



The *Echo*

The 2022 Dons and Doñas



Left to right: Brenda Brueckner, Karen Gatchel, Wayne Brueckner, Mary Ann Novak, Betty Weyek, Helen Faul, David Tennesen, Curt Luft, Mary Goldberg, Gwen Speakes, Diana Hagen, Don Howald

Originally the title of Don and Doña was reserved for royalty, nobility and church hierarchy. The title also has a heartfelt meaning—it is a mark of respect from the community. PVHS began honoring community in 1965. On September 17th we honored a new group who, for their contributions in the community, and with nominations from the community, have become this year's 12 honorees.

References to some of the contributions of the 2022 Don and Doña Recipients

BRENDA & WAYNE BRUECKNER are very involved in Camarillo youth sports clubs and *Chapel City Church*. With their four children, they have worked with PONY Baseball, Camarillo Roadrunner, Girls Softball, and Youth Basketball as coaches, board members, scorekeeper, and fundraisers. Their children are now greatly involved in the same way with sport teams as demonstrated by Wayne and Brenda. They own and operate *Callender's House of Glass, Inc.* Wayne is on the church Elder Board and also on the *Ivy Lawn Board of Directors*. Both of them have devoted many leadership hours to their church. They have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

HELEN FAUL was a stellar demonstration elementary teacher receiving numerous local and state-wide recognitions for her work as a trainer for EISS (Early Intervention for School Success). She taught for 26 years in Ocean View SD. She has taken on leadership roles in OVSD Teachers' Assoc., PEO, Delta Gamma Society, and Camarillo Ranch Foundation. Helen has been a school tours docent for the Ranch. She is also highly involved in leadership roles at the *United Methodist Church*.

KAREN GACHEL lives for music—grew up with involvement in youth bands, UCLA Alumni Band, and has worked with Camarillo's *SOKM* (Save our Kids Music) for more than twenty years. She has been on the Boards of Camarillo Community Band and Gold Coast Wind Ensemble moving them to 501(c)3 organizations. She worked as Education Programs Manager for the New West Symphony, Ventura County Middle School Honor Band, and held many positions with ACHS Music Boosters where she received the 2015 Outstanding Booster Award.

MARY GOLDBERG is a public servant who specializes in kids' books and youth programs. Mary is on the boards of *Ventura County Reading Association*, *American Association of University Women* (AAUW)—Creative Arts Workshop Director and past President, and also the *PV Historical Society* Board. Mary was named "Public Servant of the Year" by the *Camarillo Chamber of Commerce*. She currently is a member of the *AC Ranch Foundation Board*, and is a docent for the Ranch House. Mary works with the creation of programs for *kidSTREAM*. She is chair of AAUW's annual Knowledge Bowl.

DIANA HAGEN at 97, still leads early morning Senior Exercise classes at PVR&PD which she has been doing for 26 years. She feels that it is important for all seniors to be physically active, socially engaged and to have a sense of purpose. Her long involvement with the *Mount Cross Lutheran Church* includes Bible study and fellowship groups and the prayer shawl ministry. An avid reader herself, she actually has a lending library in her garage benefitting friends and neighbors, shut-ins of all ages.

DON HOWALD is ready to help with construction or assisting in disasters. Locally, at the *United Methodist Church*, he has been instrumental in the construction of the sanctuary, fellowship hall [has a room named after him—the Howald Parlor], and converting the parsonage to the Mission House. Don has helped build *Habitat for Humanity* houses, volunteered at *Food Share*, and he participates in the *Ventura County Organization Active in Disaster*. Don flew as a commercial airline pilot for 35 years.

CURT LUFT as teacher, administrator, counselor, coach, advisor, athletic director, worked through the ranks of public-school academia for 34 years, retiring in 1999. In 2021, he was inducted in the *Ventura County Educators' Hall of Fame*. He received many awards from Thousand Oaks HS and Westlake HS. Curt has held numerous leadership roles at *Trinity Presbyterian Church*—Deacon, Ruling Elder, as well as long-time member of the choir. He supervises and instructs at the free after-school study center for Rancho Campana HS students.

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MARY ANN NOVAK has filled her post-retirement days with passionate volunteering—homeless shelters, cat sanctuary, theater, PVHS, and was President of *Amber's Light Lions* 2020-2021 when they devoted 2,500 service hours and led the group to be named the #1 Club for her district. Mary Ann has been given several awards for her leadership and service in Lions clubs, including the *Henry J Asian Fellow* from the Student Speakers Foundation, the *Melvin Jones Fellow* for dedicated humanitarian services, and the *Lion International President's Certificate of Appreciation*.

GWEN SPEAKES inspires people to do more than they ever thought that they could. During the last 24 years, she has held lead positions in the *Meadowlark Service League*, serving several times as President. She served on the *St. John's Hospital Community Board*, and worked with the *Camarillo Ranch Foundation* and *Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo*. Gwen was awarded *2017 Camarillo Woman of the Year*, and *Acorn's Top Ten* in 2018.

DAVID TENNESSEN has always committed to serving the Camarillo area, professionally as a law enforcement officer with the *Ventura County Sheriff's Office*, and volunteering. He was Police Chief of Camarillo from 1999-2004 and retired from the VC Sheriff's Office in 2011. He served on the board of managers of the *Camarillo Family YMCA* for four years, twice on the *Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo*, and President of the *Camarillo Sunrise Rotary Club*.

BETTY WEYEK, as a community school music advocate, spearheaded the organization, *Save Our Kids' Music* (SOKM) in 1991, and continues to serve. In addition, Betty has served as a Cub Scout Leader, a Girl Scout Leader, and Unit Director for the Camarillo Christmas Parade for twenty years. She is Vice President of the *Camarillo Community Band*, and Band Librarian of the *Ventura County Concert Band*. She was 1998-99 *PVSD Classified Employee of the Year*, 2001 *Camarillo Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year*, and 2016 *PVR&P District Volunteer of the Year*. She also works as Music Program Coordinator for PVSD.

President's Message

The next months are truly important to PVHS...moving forward with our fund-raising campaign. We need the funds to continue renovating the current building and expanding. We need your help. Your donation is 100% to the building fund. We have no paid staff. Suggestions of others you think might be interested in supporting our growth and our service to the community are truly appreciated.

PVHS is working to establish an Advisory Council of individuals interested in the future of our museum and gardens. Our working board meets monthly and over sees the daily operations of the Museum. The Council will help us further our community presence and give further perspective to our mission.

Our efforts in the community are not slowing because the museum is closed. We continue making presentations to local groups. A group of our volunteers is working on programs to take to local schools. The success of last year's school programs has encouraged us to expand. Taking parts of our collections to classes, with a special focus on the needs of the teachers' programs, is an adventure for us all.

We welcome monetary donations and pledges. Legacy gifts are truly appreciated. Businesses that can donate "in kind" are another way to help our campaign. Please consider helping!

We greatly miss two long-time PVHS board members who have recently died. Raelene Manzer, who died suddenly August 31st, has been an active board member for years and headed the Don and Doña event for many of those years. She was honored as a Doña in 2001. Terry DeWolfe died July 30th. Among other activities, he supported the Living History events with his woodworking expertise, and had been a natural Santa for the Camarillo Ranch House festivities. He was a 2005 Don.

1965 Doña Julia Sotelo

The long life of Julia Torres Sotelo began in Zacatecas, Mexico in 1890. She was an active and creative girl who loved riding horses and showing off her skill with high-speed races. “She rode side-saddle,” explained her daughter, Paula Griggs. “My mother had a mare. The horse was hers and it was her responsibility to care for it.” Much to his embarrassment, Julia beat her husband in a race to town.

Young Julia was pampered by her parents and did not want for anything. She also knew that she must marry young. At age 16, she married Amado Sotelo in 1906. They lived a peaceful life on a hacienda managed by her father-in-law. But the complex political and social problems of Mexico reached the ranch with dreadful consequences. “The revolutionaries came to the ranch and wanted (my grandfather) to take over the land,” explained Paula. He refused with the words ‘I am not a thief.’ The rebels killed her husband’s parents. “The revolution touched everyone,” said Paula.

Julia’s pampered life was over. The decision to leave tumultuous Mexico changed the course of the family history. She found herself in a new country with many challenges that included learning a new language, confronting educational and job skills, handling motherhood of eleven children and coping with frequent deaths. The family had received a tip from a friend about good jobs and good climate in a small California town. Leaving their home in Colorado, they moved to Camarillo in 1923.

A Camarillo friend had encouraged Amado to purchase a lot in a new Camarillo neighborhood, build a home and buy a life insurance policy to protect Julia and the children. It was wise guidance. Amado, age 44, died in 1930.

The home was in the Fulton Street neighborhood affectionately called “the village” and located on Pujol Street. Today it is known as Glenn Drive. Juan Camarillo and William Fulton owned several lots, planned the town site, named the streets and employed the first surveyor, John Berry. “It was our little village within Camarillo,” said Paula. “Everyone knew everybody.”

Camarillo friends became extended family and watched as the young widow planned the construction of a small house behind the Sotelo home. It would become income property. The once pampered teenager was now a single parent, employee and businessperson.

After Amado’s death, Julia worked in packing houses, housekeeper for Onorinda Jones, the longtime principal of Pleasant Valley School, baby sat for Adolfo Camarillo’s granddaughters and did her own maintenance jobs around her homes.

Perhaps it was the confidence she gained from youth with racing a horse side-saddle that Julia found the courage and determination to persevere. She could easily fix a leaky roof or pipe. “We were poor and she was very economical,” explained her daughter.



Tweedy, Julia, Ned Chatfield, Earl Joseph

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Though she was busy, Julia found time for the sick and bereaved. Every Sunday, after Mass, she visited the sick. To comfort a family at a death, she offered to lead the rosary. Julia had a lifelong devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Having suffered the early death of her husband and only five of her eleven children surviving to adulthood, Julia understood the meaning of loss. Her quiet, caring and hardworking life had not gone unnoticed. In 1965, a doctor from Camarillo State Hospital nominated Julia in the first Dons and Doñas honorees by PVHS. Tweedy Camarillo Rouce, much to her chagrin, announced that she should have been the one to nominate Julia. Tweedy had known the Sotelo family for many years through Pleasant Valley School.

The townspeople respected the loving family home that Julia had created. She toiled long hours, but her children thrived in a caring community that became extended family.

In 1966 the community again gathered and honored Julia. It was her 76th birthday. Members of Camarillo's first City Council, Mayor Earl Joseph, Council members Tweedy Camarillo Rouce and Ned Chatfield joined in the festivities. Several years later they would be honored as Dons and Doñas.

Always planning ahead and careful with finances, Julia had proudly made all the payments for her final arrangements. She died September 13, 1981 at age 91. Msgr. John Hughes, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen, comforted the mourners as he led the rosary in memory of Doña Julia.

This article is an excerpt; and the entire article can be emailed to your 'Inbox'. Simply visit the Pleasant Valley Historical Society Website (pvhsonline.org) "Contact Us" webpage and use the "Send us a Message" to request your email copy of the "1965 Doña Julia Sotelo" article.

From the Garden

The heat has been a challenge for our garden and we are working to save our trees. We have extra ground watering and some misting for the redwoods. We also provide saucers of water for the creatures in the garden to discourage them from chewing through the plastic drip lines!

The big change is the removal of all of our tropical milkweed—the plants with colorful orange and yellow flowers. The State of CA has issued a removal order on the tropical milkweed and we are working to replace it with a native species. Why, you might say? From the Xerces Society website:

“Tropical milkweed becomes a problem when planted in temperate areas where it does not die back in winter. A protozoan parasite of monarch butterflies, *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* or OE for short, can travel with monarchs visiting the plants and become deposited on leaves. When caterpillars hatch and start eating the plant, they ingest the OE. High OE levels in adult monarchs have been linked to lower migration success in the eastern monarch population, as well as reductions in body mass, lifespan, mating success, and flight ability.”

“When native milkweeds die back after blooming, the parasite dies along with them so that each summer's monarch population feeds on fresh, parasite-free foliage. In contrast, tropical milkweed that remains evergreen through winter allows for OE levels to build up on the plant over time, meaning successive generations of monarch caterpillars feeding on the plant can be exposed to dangerous levels of OE.”

We want to share this information and encourage the demolition of the tropical milkweed. It will mean that we will probably not have butterflies year round, but they will be stronger and healthier.

Support PV HISTORICAL SOCIETY with a great meal!

Bruce's BBQ Pick-up



\$15



Tri-tip & Chicken, salad, vegetarian beans, bread

➡ October 4th, 2022 (Tuesday) ⬅
RESERVE by the previous Friday (September 30th)

➡ November 1st, 2022 (Tuesday) ⬅
RESERVE by the previous Friday (October 28th)

➡ January 10th, 2023 (Tuesday) ⬅
RESERVE by the previous Friday (January 6th)

Leave message with NAME and NUMBER of meals at 805-482-3660
or email: pvhs@pvhsonline.org

PICK-UP 5 pm to 6 pm at Camarillo Christian Church,
1777 ARNEILL ROAD (corner of Las Posas)

PAY at pick-up time with CASH, or CHECK made to PVHS,
or PayPal at www.pvhsonline.org. Click BBQ

Enjoy Great Meals from -

Bruce's

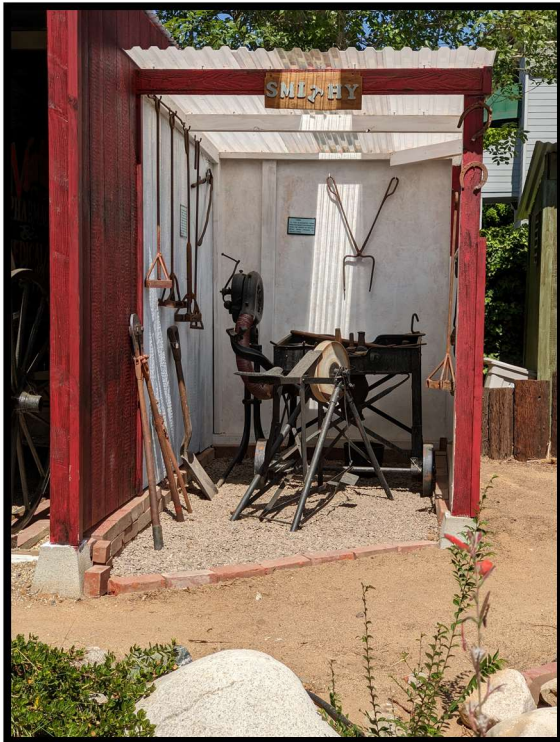
BBQ

Pick-Up

Come and Enjoy:

*Choose any 1 date (good), or
Choose any 2 dates (better), or
Choose all 3 dates (best)!*

The Botanical Garden's newest addition: The SMITHY



Located on the east side of the Buggy Barn

Basic Blacksmith tools: a Forge & Grinding Wheel

Correction

The July Echo incorrectly reported the last name of Josie Cabrera. It should be Josie Cabrera Carranza. She celebrated her 100th birthday in September. Congratulations.

MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer donated in memory of:

**Mary Buzzel, Terry DeWolfe, Jeanne Franklin, Richard J. Mahlke,
Raelene Manzer, Jerry Pizza, Pat Scholle**

*Donations in memory of **Terry DeWolfe** from:*

*Troy DeWolfe, Greg & Karin Farrin, Alder Iverson, Thomas Jacobson,
Hillary and Stella Ling, Eamonn O'Donovan family, Chris Perkins, Dee Press,
Bob & Joan Rust, Marianne Slaughter, Bill & Joy Todd, Carolyn & Tom Whalen*

*Donation in memory of **Raelene Manzer** from:*

*Dorothy Berzman, Steve & Linda Donovan, Greg & Karin Farrin, Rita Faulders, Joey Hernandez
Sean Mac Donald, JoAnn McCrea, Sharron Moore, Maria Simonneau, Mrs. Dawn Stiles, Bill & Joy Todd*

*Donation in memory of **Chuck Andrews** from:*

Greg & Karin Farrin

TRIBUTES

Tributes from:

*Mary Goldberg to: Honor my fellow **Dons & Doñas***

*Mary O'Neil to: **Helen Faul** as a new Doña*

*Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer to: **Ron & Janet Everett's 53rd** anniversary*

*Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer to: **Frank & Patricia Roth's 63rd** anniversary*

BUILDING and other DONATIONS

Russ & Caryn Becker	Richard Bergman	Donna Burger	Camarillo Recycling
Letty Chaffe	Alisyn Cobb	Judy Crenshaw	William Cunningham
James & Linda Dark	Gail DeWolfe	Elizabeth Dilibert	Patricia & Tom Dodds
Patrick Erker	Rita Faulders	Chris Garlington	Tony & Shannon Goff
Bill & Ann Hulfish	Inside Leisure Village	J & H Engineering	Margaret Keyes
John Lescher	Donna Lutz	Beth Miller	Dan Moretti
Fred Penny	Fred Phipps	PV Garden Club	Jim & Linda Reynolds
Paul Rockenstein	Jane & Tom Rozanski	Marcy Rozsa	Kandy Riave Rutman
Donna Searcy	Helen Shields	Angie Solis	Jane & Tom Spasiano
Nancy Steiner-Varosky	TOPS	Craig Underwood	Adele Walsh
	Starr Wilson	Jordan Winifred	

Membership

Membership helps support PVHS operations. From just \$25 and upwards annually, it indicates that you approve of our presence in Pleasant Valley. NEW members these last months will also be credited for 2023 membership.

PVHS Board Members 2022-2023

David Bratz
Karin Farrin
Bill Manzer
John Pearson

Max Copenhagen
Bob Fierro
Betty Jo McDonald
Paul Rockenstein
Bill Todd

Gail DeWolfe
Mary Goldberg
Beth Miller
Betty Sullivan
Dr. Renee Whitlock

Michael Ellias
David Hibbits
Beverly Pearson
Valerie Tackett

PVHS Board of Directors 2022-2023

Joy Todd, *President*
Greg Farrin, *Vice President*
Bob Rust, *Treasurer*
Debbie Thiessen, *Recording Secretary*

Liz Daily, *Corresponding Secretary*
Bob Burrow, *Immediate Past President*
Ira Grooms, *Member at Large*
Gerry Olsen, *Parliamentarian*

PVHS Standing Committees for 2022-2023

Finance: Bob Rust
Communications: Max Copenhagen
Garden: Betty Jo McDonald
Events: Beth Miller

Museum Operations: Greg Farrin
Accessions: Joy Todd
Facilities: Bob Burrow
Finance Recorder: Bill Todd

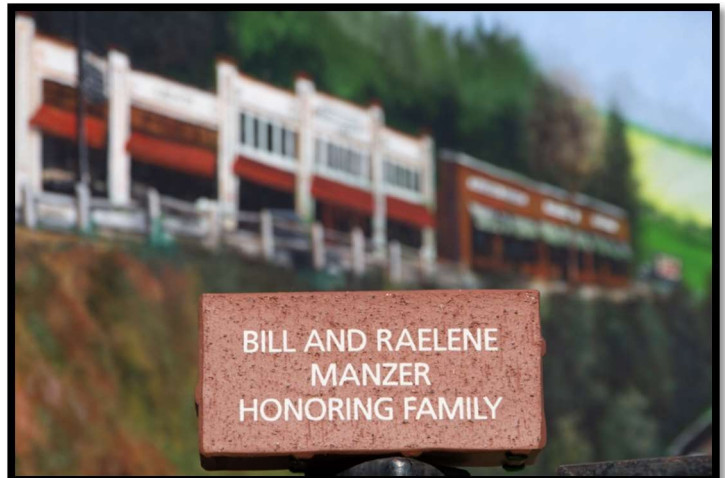
Museum Expansion Fundraising: Sponsoring a Personalized Brick

The Personalized Brick Fundraising Campaign is doing its part in the Museum Expansion Fundraising program. Since the Personalized Brick Campaign launch in July of 2021 over 159 Bricks have already been ordered. The popularity of the Personalized Bricks will continue to escalate all through the Expansion Project. Sponsoring a Personalized Brick today will ensure delivery with the first batch of bricks to be delivered, and secure an early prime location for the displaying of your brick.

Sponsoring a personalized brick, a 4" x 8" brick which will be located and displayed at the PVHS Museum outdoor location, is more than a \$200 donation to the PVHS Museum Expansion fund:

- 1) A brick can be personalized with your name, and/or your family's name, allowing you to be part of the PVHS Museum history.
- 2) Or, a brick can be personalized to honor anyone, or anything, you want to be remembered.

The form to reserve and sponsor a personalized brick is shown on the following page.



Museum Expansion Fundraising: Personalized Brick Order Form

**PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM EXPANSION**

Location of
Personalized
Bricks



"Be a Part of History"

Reserve a place in PVHS Museum history by sponsoring a personalized brick.

You may sponsor a brick in your name, or to honor anyone/anything you want to be remembered.

PLEASE PRINT, maximum 16 spaces per line, including blank spaces and punctuation. All inscriptions will be centered and capitalized. Filler in the engraved area will provide a permanent contrast and protect the quality of the engraving.

Enclosed is my \$200.00 contribution for a 4" x 8" paver with up to three lines of text.

Make checks payable to *Pleasant Valley Historical Society*; or to use PayPal, please visit our website at pvhsonline.org and use the DONATE button at the top of the webpage.

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please mail this completed form to: PVHS

Attn: Personalized Brick
PO Box 570
Camarillo, CA 93012

October 2022

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 education of the general public, and to recognize local residents who have provided outstanding service to the Pleasant Valley community.

Location: 720 Las Posas Road, Camarillo

Mailing Address: PVHS, PO Box 570,
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

Telephone: (805) 482-3660

Email: pvhs@pvhsonline.org

Website: pvhsonline.org

Newsletter Editor: Manny Hatz



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Search: pleasant valley historical society



Follow us on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/pvhsmuseum>



Follow us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Search: pleasant valley historical society



PLEASANT VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1964



Thank You to Ivy Lawn
for providing a very generous
grant for printing costs of the
Echoes and other materials.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Permit No. 128

Oxnard, CA

PAID

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Non-Profit Org.

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