

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the start of 2011 the Society's Board of Directors are developing a long range plan to work towards strengthening the Society county-wide.

Under consideration is a county-wide mural project. We have already begun to contact other groups of a variety of historical focuses to include their activities and events in the newsletter.

We would like to encourage communities without a Bed and Breakfast Ordinance to consider adopting one. Yolo County is rich in history and the opportunity to explore these riches would be enhanced by being able to stay in one of the many beautiful historical homes.

We are also looking for an opportunity to work more closely with UCD. Again, the Society could benefit by tapping into some of the programs they offer and they could benefit with our knowledge of the County's history.

We are also working on some exciting general membership programs which take place on the 4th Sunday of each month in various Yolo County communities. Our first program is described elsewhere in this newsletter, however, we are working on one to be held in West Sacramento dealing with the history of Yolo County American Indians and, hopefully, we will be able to visit the historic Japanese School in Clarksburg.

We will continue visiting Yolo County Cemeteries under the direction of Board Member Dennis Dingemans. Also, we have received permission to include past articles from the Woodland Daily Democrat which were written by Charles Payton.

Peace,

BJ Ford, President

HATTIE WEBER MUSEUM

Fall and winter have been busy at the Museum. Geri Adler did a history tour of downtown Davis in October for the benefit of the Museum and is planning another for spring. Numerous ghosts, goblins, and superheroes helped us celebrate Halloween with treats and a "count the pumpkins" game. The "Davis Industry: Windmills to Robots, Phase I" has been favorably received, as was the November tribute to veterans from WWI to the present.

The Veterans exhibit was replaced with one: "Davis in Winter" which includes pictures of snow in the city and information on early and late floods. We are also in the midst of our "1898 Christmas" celebration, with a tree and treat bags for children to recall that community event.

Stella Dinger has been hard at work on cataloging and organizing the Museum's collection and office procedures. We really appreciate her efforts! New volunteer Adrian Gabriel is helping Stella and updating our computer operations. We welcome him.

January will bring a tribute to Martin Luther King with an exhibit opening on the 8th and a reception, from 2 - 4 p.m., on the 15th. Honored guests at the reception will be the Freedom Riders who traveled from Davis to the South to march with Dr. King.

The Museum is located at 445 C Street and open (except for Dec. 25th, 29th and Jan. 1st) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Admission is free and we especially like to see other members of the Society.

Mary Lee Thomson

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE:

Articles for the newsletter will be accepted until the 20th of each month. Please either e-mail Jeannette Molson at: JLMolson@aol.com or mail to the Yolo County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1447, Woodland CA 95776.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Greetings, and Happy 2011, from the Yolo County Gibson House Society. Even though a year and a half ago when the Board of Trustees were given the news that there wasn't enough money in the Yolo County coffers to continue supporting, financially, the running of the museum and there was a possibility we would have to close down, the new board of trustees and the new change in leadership through Ray Groom's office, led to some compromises and dedicated volunteers put their time and energy to work to dispel the gloom and doom and bring together some very exciting events.

Kathy Harryman, the Yolo County Historical Society's liaison to the museum board, and Starr Barrow transformed the interior rooms into truly showplaces representing how, for now, a visit is exciting. Last year over 900 third graders, plus parents and teachers, and an even bigger group of public and private schools are signed up for the spring full of questions and excitement. The fifteen mostly retired Woodland and Davis schoolteachers are the absolutely perfect docents for the various stations. Besides the museum tour, the children take a scavenger hunt of the grounds, wash out of tubs, and wring clothes, make butter, and tour the barn and blacksmith shop as well as shuck corn. Come visit mornings in April, May, and early June if you want to see smiles and energy abounding. It's contagious.

The other events of the year are the fund raisers. Arbor Day is going to be on again and like Tunes for Trees at the Opera House this past year, we are going to join forces with the local Woodland Tree Foundation. Tunes for Trees is going to be on the grounds combined with a Woodland High School class reunion. May Festival was reinstated and needs your support and spreading the word. Free movies at the museum in the summer on a starry night had children and parents alike clapping their hands, laughing and munching on popcorn.

Most weekends take a glance as you drive by and you will see brides and grooms and families celebrating. In May, we plan to have tea with Mrs. Gibson inside the mansion for mothers and special women in your life. But, one cannot close without thanking Meg Stallard and Dottie Pritchard and their committee plus sponsors who on December 2nd and December 4th, threw a very successful and well attended Festival of Trees gala and Santa Saturday. Local crafters outdid themselves donating beautiful holiday decorations for auction. While on Santa Saturday, over 125 children accompanied by parents greeted Santa as he arrived on a vintage fire engine, had their pictures taken and made tree ornaments in Santa's kitchen, our new four enclosed bathrooms, catering kitchen, and dressing rooms complex.

We are hoping that the new year is even more successful and that you will either volunteer some time, we desperately need more trained house docents for weekends, or just come and enjoy the upcoming events. Check out our brand new website at www.gibsonhouse.org for more information or call (530) 666-1045.

Karen Lafferty-President
Gibson House Museum Board of Trustees

BECKET IS DAVIS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Davis Chamber of Commerce has named Jim Becket, Hattie Weber Museum Director, Citizen of the Year, the City's highest honor. Jim's work in revitalizing the Museum was recognized, as were his contributions to the community through the Yolo County Historical Society, Kiwanis, the Chamber and other organizations.

The award will be formally presented at the Chamber's Installation Dinner on January 21st.

With his typical modesty, Jim says he feels others are more worthy of the award than he, but he is glad for the publicity about the Museum.

January 23, 2011

FREEDOM RIDERS TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Where were you in the Spring of 1965 when a group of residents from Sacramento and Yolo County boarded a bus in Davis to join in the support of Rev. Martin Luther King's mission to make it possible for African Americans, who lived in the south, to exercise their right to vote? There was a group of idealistic individuals, some who lived, and worked in Davis, to join in this effort. Jackie Holdstock made arrangements for a bus to pick up residents in downtown Davis and make that long journey to Selma, Alabama. Some of those who made that historic bus ride were: Rev. John Pamperin, Richard Holdstock, Terry Turner, Mary Ellen Dolcini, and Malcolm Polk to name a few. The Yolo County Historical Society will be having as their first General Membership meeting, on January 23, 2011 at the Hattie Weber Museum in Davis, a program to relive that momentous occasion. Some of you many have also taken part in this event. Come and listen, remember, and acknowledge what these brave people did in a time of civil unrest in the South. There are stories to be told, pictures to share, and heartfelt thank you's to be made to these people who had no idea what would unfold along their journey through the Jim Crow south. If you are unfamiliar of what the mission was of a "freedom rider", then, "get on board children, get on board" and be enlightened. Protesters were journeying all across the U. S. headed for Selma, Alabama. The bus from Davis made a detour to Montgomery as it was learned that Dr. King had already left Selma for Montgomery. They were made aware of what to expect from those who opposed this "interference" into their way of life. State troopers were called out to control the civil rights activists. The troopers used tear gas, nightsticks, and bullwhips to discourage the activists from completing their march. Eventually, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed into law and is "considered to be the most important piece of legislation every adopted by Congress".

The residents from our community, who took part in this little piece of history, have a right to feel immense pride in being a part of history in the making.

All Yolo County Historical Society General Membership meetings are open to the public. The meeting will take place from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Hattie Weber Museum, 445 C Street in Davis.