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Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

February 2022

Love is still in the Air--- exhibit at the Museum. Renew your membership so you don't miss any of the upcoming events!! Blossom Festival coming April 9!!!!

The History of African Americans in Santa Clara County-- Kicks Off New Lecture Series for 2022!!

Noted author Jan Batiste Adkins will discuss her book by the same title on the migration of African



Americans to the Bay Area, and Santa Clara County on February 28 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The talk is sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation. The lecture will also discuss the development of communities for people of African heritage during the 18th, 19th, and 20th

centuries as well as highlight key trailblazers. Adkins is a lecturer, educator, and author of



several books including African Americans of San Francisco, African Americans of Monterey County, and African Americans of San Jose and Santa Clara County published by Arcadia Publishing Company in the Images of America series. She

has spent 10 years researching the lives and stories of African Americans living in the communities of Northern California. She was recently named to the Black Legends Hall of Fame/Silicon Valley. For more information go up

to <u>http://www.saratogahistory.com</u> or call 408-867-4311. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Join us at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89156312614?pwd=S DE1TG9POXBlWTE4bW94WSs4UGFrQT09 Meeting ID: 891 5631 2614 Passcode: 731442

February is Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in US history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every US president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

The Society of California Pioneers Museum has a special exhibit, "We Are Not Strangers Here-- African American Histories of Rural California" that runs from January-August 23. For more information about The San Francisco based museum go up to californiapioneers.org.



March is National Women's History Month

Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California! The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week. Six years later the event was expanded to one month and held nationally.

The Savior of the California Redwoods

Josephine Clifford McCrackin (1839-1920) moved to San Francisco from Missouri. She later used her income as a writer to build a 26-acre ranch called Monte Paraiso in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

She was a California writer and journalist, a contemporary of Bret Harte, John Muir, Ina



Contact Us! Saratoga Historical Foundation

The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community. The Saratoga Historical Park is open from 1-4 PM on Fridays and Sundays and from 10-4 PM on Saturday. For more information, i.e. group tours, you can call 408-867-4311 or e-mail <u>info@saratogahistory.com</u>. Be sure to also check the website at <u>www.saratogahistory.com</u> or see us on Facebook at facebook.com/saratogahistory. Newsletter suggestions can be sent to the editor at: info@saratogahistory.com.



Coolbrith, and Joaquin Miller, and an environmentalist. Her writing interest quickly turned to reflect the environment of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

When her home was destroyed in an 1899 forest fire she became an ardent defender of the redwoods. She helped Andrew P. Hill organize the Sempervirens Club, which worked to create the first California Redwood Park now known as Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

She founded the Ladies Forest and Song Birds Protection Association--- the first of its type in California. She was also very active in the California Human Association and the Audubon Society.

Drawing A Line for Safe Highways June Hill Robertson McCarrol (1867-1954) was a



nurse and later a physician with the Southern Pacific Railroad. She is credited by Caltrans with the idea of highways having a painted line to

Continued from page 2

separate lanes of traffic. The concept of painting lines to separate lanes is now in use all over the world. In 1917 she introduced the "White Line" to the streets of Indio after a near accident.

They Called Her "Mom"

Margaret Jessie Chung (1889-1959) was born in Santa Barbara, California. Her parents had immigrated from China as young children. The family were devout Christians. Intent on becoming a medical missionary to China, she worked her way through college and medical school at the University of Southern California. As a medical student, Chung wore masculine clothing and referred to herself as "Mike."

Dr. Chung applied to be a medical missionary after her graduation, but the Presbyterian missionary board rejected her because of her race. However, she did not give up. She worked as a surgical nurse and then as an intern and medical resident in the Chicago area. In 1919, she returned to her family and home state of California.



Dr. Margaret "Mom" Chung was the first Chinese American woman to become a physician. She founded one of the first Western medical clinics in San Francisco's Chinatown in the 1920s. During World War II, she and her widespread network

of "adopted sons," most of them American soldiers, sailors, and airmen who called her "Morn," became famous. Dr. Chung hosted her "sons" and their guests—including movie stars, politicians, and top military brass—at large weekly dinners in her San Francisco home. Dr. Chung used her influence to support the Allied war effort. She lobbied for the creation of the WAVES, the U.S. Naval Women's Reserve. Although she faced prejudice because of her race, gender, and sexuality, Dr. Chung forged a distinctive path for herself throughout her life. When she died, her casket was carried by the Mayor of San Francisco, two admirals of the Navy, two privates, and an ensign. Judy Tzu-Chun Wu wrote a book about Dr. Chung: Doctor Mom Chung of the Fair-Haired Bastards: The Life of a Wartime Celebrity

The Blossom Festival

Antique cars, art, crafts, live music and more will be part of the Eighth Annual Blossom Festival held April 9 from 10-4 PM at the Heritage Orchard and Saratoga Civic Center (13777 Fruitvale Avenue in Saratoga, CA). The event is free and open to the public. Activities include a wide range of live music, entertainment, paintings, Saratoga historical characters, artists, local organizations and artisans. Gourmet food trucks will also be part of the fun. Lots of things to do for children including activity tables, petting zoo, and more. First produced in 1900, this historic event ran successfully for 41 years. Come help celebrate this tradition. It is produced by the Saratoga Historical Foundation and sponsored by the City of Saratoga. Free parking and free admission. For more information: www.saratogahistory.com or call 408-867-4311.

Remembering the Valley of Heart's Delight





Difficult to believe that today concrete buildings sit on land that was once believed to be the most fertile land in California. Once known as the Valley of Heart's Delight the scent of blossoming prunes and apricots kept over 40 canneries busy. The Santa Clara Valley provided 1/3 of the prunes consumed around the world. And if you were an ambitious young person you could make .35 cents filling a box with prunes. And, prunes were picked on the ground...while you were on your hands and knees.

FIFTY YEARS AGO, A 17-YEAR-OLD-NAMED STEVEN SPIELBERG FIRST WALKED THROUGH THE HALLS OF SARATOGA HIGH SCHOOL

February 12, 2014 — by Amy Lin and Sabrina Chen of the Saratoga Falcon, Saratoga High School newspaper.



It was a different time then. Spielberg was a sports writer for a letter-sized Saratoga Falcon (sports column name: "Athlete's feats"); the giant redwood in the middle of the quad was only a sapling then. And, as has been well documented,

Spielberg faced anti-Semitism. Attending SHS only for his senior year (1964-



1965) after moving from Phoenix, Spielberg remembers his time here as "Hell on Earth." In Joseph McBride's book "Steven Spielberg: A Biography," Bert Pfister, Spielberg's journalism teacher, remembers that he was "very capable [and] a good student, but he kept very much to himself."

As he walked down the halls, Spielberg kept his head down as some of his classmates eyed him with disgust. This was sometimes paired with penny-throwing and name-calling. The phrase "Jew" followed him everywhere he went. Feeling isolated, Spielberg buried himself into the world of film. "He knew what he wanted to do. He was so confident and sure of himself. At the same time he was having to live the life of the moment in high school," said Spielberg's classmate Mike Augustine in McBride's biography.

Spielberg went on to direct blockbuster films such as "Jurassic Park," "Saving Private Ryan" and "Schindler's List." Spielberg has been nominated seven times for Academy Awards Best Director and won the title twice.

What if Spielberg were a student here today? Would he fit in? Would he have more options? Since Spielberg's time, the school has done a lot to make the school more technologically based. LIFE (Learning Involves Fulfilling Experiences) was a program that former English teacher Kerry Mohnike and World History teacher Mike Davey co-taught, combining history and English. After Saratoga applied for and received a grant offered by the state of California, LIFE developed into MAP, the schoolwide media arts program that incorporates digital side of the era.

Sophomore MAP student Saro Acharyo said that Spielberg is one of his favorite directors and "one of the reasons I want to go into film." "I love Spielberg because he knows how to make a movie that can really pull at your heart strings," Acharyo said. "Most, if not all, of his movies are emotional roller coasters. He really develops and fleshes his characters out and makes you care about them."

Acharyo said that he's knows about Spielberg's harrowing experience at Saratoga High, but feels that it is hard to imagine that happening today. "He felt SHS wasn't appropriate for someone interested in film which isn't true in present day," Acharyo said. "Our MAP program specifically caters to students who want to go into filmmaking, animation and anything else media related."

MAP head Tony Palma added that the program strives to give students outlets to show their creativity and succeed at what they do. In relation to Spielberg, Palma added that the MAP program would have probably been a "perfect fit" for the developing director. Continued on page 5. "Certainly, as a child growing up in any community, all students are looking for is an opportunity to express themselves, to be who they are," Palma said. "And on campus, at SHS, we have tried to be that for as many students as possible. Would [Spielberg] have enjoyed this program? I certainly hope so."

Reprinted courtesy of the Saratoga Falcon, Note all articles written for the Falcon are approved by the high school staff. prior to publication.

Steven Spielberg: A Biography

Joseph McBride's book "Steven Spielberg: A



Biography," was printed in 1997 and covers his early life to 1997. He has since updated the book by adding 4chapters. He includes 30 pages of detailed source. material as well as a compilation .

of Spielberg accomplishments.

Arnold Spielberg took a new job with IBM as technical advisor to the manager of control systems at the Company's plant in San Jose in 1963 and moved the family from Arizona.

The Spielberg family lived in Los Gatos for three months before buying a new house at 21143 Sarahills Drive in Saratoga, CA. Steven enrolled at Saratoga High School in September 1964 as a senior and graduated in 1965.

As a Boy Scout, Spielberg was enthralled with making movies-- an enthusiasm that he never lost. The book traces that love and seemingly boundless energy and creativity.

Tips for Stagecoach Travelers

The best seat inside a stage is the one next to the driver. Even if you have a tendency to seasickness when riding backward - you'll get over it and will get less jolts and jostling. Don't let any "sly elph" trade you his mid-seat.

In cold weather, don't ride with tight-fitting boots, shoes or gloves. When the driver asks you to get off and walk, do so without grumbling - he won't request it unless absolutely necessary. If the the team runs away - sit still and take your chances. If you jump, nine out of ten times you will get hurt.

In very cold weather abstain entirely from liquor when on the road, because you will freeze twice as quickly when under its' influence.

Don't growl at the food received at the station stage companies generally provide the best they can get.

Don't keep the stage waiting. Don't smoke a strong pipe inside the coach. Spit on the leeward side. If you have anything to drink in a bottle, pass it around. Procure your stimulants before starting as "ranch" (stage depot) whiskey is not "nectar".

Don't lean or lop over neighbors when sleeping. Take small change to pay expenses. Never shoot on the road as the noise might frighten the horses.

Don't discuss politics or religion. Don't point out where murders have been committed, especially if there are women passengers.



Don't lag at the wash basin. Don't grease your hair, because travel is dusty. Don't imagine for a moment that you are going on a picnic. Expect annoyances, discomfort and some hardships. **Omaha**

Herald 1877- Contributed by Saratogan Gail Hugger

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Quilts, Quilters, Quilting: Narrative Threads of Our Social Fabric-- New Exhibit at the Saratoga Library

A new exhibit at the Saratoga Community Library shows the work of Saratogan Artist Bonnie Stone.



According to Stone, "quilts, coverlets, blankets, afghans, lace tablecloths-- all have appeared over the years in my drawings and paintings. These "pieces of familiarity" help

to bridge the gap between the viewer and the narratives unfolding on my sheets of paper.

Several years ago I became interested in quilts and the possibilities of stories contained in the remains of pieces of fabric and stuffing.

"Holocaust Quilts: Six million stitches per inch" was the first of many narratives to emerge from quilts. The combination of strong social themes and soft quilt imagery started to come together like pieces of a crazy quilt.



One drawing near completion became the inspiration for the next in the series. Textiles from my collection began to make their appearance on paper. I did not want the images to be

colorful renderings of fabric, so the series

remained black and white and each narrative "block" remained an independent unit.

The drawings are intended to be viewed both from a distance and at very close range with each view providing a different experience." *About the Artist*

Bonnie M. Stone, American artist, educator. Recipient Juror's award New York University, 1984, Cal Labrun award Jewish Family Service, 1989. Member National League American Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists and Novelists association Women Arts.

Bonnie and her husband Lee moved to Saratoga in 1967. Lee was a talented pediatrician and was also a print dealer specializing in 20th century works of art on paper. He was also a long-time member of the International Fine Print Dealers Association. Their three children grew up in Saratoga.

Bonnie has a bachelor of Fine Arts, from the University of Illinois. Her career includes being an art teacher, Maine Township West High School, Des Plaines, 1960-64; art teacher, Fort Riley (Kansas) Officer Wives Club, 1966-67; art teacher, Grandin-Miller School, San Jose, 1968-69; volunteer, Congress Springs school, Saratoga, 1977-1978; docent, DeSaisset Museum, Santa Clara, 1986- 1988. Volunteer after school program Grandin-Miller School, San Jose.

Most recently Bonnie has volunteered to curate



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the many exhibits held in the Saratoga Community Library. She also co-authored The Yiddish Alphabet Book with Frederica Postman. The multi-talented

Bonnie is shown in this self-portrait. She is an exceptionally creative and active

Blacksmith's of Saratoga

Blacksmiths in the 1800's were well-respected in a town. They provided many services-- shoe a horse, repair a carriage wheel, patch a cooking pot, sharpen a saw and if they needed to, could create a tool. Because they owned their own business, they frequently held leadership positions in the community.

Saratoga over the years had seven blacksmiths. The first Silas McClain had a flat across from where Hakone is located today. He later moved to Pettits Livery Stable when John Chisholm moved his carriage factory to Alviso.

He must not have stayed long in Saratoga because Henry Jarboe (1818-1904) was declared Saratoga's first blacksmith in Florence Cunningham's book, "Saratoga's First Hundred Years." He came to Saratoga in the early 1850's and established a business and home. Jarboe sold the blacksmith shop and his home to James McWilliams in 1865. The blacksmith shop and house were located off Third Street. The house was later moved to where it resides today on 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road.

James McWilliams (1836-1900) purchased the business and house from Henry Jarboe in 1865. He and his wife and four daughters lived in the home for 16 years before moving to a larger home when the fifth child was expected.

Martin Kane (1836-1941) was a blacksmith and



his business was located on the floor of Kane's Hall. The top floor was a social hall. He retired in 1900 and became the Justice of the Peace.

Jim Wilson was also a blacksmith and it was located on the corner of Highway 9 and Big Basin Way. The building consisted of a big red barn

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moved from behind the Fireman's Hall on Oak Street. He sold the business to Bert Bertelsen in 1916.

Bert Bertelsen (1883-1946) bought the blacksmith shop from Jim Wilson in 1916. In 1925 he bought the Martin Kane building and moved his shop. He was a blacksmith until he died in 1946. The barn was later sold to Clarence Neale who operated it as an antique shop near Neale's Hollow. It has since been removed.



SHF will build a blacksmith exhibit come spring and highlight the many jobs the blacksmith could do. The blacksmith exhibit will also be used for the Pioneer Living classes.

Name Dropping

Sometimes your favorite newsletter is the last to know.... but Mount Eden Vineyards said their Domaine Eden Pinot Noir—a brand created by Mount Eden Vineyards in 2008—was poured at the Royal Wedding Reception of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2018. The Daily Express, a UK newspaper, originally reported the details of the evening reception at Frogmore House including the menu and wine selection, which included the Domaine Eden Pinot Noir.





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Getting Ready for the Blacksmith Exhibit

This workbench was donated by the Jorgensen family. It has been handed down from Tom Smith, son-inlaw of Sam Cloud who owned several buildings in the Saratoga Village. All 3 buildings owned by Cloud are on the Heritage Resource Inventory. The workbench will be featured in the new blacksmith exhibit planned.

