \$2

for youths ages 6 to 17. Children 5 and under are free. To appreciate everything, though, consider buying a two-night pass for \$40. Tickets will be available starting October 15 at the Cooper Museum Store or online at [www.mshpa.org](http://www.mshpa.org). CITA is the Monterey State Historic Park Association's most important fund-raiser, supporting Hands-On school programs, the Los Niños summer day camp, and Monterey State Historic Park.

—By Pat Friedrich



MSHPA

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October—December 2015

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

## New Mailing Address

After January 1, 2016, the association's mailing address will be:

Monterey State Historic Park Association  
20 Custom House Plaza  
Monterey, CA 93940



To include information from the annual meeting, publication of the next issue of our newsletter will be delayed until February, 2016

## MSHPA Calendar

**Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4**

### History Fest

Free walking tours and house tours; the Stevenson House will be open from 10 to 4 both days.

**Friday & Saturday, December 11 & 12**

### 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas in the Adobes

Our major fund-raiser for educational and interpretive programs at Monterey State Historic Park. Tickets go on sale October 15.

**Thursday, December 31**

### Cooper Museum Store Final Day

Visit us to shop for sales and to say farewell to Cooper.

**Saturday, January 16, 2016**

### Custom House Store Opening

Let us welcome you to our new home.

**Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:30 a.m.**

### MSHPA Annual Meeting

At the California State Parks Monterey District Office, 2211 Garden Road, Monterey. The meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon.