

# The Echo

## News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

### 2018 Dons and Doñas Honored

The day was hot but it was delightfully cool in the Camarillo Community Center as nearly 250 friends and well wishers honored the 2018 slate of Dons and Doñas. The hall was festively decorated with hand made antique quilts . The twelve honorees were introduced in turn by emcee Bob Rust who told the crowd about some of the accomplishments of those chosen. Charlotte Craven, Hannah Beth Jackson and representatives of Julia Brownley, Jaqui Irwin and Kelly Long presented them with commendations from the various governmental agencies. It was a day to be remembered.



*Pictured, left to right: Dr. Fred King, Connie Halpern, Dr. Robert Improta, Pat Craig, Valerie Tackett, Dr. Renee Whitlock, Joyce Resnik, Jimbo Pellerino, Pat Distad, Mark Malloy, Theresa Pellerino, and Jan Mc Donald.*

PATRICIA CRAIG taught in Pleasant Valley School District for 29 years. At Las Colinas, she began their Student Government and Speech programs. She moved to Monte Vista in the early '90s, where she continued the Public Speech program and later took on their Drama program. She retired in 2003 and became a docent at the Camarillo House; the Public Speaking Chair for the Camarillo Academic Olympics (CAO); a member of the 3rd Grade Speech Committee; Chair of the Teacher Grants program for the Pleasant Valley Garden Club and others. Pat has received numerous honors: among them, PVSD Educator of the Month (1994), Ventura County Educators Hall of Fame (2015), and DKG's award for Community Service (2016). She and her family moved here in 1974.

PATRICIA DISTAD moved to Somis in 1972 where she and husband, John, built their home from a kit. They designed and built their current home in Camarillo in 1986. Her love for horses led her to Ventura farms where she was administrative director of the Arabian Horse Division. She became a Camarillo Hospice Board member and, with Anita McDermitt, created the Hospice Garden Tour that is now in its 25+ year. After retiring from Ventura Farms, Patricia became a home-schoolteacher for Pleasant Valley School District. She and a friend started curating quarterly art exhibits featuring local artists at D. A. Davidson, a financial planning business. Their annual spring show is the Ventura County Youth Art Exhibit and Competition with prizes and scholarships equaling \$3,000, ranging from kindergarten through high school. This year they hung 188 pieces.

## **Don and Doñas Bios *Continued from Page 1***

CONNIE HALPERN moved to Camarillo in 1993 with husband, Steve. Connie expected to make a life career of nursing, but something changed her course (namely, her three children). With nursing behind her, she tried on some new “hats” (which she continues to wear): Girl Scout Leader (11 yrs); Sign Language Mini-Course Instructor (18 yrs); Camarillo United Methodist Church Choir Member (22 yrs); CUMC Sunday School Teacher (22 yrs); and AAUW “Women in History” Performer (17 yrs), to name a few. Connie’s latest Camarillo “hat” came about when she “accidentally” became the owner of *The Bookworm* in 2009. She added the acronym “FIGS” which stands for Faith In God Shows, to support her as she wore this new hat. “Mrs. Figs” humbly received the Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2017.

Dr. ROBERT IMPROTA came to Camarillo in 1977 to become the first plastic surgeon to serve the relatively new Pleasant Valley Hospital, along with five other Ventura County hospital emergency rooms. Bob and wife, Pat, generously supported many organizations in the area including Casa Pacifica, Interface Children, CSUCI, Studio Channel Islands, Camarillo Hospice, St. John’s Healthcare and Foundation, Ventura County Community Foundation, Meadowlark Service League, and many others. Dr. Improta still practices reconstructive surgery at his practice, Camarillo Surgical Center, and enjoys a reputation of being a sensitive, caring, and humble man. He states, “ I am so grateful to have been a part of the early medical community and to see the growth of that and this wonderful city. I cannot imagine a better community to have lived and practiced medicine in.”

DR. FRED KING started his work in Camarillo as the first Director of Physical Therapy at Pleasant Valley Hospital when it opened in 1974. Fred and his team of physicians and therapists covered Camarillo and Rio Mesa high schools for their football and other athletic events for over twenty years. He currently heads Dos Caminos Physical Therapy and has worked in numerous different settings as it pertains to PT such as rehab centers, burn centers, acute care hospitals and out-patient clinics. Among other certifications, he obtained a Masters and Doctorate in Health Care Management in 1997; was certified as a Clinical Instructor from the American Physical Therapy Association in 2005; and received the *Apple Award for the Healthcare Professional* in 2000 from the Camarillo Healthcare District.

MARK MALLOY moved to Camarillo in 1982. His true passion is baseball and he served the Camarillo Pony Baseball Association in a variety of positions. He organized volunteers to build multiple baseball fields at Bob Kildee Park and Los Altos Schools, and maintained those nine youth baseball fields on school and park district property for over a decade. In 1997 he organized support of youth sports organizations for the successful passage of Pleasant Valley School District’s \$49 million *Measure T*. He then served on the citizens committee monitoring school facility renovations. Mark started attending Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks District board meetings regularly in 1996. He joined the Board of Directors in 2006, and was re-elected in 2008, 2012, and 2016

JAN MCDONALD was born and raised in Ventura, moving to Camarillo in 1977. She volunteered in many aspects of her sons’ schools and in Camarillo youth sports. She has given back to the Camarillo community with 28 years in elected positions. She served on the Pleasant Valley School Board for 8 years starting in 1990 and was elected to the Camarillo City Council in 1998, a position she has held for 20 years. She has served on all council committees and various regional boards, such as the Ventura County Transportation Commission, Ventura Council of Governments, Economic Development Collaborative and Countywide Oversight Board. She has been chair of the Ventura Council of Governments twice. Other Camarillo community service includes serving on the Camarillo Arts Council Board of Directors; Camarillo Boy & Girls Club Board of Directors.

JOYCE RESNIK and her family moved here in 1961 to help her father-in-law relocate a walnut shelling plant. What originally was known as Ventura Walnut Shelling Comp. is now *Somis Nut House* on Highway 118. Starting in 1966, Joyce volunteered at Los Posas School for 7 years. Continuing at Rio Mesa High School, she worked with fundraising for the Booster Club, and served on the Scholarship Committee. In the early 70s she canvassed the neighborhoods fundraising for the new PV Hospital; she remains an ambassador and fundraiser. She served on the Ventura Civil Grand Jury for the year 1988-89. She has served on the board of Studio Channel Islands; serves on the Advisory Council of the Miracle League of the 805 (serving children and adults with physical or mental disabilities); volunteers at Somis School in the weekly art program (with Pat Distad); and since 2004 has been a reader and evaluator for the *VC Scholarship Foundation*. She had a “dream job” from 1978-1990 as a recipe developer and tester for *Bon Appetite* magazine.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Many thanks are extended to those who helped, and to those who came to this year's Don and Doñas event. It was a true celebration of the Pleasant Valley community and a wonderful representation of those who have so faithfully served our area and continue to do so. A special thanks to Judy Crenshaw and Debbie Thiessen and their team for the lovely centerpieces and great quilt display. Once again Bruce Jochums and his family did a wonderful barbeque. For those of you who have been wondering who still plays with Legos, it is the Pearsons, John and Beverly who came up with that great display. This quarter's Echo will help you to meet the newest members of the Don and Doñas designees.

Save the date, August 24, 2019 at the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park Department's Community Center for the next Don and Doñas event!

About town: on September 5th, we joined the community in celebrating the remodeling and opening of the Vons in Mission Oaks. Max Copenhagen worked with their decorating team to create a display of old photos which Vons enlarged and has hanging high on the back walls of the store. Credit was given to PVHS for their help in the historical representation of the community as it was in the early 20th century.

There are other displays in the community where PVHS has helped patrons become acquainted with our history; The Loft Offices on Ventura Blvd., *Adolfo Grill*, *Topper's Pizza*, and the *Good Morning Café* all have some photos of our historical pictures displayed.

Joy Todd

**Thank you to the following recent donors to the Building Fund**

<b>Helen Andrews</b>	<b>Charmaine Beaumont</b>	<b>Christie Lloyd</b>	<b>Mike and Charlotte Craven</b>
<b>Ted Daniel</b>	<b>Larry and Pam Davis</b>	<b>Bob Delatorre</b>	<b>Timrott Family</b>
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Faragher</b>	<b>Karin Farrin</b>	<b>Shirley Fitzgerald</b>	<b>David Hibbits</b>
<b>Robert Improta</b>	<b>David Kaiser</b>	<b>Michael Kroll</b>	<b>Richard and Donna Lutz</b>
<b>Richard Mahlke</b>	<b>Linda Malone</b>	<b>Betty Merrill</b>	<b>Woody and Linda Milleman</b>
<b>Don and Agatha Miller</b>	<b>Karen Oliver</b>	<b>John and Beverly Pearson</b>	<b>Fred Phipps</b>
<b>Anthony Pizza</b>	<b>Shirley Randall</b>	<b>John and Donna Reardon</b>	<b>Paul Rockenstein</b>
<b>Jerry Scott</b>	<b>Daryl and Ruth Smith</b>	<b>Richard and Charlean Wakefield</b>	

**Anonymous Donors**

## **Don and Doñas Bios *Continued from Page 2***

THERESA & JIMBO PELLERINO'S families have been farmers in the area for over one hundred years. Since 1983, they have worked with 4-H members and swine projects, before their own children were involved in 4-H. They began as club helpers and went on to be leaders. Since 1990, they have been leaders of the 4-H swine program in Somis. Theresa began investigating what made a champion hog. She ordered semen from champion boars and began a program that has led to Grand Champions and Reserve Champions at the Ventura County Fair. Her children used to say the best time of the year was fair week. Up early and home late made a full day. This past year Theresa and her hogs produced a second Grand Champion at Ventura County Fair. The members learned all about a pig. They were there for the birth of the little squeakers, how to care for them, notching their ears, as well as the daily caring. Over the years they saw several of their graduates go into agriculture. One, who was initially reticent with the pig idea, became a veterinarian and well known veterinary surgeon. For 17 years Theresa was the manager of the Somis School lunch program. Her hard work and frugality made it possible to completely update the cafeteria kitchen--the Somis kids still benefit from her amazing efforts.

VALERIE TACKETT spent her early years volunteering through *National Charity League* at Easter Seals, YMCA, Girls & Boys Club, Retirement Homes, and Homeless Shelters and raised money for the American Heart Association. She is a board member of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society, a member of Phi Delta Kappa (Educational Fraternity), and Founder of Tackett's Twilights Golf Club in Sterling Hills, Camarillo. She is currently employed by Ventura Unified School District as an Inclusion Specialist – consulting on Autism & Special needs in schools. She was an Autism Authorization Instructor through Ventura County SELPA and an elementary school teacher for over 20 years. Valerie received the *Bell of Honor Award* from Ventura County SELPA & Community Advisory Committee, an Inspirational Teacher Recognition from Ventura High School Varsity Basketball & ASB.

DR. RENEE WHITLOCK is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office. She also served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Ventura County Health Care Agency's Ambulatory Care Department for 5 years. Growing up, Renee volunteered for the Battered Women's Shelter, The Men's Homeless Shelter and the Easter Seal Society through the National Charity League. She has served on the board of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society for 8 years; the Alzheimer's Association's Medical Advisory Committee for 10 years and served two terms as an elected official on the Camarillo Council on Aging. She is a founding member of the Ventura County Quality of Life Task Force. She is a past board member for the Ventura County Adult Abuse Prevention Counsel and past Ethics committee chairperson for the Ventura County Home Care Association.

*Below: Bob Rust presents the new Dons and Doñas*



## IN THE MUSEUM

Beginning this September, we will be working with the Pleasant Valley School District to help celebrate their 150th year. We have our first display up and more to come.

On Sunday, November 11, we will have a presentation by Val Rains and friends. Their topic is the Founding Wives of the Pleasant Valley School District. On the day of the presentation we will be able to show children what it was like to go to school without modern comforts. It could take one to three hours to get to school, each way, and the books were not free. It took a real desire and commitment to education on the part of the parents and children to graduate from grammar school.

We plan to feature different eras of the history of the School District through changing displays throughout this 150th year.

Our first displays will be focused on 1850 to 1900. We have children's clothes, photographs and references to the way school was taught in that era.

## BUILDING EXPANSION

Our building program is working on the latest series of requirements needed to proceed with a new addition. Seismic testing should be completed and in the analysis stage by the end of September. You may see the huge boring machine at the Museum. They have to drill down 50 feet for each of the holes they make. There is an earthquake fault running along the base of the Las Posas hills and we may fall into its sphere. The samples will be drawn up and looked at for slipping or other fault identifying changes.

It was an unexpected cost of \$35,000 and the generosity of those contributing to the building fund has gone a long way to help meet those costs.

Once the analysis is completed, the information will go to the City who will have another analysis done after which we may be advised if we can build on the site behind the current museum. Again, thank you for your support and generosity. We will keep you updated.

## MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer gave in memory of **Galena White, Genevieve Howell, Ray Walker, Doug Graham, Amy Ayers, Ruth Keller and Evelyn Cawelti**

James Jevens gave in memory of **Donnel Jevens**

## HONORARIUMS

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer donated in honor of this year's **Dons and Doñas**

Rod Gilbert contributed in honor of **Doña Connie Halpern**

**Fall Gardening Tips by Betty Jo McDonald**

Gardening in autumn is a special time to renew southern California gardens. The intense heat of this summer, where our trees foliage burned and our flowers simply died, is over. At least the days are shorter, so our gardens have the cool evenings to recover. If you have burned leaves on your shrubs and trees, do not trim off the burned leaves until you are sure the intense heat is over. The burned leaves offer some protection from the heat and sun to the green leaves below.

Fall is a good time to refurbish your mulch around your shrubs and trees. Mulch helps you save water and keeps the roots of the plants cooler. As it decomposes, it provides nourishment for the plants. Fall is the time to plant native shrubs. We will be planting new native shrubs in places in our garden where we removed dying trees.

Good choices to plant for our area are *Ribes vibrnifolium*, an evergreen current. It is a great plant for attracting birds who love its berries. Plant it in in shade or partial shade. Other great plants for Camarillo gardens are *Arctostaphylos* varieties. The common name is manzanita, and the variety that does well here is "Pacific Mist."

A third shrub to consider planting this fall is one of many varieties of *Ceanothus*. You may call this plant by one of its common names, California lilac. A low growing variety that can serve as a focal point or a ground cover for a slope is "Yankee Point." This grows quite well in our garden. If you need a taller and larger plant, the most beautiful one is the very dark violet flowered ceanothus, "Concha." It has very tiny deep green leaves and is magnificent when in full bloom.

If you long for flowers, the native offerings are *Heuchera "maxima"* (coral bells), *Mimulus* varieties with the unforgettable common name of "Sticky Monkey Flower" and California poppies from seed. Fall is also the time to plant new, or divide your *Iris douglasii*. In our garden we have also discovered that these low growing *Iris* with the beautiful flowers grow well from seed.

This should be enough to get most of us out in the nurseries and in our gardens digging and mulching.

Happy gardening!



1890s Medical Buggy donated by Paul Dwork

## Board of Directors 2018-2019

Joy Todd, *President*

Bob Burrow, *Vice President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Debbie Thiessen, *Recording Secretary*

Gerry Olsen, *Parliamentarian*

Barbara Wagner, *Corresponding Secretary*

Max Copenhagen, *Immediate Past President*

Liz Daily, *Member at Large*

Ira Grooms, *Member at Large*

David Bratz

Terry DeWolfe

Randy Eccles

Raelene Manzer

Anne Megowan

Patricia Roth

Valerie Tackett

Liz Daily

Gail DeWolfe

David Hibbits

Ron McCown

Beverly Pearson

Daryl Smith

Bill Todd

Ted Daniel

Bob Fierro

Bill Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

John Pearson

Betty Sullivan

Dr. Renee Whitlock

### Standing Committees for 2017-2018

Finance: Bob Rust; Museum Operations: Bill Todd; Events: Joy Todd; Garden; Betty Jo MacDonald;  
Facilities: Bob Burrow; Communication: Betty Sullivan.

*Thank you for supporting our Dine Out events. Funds generated help us keep the lights on at the Museum, maintain the garden and print and mail this newsletter*

### THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

invites you to

DINE OUT on Tuesday, October 2

At



185 Daily Dr., Camarillo

From 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

You must present this coupon to your server in  
order for the Society to be given credit.

### THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

invites you to

DINE OUT on Tuesday, November 6

At **YOLANDA'S**



86 E Daily Dr.

Camarillo

From 4 p.m.  
to 9:30 p.m.

You must present this coupon in order for the  
Society to be given credit.

**NEWS FROM THE  
PLEASANT VALLEY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

*The mission of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and Garden is to acquire, identify, restore and preserve artifacts, documents and photographs related to the Pleasant Valley community; to make the museum and garden a focal point for the dissemination of local history and the education of the general public, and to recognize local residents who have provided outstanding service to the Pleasant Valley community.*

720 Las Posas Road  
PO Box 570  
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570  
(805) 482-3660  
E-mail address: [pvhs@pvhsonline.org](mailto:pvhs@pvhsonline.org)  
Web site address: [pvhsonline.org](http://pvhsonline.org)  
Newsletter Editor:  
Betty Sullivan, 482-6340

**PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR**

Dine Out at Marie Calendar's on Oct. 2

Dine Out at Yolandas on Nov. 6

Val Rains speaks on Nov. 11

Visit our new and improved website



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oxnard, CA  
Permit No. 128

Pleasant Valley Historical Society  
P. O. Box 570  
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570  
Museum Open: Saturday and Sunday  
12 noon to 4 p.m.