

# ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

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SACRAMENTO, February 2008

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## Living History Center: Up and Running!

*Janessa West, Program Coordinator*

Just in time for Free Museum Day, the Living History Center is finally finished. The pipe in the meeting room has been replaced, and the termites have been eliminated. Unfortunately, the cleaning day that was planned for January was cancelled. Now that the center is back to normal, I would like to reorganize our storage room. If you would like to help me, please let me know!

Our calendar is full for the rest of the year, and a new annual calendar was handed out at the last meeting. Extra copies can be e-mailed or will be on hand in the center. It will be a busy new year and I am looking forward to all the events planned.

## OSLHP Treasurer Election

Bob Flaherty was elected our new Treasurer at the January general meeting. Congratulations Bob!

## Architectural Tours

The next two dates for the architectural tour are set. If you have not had a chance to go on the tour, feel free to join Richard Vincent on either February 16<sup>th</sup> or March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Living History Center.



## Annual New Membership Contest

Don't forget the contest is on! Membership applications are available in the Living History Center as well as on our website [www.oslhp.net](http://www.oslhp.net). Let's bring in some new members!

## The President's Quill

*Greg Tracy, President*

Greetings! The New Year is off to a fine start. January was a relatively quiet month with the rain and all. February begins with Free Museum Day, then the historic education series begins the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and probably a full set-up for Living History Day on the 24<sup>th</sup>. March has another historic training day on the 15<sup>th</sup> followed closely by the St. Patrick's Day Parade, then Women's History Day and Living History Day at the end of the month.

The historic training days are very interesting, and I encourage you first timers to attend the series. The classes are also worth a review for you old timers.

Another action-packed year is ahead, and everyone can have a full measure of historical events. See you there.

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## Free Museum Day

*Janessa West*

For the second time, OSLHP will be having an open house on Free Museum Day. The center will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and many of our members will be showcasing their own private collections.

Some of our attractions are listed below. Please come down and enjoy the day!

- Welcome table with Eugenie Dumas-Hunt and Jeremiah Nigel Graysmith
- Gambling with Miss Flora
- Biscuits the Blacksmith
- Bottle display with Lucky Bill
- Stereoscope of Ms. Eliza Withington
- Laundry with Mrs. Booz
- New member orientation by Ken Knott

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## REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

### Living History Day Revitalization Meeting

*Rich Vincent*

About a dozen members met at Penny and Dick Adams' house to plan activities for this year's living history days (LHDs). Our goals are to give our members more reason to attend LHDs, attract more attention to us, and provide more public education. We hope to accomplish this by developing new activities (additional to the gambling venue), providing more structure to what we do (not just sit around in our attire and talk to each other), creating a calendar of events for the year, improving the advertisement of LHD, and coordinating the logistics of LHDs.



*Members record their ideas.*

As soon as information is finalized, we will create a schedule of LHDs for the year, showing dates, locales, and type of venue. There will be two types of venue: "fixed" (that is, with tents and flies) and "strolls". Some LHDs will be strictly strolls. (No set-up, tear-down, or transport of tents and furniture!) When we have fixed venues, there may also be limited strolls in which some of us can direct the public to our venue for specific activities. At least a month before each LHD, we will announce the activities planned for the day and ensure the attendance of the people who will be critical to those activities.

### Activities

We plan to add three types of activity to each fixed-venue LHD: skits, music, and an educational venue. Specific elements of these generic activities will be developed by, respectively, Ray and Terry Eargle, myself, and Jill and Roger Quinn. (Feel free to help them!) Some ideas for the three activities are:

- Skits
  - Scripted skits
  - Improvisation
  - Audience participation
- Music
  - Rich Vincent singing, Dale Shinn on the hurdy-gurdy
  - Sing-alongs
  - More instrumental accompaniment (maybe guitar, mandolin or banjo). Does anybody know someone?
- Education

This is a broad category that includes displays of our members' collectibles, lectures, and demonstrations. Possibilities are:

  - Costumes
  - Musicology
  - Food preparation
  - Phrenology
  - Sewing
  - Carpentry
  - Rope-making
  - Blacksmithing
  - Medicine and surgical tools
  - Sacramento history (Ruth Chambers' puppet show is an example.)
  - Re-enactments (such as duels)
  - Firearms
  - Jewelry and personal effects

To encourage the formation of audiences for the above, we will add seating (benches) to the fixed venue, post a schedule of events for the day, and "hawk" the events on strolls. To encourage audience participation, where that is appropriate, we can offer photos of participants at the venue, to be delivered by e-mail.

*(continued on next page)*

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## REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

### Living History Day Meeting

*(continued)*

During the strolls, we plan to engage in dialogues on topics of the day. Terry Eargle has agreed to provide factual information upon which the strollers can draw for their dialogues. These dialogues might occur when two groups of strollers “happen” to meet at some busy corner as they go about their business. (We may also stroll for a while after general membership meetings on Saturdays.)

### Getting It Done

None of this can happen unless we get more members out regularly for LHDs. To encourage members to do this, we plan to:

- Establish the schedule of activities for the year.
- Plan each activity and provide written materials as needed.
- Offer help to members who have items to display, to transport and set up.
- Get commitments a few weeks ahead of each LHD from enough people to carry out the activities, including back-ups.
- Identify volunteers to transport the tents and equipment to the venue at 10 am and set it up and volunteers who will tear down at 4 pm and transport it back. (We may be able to line up non-OSLHP volunteers.)
- Consider moving LHD to Saturdays for at least some months.

We will need a coordinator to oversee these functions. I have agreed to do this.

Please pitch in with help to develop activities, especially the educational ones. Also, we need volunteers to display their collections, give mini-lectures, demonstrate household and economic functions, etc.

### Santa Parade Update!

*Janessa West*

The award for the Santa Parade came this week and, lo and behold, we did not win first place, we won Sweepstakes – the best of all the floats! Congratulations!



*Chatting with visitors on the boardwalk*

### January Living History Day

*Greg Tracy, President*

January's LHD commemorated the event's 3rd anniversary. The day threatened to be a soggy one, but five stalwart members rendezvoused for breakfast and then went in search of the underground. Different areas of the underground were investigated, which yielded fine satisfaction.

Then the group posed for photos to reward the undaunted Old Sac visitors. Most of the afternoon was spent meeting and greeting plus a fair amount of browsing of Old Sac's fun and interesting shops. There were periodic light showers, but they were generally of short duration. The sun even broke forth for a good period of time. All and all it was a fine 3rd anniversary event.

### Walker Spinning Wheel

*Janessa West*

Thanks to the living history article in the *Bee*, a local citizen donated a Walker Spinning Wheel to OSLHP. This spinning wheel is so large that the person spinning needs to stand and walk backwards in order to operate the wheel. This wheel is in wonderful condition, and it is a beauty!

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## Upcoming Events

### St. Paddy's Day Parade

*Ken Knott, Chair*

OSLHP will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Old Sacramento on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The Parade steps out from Lot W under the freeway at the north end of Second Street behind the Railroad Museum, but look for our group on I Street, between Second Street and the alley, which is where we have formed up for the last two years.

We will have a carriage for members unable to walk the parade route. I hope we can get Ann Tatum to drive for us again this year. We will decorate the carriage between 5:30 and the time we take our place in the procession. After the parade, there will be a watering hole in Old Sacramento offering green beer. This parade is always a lot of fun, and remember, everyone is Irish on St. Paddy's Day!

There is a parade release form included with this newsletter. If you plan to participate in the parade, complete it and mail it as instructed on the form.

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### Women's History Day

*Eileen Carey, Co-Chair*

We are currently in the planning stage of this event. There is a planning meeting on Sunday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m. at my house, 2400 Sierra Blvd # 47, Sacramento. Ideas and a plan will be finalized at this meeting. If you cannot be present, we would like to hear your ideas. So far the feedback has been to keep the event simple. There needs to be a decision regarding the Bonnet Promenade and the tea. I will keep all members informed of the details for Women's History.

You can contact me at 916-370-0973 or emcarey2000@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance.

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### Pistols and Petticoats— Possible April Fundraiser

*Janessa West*

As we plan new events and talk about more field trips, it is also necessary to plan a new

fundraiser. At the last general meeting the idea of a spring fundraiser was introduced. The fundraiser could be a combination gun show and fashion show that would have light refreshments included.

In order for this to be successful, we need participants as well as clothes and guns! Please consider participating as we try to expand the living history program. If you would like to participate, come to the next general meeting and volunteer!

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### 2008 Member Training Program

*Ken Knott, Training Coordinator*

We will be having an orientation on Free Museum Day at the Living History Center for new and prospective new members. I will present an overview of the Living History events our members participate in throughout the year and discuss the curriculum for our training classes and workshops from 11:00 – 2:00. Invite everyone you know to our Open House on Free Museum Day! A flyer is included in this newsletter.

Two-hour classes will be held once a month. A tentative schedule is below.

#### Tentative schedule of classes

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2/23 | Early Sacramento History, 1848-1870  |
| 2/24 | Corset Making workshop (flyer in this issue)                                 |
| 3/15 | Historic Attire for Men and Women  |
| 4/12 | Popular Culture, Gambling, Music   |
| 5/10 | Material Culture, Discovery Museum Tour                                      |
| 6/14 | Language, Penmanship, Gold Rush<br>Medicine                                  |
| 7/12 | Moral Culture, Etiquette, Language of the<br>Fan, Mourning Customs           |
| 8/9  | Character Development, Research,<br>Historical Interpretation, Improvisation |
| 9/13 | Guns and Knives,<br>Holster and Sheath Making Workshop                       |

Other workshops to be held include

- 1849 buckram bonnet covering
- 1849 bodice fitting class
- Corded petticoat class

The dates of these workshops will be announced at a later date.

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## GENERAL RELEASE

This is release of liability. Read carefully before signing.

**\*-EVERY PARADE PARTICIPANT MUST FILL THIS OUT!**

FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE BELOW CAPTIONED SPECIAL EVENT, THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO AND THE OLD SACRAMENTO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, INC. ARE REQUIRING YOU TO ASSUME ALL RISKS BY SIGNING THIS GENERAL RELEASE.

In consideration of being permitted to engage in the Old Sacramento St. Patrick's Day Parade on MARCH 17, 2008, in or on City of Sacramento facilities and elsewhere, I hereby voluntarily release, discharge, waive and relinquish any and all claims or actions for damages for personal injury, death, or property damage resulting from my presence or participation, including but not limited to personal injury, death or property damage caused by my actions, by the actions of any other person present at City facilities, or by any person providing advice or instruction concerning said event. This release is intended to discharge, in advance, the City of Sacramento and the Old Sacramento Business Association, their officers, employees, agents and volunteers, from any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my presence and activities at any City of Sacramento facility or elsewhere, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the City Sacramento and the Old Sacramento Business Association, their officers, employees, agents, or volunteers.

I understand that serious accidents, including grave personal injury or death, occur from time to time during special event activities. Knowing the risks, and in consideration of being permitted to participate, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless the City of Sacramento and the Old Sacramento Business Association, their officers, employees, agents and volunteers, who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or my heirs or assigns) for damages. I further understand and agree that this release and assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

I have read this General Release, understand that I give up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it voluntarily. This General Release shall remain in effect until revoked in writing submitted to the City of Sacramento, Risk Management Division, 921 10th Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parade Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS DOCUMENT IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY WHICH AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS. READ DOCUMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.

\*PLEASE REMIT ALONG WITH PARADE ENTRY FORM BY 2/25/08.

TO: Nancy Mallory, Parade Coordinator  
c/o Mallory & Associates  
2045 Oxford Street  
Sacramento, CA 95815



**“Keeping the Past Alive”**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RELIVE THE GOLD RUSH ERA AND  
SACRAMENTO’S EXCITING PAST 1848 – 1870.**

**WANTED!**

**Historical Reenactors,  
Actors/Actresses,  
Costumers,  
Craftspeople,  
Script Writers,  
Roustabouts,  
Pettifoggers,  
Poltroons  
and  
Historians.**

**Have Fun! Meet new friends!  
Participate in a worthwhile endeavor!**

**The Old Sacramento Living History Program  
Invites you to attend their Annual  
ORIENTATION & OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, FEB. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008  
at the Living History Center  
1101 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Lower Level  
11:00 – 2:00**

Make a reservation by calling Janessa Gonsalves at (916) 445-3101  
Or by email to: [OSLHP@oldsacramentolivinghistory.com](mailto:OSLHP@oldsacramentolivinghistory.com)



# *Victorian Corset Workshop*

## *Learn to fit, construct, and complete a Victorian Corset*

During this workshop you will learn to fit and construct a Victorian corset using Laughing Moon Mercantile's # 100, Women's Victorian Underwear - historically accurate unmentionables for the Victorian period, approximately 1837 to 1890s.

- Date:** February 24, 2008  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Heritage Park Club House  
2481 Heritage Park Lane, Sacramento  
**Who:** Intermediate sewing skills required  
**Cost:** \$125 to \$200 - Workshop fee and complete Corset Kit. Cost depends on the corset kit chosen. Kits range from natural herringbone coutil with no embroidery to brocade coutil with extensive embroidery.  
**How to sign up:** Send your check or Money Order to Of Corset, 361 Pelican Bay Circle, Sacramento, CA 95835.

**For Further Information:** **Barbara Muran**  
(916) 419-1889 or [barb@ofcorset.com](mailto:barb@ofcorset.com)

Further information, photos, and PayPal payment option is available on the Of Corset website [www.ofcorset.com](http://www.ofcorset.com)

### **Student Supplies Required:**

1. Sewing machine with bobbin, regular foot and zipper foot, in good working order. Don't forget your power cord.
2. Size 14 or 16 machine needles, bring extras
3. Tracing paper and tape
4. Ruler and pencils
5. Some method of marking fabric - pen, pencil, chalk, or wheel and marking paper
6. Thread, scissors (fabric and paper), pins
7. Basic sewing supplies including hand needles.
8. White, ecru, or black thread to match your fabric.

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## Miscellanea

### HOSF and OSBA Going Their Separate Ways

*Janessa West*

The Historic Old Sacramento Foundation (HOSF) and the Old Sacramento Business Association (OSBA) were founded in 2003 following an intensive stakeholder process. Since their formation, the HOSF and the OSBA have essentially functioned as a single organization, which has proven to dilute and encumber their separate goals. In an effort toward continuous improvement, the Convention, Culture and Leisure Department (CCL), the HOSF, and the OSBA recommend restructuring the organizations and how they function together. HOSF and OSBA functions will be separated to bring focus to their individual goals and create a more balanced program for Old Sacramento.

Separation of the HOSF and OSBA will serve to clarify and further define their respective roles and responsibilities. The HOSF will focus on Historic District programming, education, and development of support for historic interpretation. Administration and management of the HOSF by the City will provide the HOSF with a consistent, supportive foundation on which to grow and develop. The long-term goal will be to integrate the HOSF with the Discovery History Museum's organization and programming in Old Sacramento.

### From your Editor

*Catherine Hanson-Tracy*

All OSLHP members are invited to submit items for inclusion in the *Argonaut Gazette*. Articles, letters to the editor, calendar items, and personal news announcements are welcome. The submission deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication. Submissions may be modified for length and readability at the discretion of the editor.

E-mail articles to me at:

[chanson-tracy@library.ca.gov](mailto:chanson-tracy@library.ca.gov) or  
[cht2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cht2@sbcglobal.net).

For those without e-mail access, submissions can be mailed to: 1179 Theo Way, Sacramento CA 95822.

### Photo Credits

Thank you once again to Sophie Flaherty for her photos of our events.



#### Old Sacramento Living History Center

Located at 1101 Second St., lower level  
Corner of K & 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets, Old Sacramento

Janessa West, Program Coordinator  
(916) 445-3101  
[Janessa@oldsacramentolivinghistory.com](mailto:Janessa@oldsacramentolivinghistory.com)

Write to:  
Old Sacramento Living History Program  
1002 Second St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Sacramento CA 95814

Web site:  
[www.oldsacramentolivinghistory.com](http://www.oldsacramentolivinghistory.com)

#### OSLHP Officers:

Greg Tracy, President  
Penny Adams, Vice President  
Ken Knott, Past President  
Yolanda Starr, Secretary  
Bob Flaherty, Treasurer  
Jan Bullard, Member-at-Large  
Jason Hollingsworth, Member-at-Large

OSLHP is sponsored by  
The Historic Old Sacramento Foundation  
1002 Second St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

# EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>February</b>				
2 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Free Museum Day	Living History Center	Janessa West
2 – Saturday	11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	New Member Orientation	Living History Center	Ken Knott
3 – Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Women’s History Day Planning Meeting	Eileen Carey’s home	Eileen Carey
12 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
13 – Wednesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
23 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Early Sacramento History Training Class	Living History Center	Ken Knott
24 – Sunday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Corset Making Workshop	Heritage Park Club House	Barbara Muran
24 – Sunday	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Living History Day	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
<b>March</b>				
4 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
8 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
15 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Historic Attire Training Class	Living History Center	Ken Knott
17 - Monday	6:00 p.m.	St. Patrick’s Day Parade	Old Sacramento	Ken Knott
22 – Saturday?		Women’s History Day	Old Sacramento	Eileen Carey
29 – Sunday	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Living History Day	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
<b>April</b>				
8 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
9 – Wednesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
12 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Popular Culture Training Class	Living History Center	Ken Knott
TBA		Spring Finery Promenade?	Old Sacramento	
26 & 27 – Saturday-Sunday		NCWA Civil War Living History Event	Mariposa	
26 & 27 – Saturday-Sunday	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Living History Weekend	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
27 – Sunday		Possible fundraiser “Pistols & Petticoats”		

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## The Back Page

### Home Made Soap

*Ken Knott*

Place 3 pints of cold water in an enameled kettle and carefully add one pound of lye, stirring while adding until dissolved. When cool, add 5 pounds fat. Melt and stir for 10 or 15 minutes, until as thick as honey.

Add 1-1/2 tablespoons borax and ½ cup ammonia and pour the mixture into wooden boxes lined with oiled paper. Cover with a clean cloth and set away in a warm place to harden for two days. Cut into bars and place on a shelf to dry.



*Scenes from the January LHD stroll*

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OSLHP  
1002 Second St  
Sacramento CA 95814