



PLEASANT VALLEY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN
Established 1964

The Echo

Announcing the “Class of 2026 Honorary Dons & Doñas”

Each year the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. They must have lived in the Pleasant Valley area for at least 20 years and have had a minimum of ten years involvement. Nominations are received from the public, and are evaluated by a committee to determine each year’s recipients. Congratulations to the following:

Kristie Akl

Bob Burrow

Madeline Lee

Nancy Lee Phillips

Daniel Rhymes

Linda Rhymes

Bill Schulze

Kimberly Stephenson

Barton Stern

Bill Thomas

These individuals will be presented to the public at our Don & Doña Award BBQ on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12th at the PVR&P District Community Center, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Formal invitations will be sent out in August, or can be reserved on our website, pvhsonline.org, now. Select “EVENTS”



Membership Reminder

We need your support for ongoing museum operations. You can join or renew anytime during the year. Your dues will be credited for one year from the date payment is received. Look to the website: pvhsonline.org for easy payment.

President's Message

Since 1964 the Pleasant Valley Historical Society has honored those individuals who have made a positive difference in our community. Nominations are received from the public and this year the individuals selected come from a wide range of professions and volunteer work. Each is very deserving to be named an honorary Don or Doña.

And thank you to those who took the time to make a nomination! A common thread of those being honored is that they never looked for recognition, they just had the vision and desire to give back to others.

My sincerest congratulations to each new Don and Doña, as what they have done - and do - is awesome!



Gary Ann Jewell

Charles Honn Botanical Garden

Charles would be pleased to see how his vision of a shady, restful, hidden garden has changed in almost forty years. Last quarter's *Echo* described how the display buildings in the garden have extended the public exposure to our historical artifacts. The original flora has matured wonderfully — the Sequoia, California Buckeye, Colter Pine, and Sycamore trees, for example. Yet the ground covers are fighting with weeds that are not welcome!



Two Horned Owls:
Who & Why

Crews of volunteers and individuals are working to gain back control of the intentional plantings. *Amber's Light Lions Club* have spent hours working with us to get the garden in shape for the re-opening of the museum grounds. [Thanks, Susie, Mickey, Gail, and Mary Jo] Also, two resident great-horned owls, *Who & Why*, keep watch for the unnecessary fauna.



Pictured Left to Right:
Susie, Mickey, Gail & Mary Jo

Happy Birthday! Tanks a lot!



The water tanks in Camarillo try to blend in, but how can you do that when you decorate for Christmas? The “standing water pipe” was installed in 1951 — 75 years ago — near old town’s Grandview Avenue. *Pleasant Valley Mutual Water District’s 3 tanks in Camarillo Heights were built in 1924, with three additional ones added in 1962. The other two are south of North Loop. “In the entire history of the world, those nations that have survived and continued to prosper have been the ones successful in providing a continuous and adequate water supply.”* Historian, Arnold Toynbee (1889-1975).



LET’S GET IT DONE!



\$750 thousand range. Now it has more than doubled in cost estimates to \$1.8 million.

Gratefully, private donations are close to \$1.5 million right now. With help from the City of Camarillo, we have the funds necessary to finish the parking lot. Progress will continue on the interior as funds are available.

A friend and major donor, Fred Phipps, suggested this rallying phrase: “LET’S GET IT DONE!” He’s right! We have been asking for help, now is the time to put it over the top!

Our Volunteers Keep Busy Preparing for Re-opening of Museum and Grounds



Exterior walls highlight garden critters



Interior display is filling up

The latest out-building that Greg and Bill built, the “Hen House,” is a unique display featuring what might be found on a farm. Diane has painted resident critters — coyote, hawk, racoon, squirrel — on the sides. Mary, Beth and Winnie have worked hard imagining and developing this building, as well as five other display buildings in the garden. The back of this building houses garden tools.

Meanwhile, Joy, Karin, Sarah, Mary Ann, Phyllis, Nancy, Holly and Himatlal are identifying and categorizing the many pictures, newspaper articles, and other artifacts that have been added to our collections. A former Ventura County Library card-catalog stack holds index cards, cross referenced for every assessed item. Archival boxes of various sizes hold everything from letters to clothing. Over twenty-five architects’ flat-file drawers contain larger historic maps, posters, newspapers, brochures and pictures. Seven out-buildings on the property contain items used for alternating displays in the museum.

All of this activity is for the benefit of preserving the legacy of the Pleasant Valley — Camarillo, Somis, Santa Rosa Valley, Springville, and the Oxnard Plain — for the education and appreciation of the public.

Donations Received March 17th through June 15th, 2026

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations from Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer in memory of:

2007 "Don" David & Linda Bratz, Mrs. Cris Garlington,

2003 "Don" David Kaiser, 2003 "Doña" Donna Lutz

Donations from Greg & Karin Farrin in memory of:

2007 "Don" David & Linda Bratz, 2018 "Doña" Patricia Craig

Donations from Bob & Olivia Fulkerson in memory of:

2003 "Doña" Donna Lutz, 2008 "Doña" Dorothy Berzman

Donation in memory of 2007 "Don" David & Linda Bratz from: Bill & Joy Todd

Donation in memory of 2005 "Don" Terry DeWolfe from: Gail & Troy DeWolfe

Donation in memory of Craig Johnson from: Betty Jo McDonald

Donation in memory of 2003 "Don" David and Jackie Kaiser from: Drew A. Smith

TRIBUTE DONATIONS

Donations from Daniel Moretti in honor of:

1997 "Don" Fred Phipps, 2021 "Doña" Cathy Trainer

For their commitment to PVHM&G

Donations from Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer in honor of:

Gerry & Joan Olsen's 68th Anniversary, 2004 "Don" Gerry Olsen's 92nd Birthday

BUILDING and other DONATIONS

Beverly Adams

Noella Belvedere

Eric Bergh

David Bratz

Karen Bulger

Robert & Barbara Burrow

Camarillo Amber's Light Lions Club

Mike & Charlotte Craven

Elizabeth Daily

Steve & Linda Donovan

Gary Goff

David Hibbits

Ron & Sarah Karlsson

Beverly Luft

Bill Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

Meadowlark Service League

Anne Megowan

Beth Miller

Leslie Mitsuuchi

Dan Moretti

John & Beverly Pearson

Brian Pendleton

Fred Phipps

Rockenstein Family Trust

Donna Searcy

Somis Thursday Club

Soroptimist International Of Camarillo

Bill & Joy Todd

TOPS



Thank You, Dave

Recently the City of Camarillo, and our PVHM&G board of directors, lost an outstanding volunteer, Dave Bratz. He was a 2007 “Don”, and a member of the board since 2014. He always was willing to help out with any construction, wood, electrical, or “inventing” gadgets. Food Share, Disaster Response teams, United Methodist Church, *Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology*, and *Habitat for Humanity* are only a few of the groups to which Dave gave his time in retirement. He has two children, Andy and Jennifer, and grands. His wife, Linda, died one week before he did. Services will be July 11th at the United Methodist Church.

PVHM&G Selects Board for 2026-2027

President: Mary Ann Novak | Vice President: Bob Burrow | Recording Secretary: Mary Goldberg
Corresponding Secretary: Bill Todd | Treasurer: Bob Rust | Past President: Joy Todd.

Board Of Directors

Eric Bergh, Max Copenhagen, Gail DeWolfe, Mike Ellias, Greg Farrin, Karin Farrin, Bob Fierro, David Hibbits, Bruce Jochums, Sarah Karlsson, Bill Manzer, Beth Miller, Beverly Pearson, Rick Pena, Paul Rockenstein, Bart Stern, Valerie Tackett, Richard Wagner, Renee Whitlock

Congratulations to Stan Daily Essay Scholarship Winner

Matty Perkins, received the 2026 \$1,000 scholarship given by Elizabeth Daily on his essay, “Volcanoes, Bells, and Bonds: A Culminative History of Rancho Campana High School”

It will be printed in the Don/Doña BBQ booklet and is listed on our website now. Matty is a graduate of Rancho Campana High School, and plans to attend CSU-Monterey Bay studying Film and Biology.

“Don’t Wait any Longer: First Order Going in Soon!”

Since the launch in July of 2021, and through present, close to 400 – 4” x 8” bricks have already been ordered. As soon as the parking lot is prepared, we hope to install the first batch of Personalized Bricks. That means that we will soon be sending off the order to the company to etch in each brick.

Read the submission form on the following page for important details. A personalized brick can honor or remember any name, family, church, business, or event that you want to be immortalized as long as PVHM&G exists!

PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum Expansion Project

Personalized
Brick
Display
Patio



Buy your brick
with a click...



SCAN ME

"Be a Part of History"

Reserve a place in PVHS Museum history by sponsoring a personalized brick to be installed on site as part of the project. You may sponsor a brick in your name or to honor anyone or 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 (PayPal allows payment with a Credit Card), please visit our website at pvhsonline.org and use the PERSONALIZED BRICK button at the top of the webpage.

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please mail this completed form to:

P.V.H.S.

PO Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & 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.

July 2026



PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN

Established 1964

Location: 720 Las Posas Road, Camarillo
(Presently closed for Construction)
Mailing Address: PVHS, PO Box 570,
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570
Telephone: (805) 482-3660
Email: pvhmag@gmail.com
Website: pvhsonline.org
Newsletter Editor: Manny Hatz



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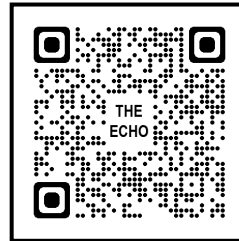


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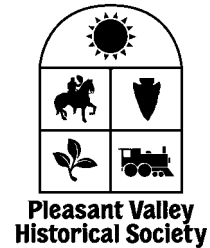
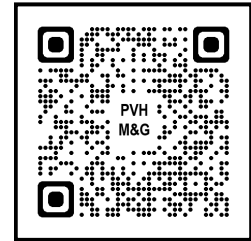


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