



Meeting Agenda

Thursday September 26, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Conference Room

No. 1 The Plaza Sonoma, CA

1	Call to Order, Roll Call
2	Public Communication
3	Approval of the Minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting
4	Selection of the 2013 Treasure Artist of the Year
5	Commissioner remarks
6	Future Agenda Items. 10/24/13-Student Art Award Process, 1/23/14-Review Student entries and set interview date(s), 2/27/14-Select Student Art Award recipient & discuss next meeting date
7	Adjournment

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Lisa Carlsson, Chair
Kari Ontko, Vice Chair
Nellie Cravens
Antoinette Kuhry
Pamela Personette
Linda Ransom
Lorna Sheridan
Kate Schertz, Alternate

Posted: September 19, 2013
Gay Johann, City Clerk

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**CITY OF SONOMA
CULTURAL & FINE ARTS COMMISSION**

**August 22, 2013
MINUTES**

Call to Order – Chair Carlsson called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Welcome New Member - New Commission Alternate Kate Schertz was introduced and welcomed to the Commission. Going around the room, each Commissioner introduced themselves.

Roll Call:

Present: Carlsson, Kuhry, Ontko, Personette, Ransom, Schertz

Absent: Cravens, Sheridan

Also Present: City Clerk Johann

Public Communications – Commissioners reviewed incoming mail.

Minutes of the May 23, 2013 Meeting – Approved by unanimous consensus.

Rules of Conduct – Chair Carlsson spoke about how meetings should be ran and shared rules of conduct with the Commission that she would like to see observed.

Online Artist Directory – Chair Carlsson stated that she felt the directory would make a great Senior Project and asked if anyone had the time to head up the project by submitting it to the high school and following through with oversight. Seeing no volunteers, she stated that the project should be put on hold for now.

Treasure Artist Process and Event – At the request of Chair Carlsson, Commissioner Ransom described the process for nominations and selection of the Treasure Artist. Commissioners discussed the timing and location of the reception and agreed to try to hold the reception in October or early November. Commissioner Kuhry volunteered to Chair the reception.

Meeting Schedule – Commissioners discussed and reached unanimous consensus to schedule future meetings on the following dates: September 26, 2013, October 24, 2013, January 23, 2014, and February 27, 2014.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gay Johann
City Clerk

Memo

To: Cultural & Fine Arts Commission
From: Gay Johann, City Clerk
Meeting Date: 9/19/2013
Subject: Selection of the 2013 Treasure Artist of the Year

BACKGROUND:

Each year the CFAC selects a Treasure Artist of the Year pursuant to the Award Procedure adopted by the Commission in 1996 and last updated in 2000. The Award Procedure lists the criteria for selection of the Treasure Artist as “*outstanding achievement in a chosen artistic medium*”. In making the selection, Commissioners may consider:

- Nominations submitted by the public (this year)
 - David Aguilar
 - Leta Davis
 - Todd Evans
 - James Rawls
 - Thena Trygstad
- Nominations submitted by a CFAC member
- Past nominees
- Nominations made orally at the meeting

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Select the 2013 Treasure Artist of the Year. The Chair should telephone the artist as soon as possible to inform them of the selection. Staff will do a press release the following day.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Award Procedure
- List of past Treasure Artists
- List of past and present nominees
- Nominations received this year

July 23, 1996/updated 6/98, 10/2000

City of Sonoma
Cultural and Fine Arts Commission

Treasure Artist of the Year

Award Procedure

A little history:

The Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year award was first given in 1983. Awardees are as follows:

1983	Marian Brackenridge Ted Christensen	Sculptor Painter	1991	Linus Maurer	Artist
1984	M.F.K. Fisher James Vanderbilt	Writer Painter	1992	Norton Buffalo	Musician
1985	Anthony Stellan	Sculptor	1993	Jim Griewe	Chorale Conductor
1986	Dan Ruggles	Musician	1994	Fred Parker	Artist
1987	Irma Wallem	Writer		Stanley 'Mouse'	Artist
1988	C. Carl Jennings	Metalsmith	1995	Joanne Connor- metzger	Musician
1989	Helene Minelli	Painter, Sculptor	1996	Tony Kuhry	Sonoma Opera Founder
1990	Otto Hitzberger	Sculptor	1997	Ray Jacobsen	Artist
			1998	Beverly Prevost	Ceramicist
			1999	Kate Kennedy	Actress and Director

The criteria for the award can be found in most of the past press releases, i.e., "The Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year is selected and recognized for outstanding achievement in a chosen artistic medium including the performing, visual, theatrical, literary and craft arts." Specific documentation of the original concept for the award hasn't been found. The criteria wording has been fine tuned over time.

There is annual discussion on the Commission about how 'far and wide' the artist must be known, and whether he/she needs to have made significant community contributions in some way. Past awardees represent both 'home grown', so to speak, and 'well known.' It probably balances out.

Beginning with 1992 or 93 (?) the award time frame was changed from late Spring to the Fall.

Commission members may nominate candidates for the award.

Current Procedures:

1. A press release announcing the call for written nominations goes out in early August to the Index-Tribune (samples in Treasure folder) with a request to run it at least 3 times before the submission deadline - usually 1 week to 10 days prior to the September C&FA meeting.
2. Commission staff does an **announcement mailing** to community art groups. Written nominations are received at City Hall. Treasure Chair should stay in touch with the flow in case community follow-up is required to 'beat the bushes.'
3. **Selection** is made by commission members at the September meeting. Notifying the winner can be made by either the C&FA Chair or the Treasure Chair. Once the winner has been notified, a press release should be initiated announcing the winner. The I-T usually does an initial story and covers the public reception as well.

Tentative public reception dates and sites should be discussed at the September meeting. It is usually the responsibility of the Treasure Chair to make the final arrangements, but this has varied.

4. **Public reception** location depends upon award recipient - large or small space, day or evening. Previous sites have included the Sonoma Golf Club, Little Switzerland, Andrew's Hall, Depot Hotel, Vintage House and La Casa. Prices have varied from \$7.50 (luncheon La Casa) to a high of about \$30.00. Tickets prices obviously must cover costs. Commission budget pays for commission members, awardee and spouse/guest, and selected City officials and guests.

Reception publicity is sent to I-T as soon as date and place are selected and includes information about cost and attending. This press release should include a request for I-T photo coverage of the event. Occasionally, a letter signed by the current Mayor has been sent out to the original arts mailing list inviting attendance.

Reception Flowers, or appropriate other gift, should be arranged for awardee spouse/guest. Front table decorations arranged if appropriate.

Reception presentations include: Key to the City; Scroll or certificate framed and signed.

Reception program usually includes some type of entertainment or exhibit and depends on the recipient. (See sample of program and entertainment in folder)

5. **Treasure Award exhibits** are sometimes held at a local venue - the Myron de Long room at the library - around the time of the award.

**CITY OF SONOMA
CULTURAL & FINE ARTS COMMISSION**

TREASURE ARTISTS OF THE YEAR

Year	Name	Art
1983	Marian Brackenridge Ted Christensen	Sculptor Painter
1984	M.F.K. Fisher James Vanderbilt	Writer Painter
1985	Anthony Stellon	Sculptor
1986	Dan Ruggles	Musician
1987	Irma Wallem	Writer
1988	C. Carl Jennings	Metalsmith
1989	Helene Minelli	Painter
1990	Otto Hitzberger	Sculptor
1991	Linus Maurer	Cartoonist
1992	Norton Buffalo	Musician
1993	James Griewe	Chorale Conductor
1994	Stanley Mouse Fred Parker	Painter Painter
1995	Jo Anne Connor-Metzger	Musician
1996	Antoinette Kuhry	Founder, Sonoma City Opera
1997	Ray Jacobsen	Painter
1998	Beverly Prevost	Ceramicist
1999	Kate Kennedy	Actress and Director
2000	Jim Callahan	Sculptor
2001	Beth Marie Deenihan	Dance
2002	Cynthia Hipkiss	Ceramicist
2003	Chester Arnold	Artist and Teacher
2004	Roger & Diana Rhoten	Teachers/Theater
2005	Keith Wicks	Painter
2006	Janis Kobe	Painter, Teacher, Gourd Artist
2007	Richard Schneider	Director of the Home Town Band
2008	Linda Rawls`	Costumer
2009	Lin Lipetz	Painter, Teacher
2010	Gayle Manfre	Painter
2011	Dennis Zieminski	Painter
2012	Barbara Jacobsen	Painter, Teacher

**CITY OF SONOMA
CULTURAL & FINE ARTS COMMISSION
TREASURE ARTIST OF THE YEAR**

2013 NOMINEES

David Aguilar	Musician
Leta Davis	Musician
Todd Evans	Playwright
James Rawls	Author
Thena Trygstad	Gourd Artist

PREVIOUS NOMINEES

Berner, Robert	Painter, Graphic Designer
Burke, John T.	Musician, Composer, Church Organist
Chavoya, Dave	Musician, Landscaper
Chirles, Vincent	Poetry, Cartooning, Architect
Collins, Tom	Potter, teacher
Crow, Janice	Visual Artist
Curry, John & Janice Crow	Visual artists, teachers
Decker, Eleanor	Muscian, Teacher
DeGraff, Jack & Robin Makaruk	Pianists
Dennis, Mark	Singer, guitar player, Vox Populi Dir.
Ehret, Irene	Watercolor artist
Fairmont, Manette	Visual Artist, Gallery owner
Flanades, Annie	Painter
Gold, Steffan	Visual Artist
Hansen, Jan	Ceramist and Mural Artist
Holland, Michael	Painter
Klein, Marsha	Graphic, ceramic and mural artist
Martin, Reed	Performer, teacher
McElroy, Barbara	Musician, teacher
Thomas, Owen	Music Teacher
Shirley Roberts	Painter, Teacher
Schneibich, Cedora	Painter, teacher
Simpson, Sharry	Community Center Theater Director
Wager, Claudia	Visual artist
Williams, Don	Painter

To the City of Sonoma

September 17, 2013

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate David A. Aguilar for Sonoma's Treasure 2013 at this time. David is an accomplished musician/guitarist having been (and still is today) an integral member of various musical groups throughout the Sonoma Valley for the last 30+ years. David's lifelong passion has always been music and his artistry becomes evident when he performs on stage launching into his own interpretation of Blues, Jazz Standards, R&B, Fusion, Americana, Latin and even Polka with ease. Like a fine wine he has matured musically under our very noses in our own Sonoma Valley.

David Aguilar made Sonoma his home in 1980 and has been seen zipping around the local area and music scene ever since. Historically he cut his teeth with local bands and has been a Sonoma Valley fixture spanning decades. He has played throughout Sonoma County as a founding member of his own band, the Tudo Bem Band, the David Aguilar /Peter McCauley Duo, The Suspects and The Dynamites..

For eleven years David performed with Norton Buffalo and Friends until Norton's untimely passing in 2009. When asked about the experience of working with Norton, David often says graciously, "When I was on stage with Norton, I had the best seat in the house". David assisted in producing the Norton Buffalo CD 'Under the Rainbow' and recently David was asked to play on Lester Chamber's latest CD "Time has come Today". He has also been a featured guest artist on various CD's produced in Sonoma by Joel Rudinow, Johnny Salz, Natasha James, and beyond the valley with Helen Meade, Don Trotta, Hippie Uprising, Wendy Dewitte, and more.

Lately, David has performed with Big Brother and The Holding Company, Barry Melton Band, Norman Greenbaum, the band called Why? (featuring members of The Blues Project and Country Joe and the Fish), Talk That Talk Band, Zanne Mack, and others. During his career David has performed with with Bo Diddley, Sal Valentino, Bonnie Raitt, Maria Muldaur, Jackson Brown, members of the Doobie Brothers, David and Linda LaFlamme of 'It's A Beautiful Day', Roy Rogers, Ramblin' Jack Elliot, Johnny Vernazza, Carlos Reyes, Doyle Bramhall Sr, Tom Waits, and others. (David is also very proud to have one of his compositions included in the soundtrack of his daughter's high school film project, "The Alligator Purse"). He is currently in the process of gleaning years of recordings into his own compilation CD.

David often refers to himself as one of Sonoma's 'best known unknowns' and when he is not playing guitar, or building one (his latest interest) he is building community. Over the years, David has been involved in planning & performing at benefit events that range from memorials for some of Sonoma's most loved individuals to benefits providing Sonomans with financial aid for medical issues. David is also often seen coordinating and doing Sound Reinforcement for the local schools. David was instrumental in developing & coordinating a sound system for Dunbar School's fabulous 5th grade plays during his two daughters tenure there. He has assisted with the Sound for plays and performances at Adele Harrison Middle School, Altimira Middle

School and is 'on call' for any of the Sonoma Valley High School drama productions !!

David has been the long standing "go to guy/sound man" for Roger Rhoten's concerts at the Sebastiani Theatre. They have included performances by Mare Winningham, John McCutcheon, 'A night in Paris', History of.....with the Reduced Shakespeare Company' to name a few. When you have a sound problem at the Sebastian Theatre, who do you call?? "Dave!"

He has helped with Kate Kennedy's Avalon Players' Shakespeare productions, various theatrical and musical productions at the Sonoma Community Center (including the 'Fashions Trashion' extravaganza) and has been providing Sound Reinforcement for the Sonoma Valley Jazz Society concerts for the past two decades.

David has also been a featured "face" in Sonoma Magazine's series "Faces of Sonoma. Ask a local if they know or have heard of David Aguilar and the answer will invariably be "yes". This man is everywhere in Sonoma.

David has resided in Sonoma for 33 years where he has worked as a Special Education Teacher while raising his children. He has built strong connections throughout the Valley all the while developing his musical talents and sharing them with the people of Sonoma. His talents have both entertained Sonomans over the years and have helped to make Sonoma events a better experience and success.

Included is a quote from a letter of reference written by Mayor Ken Brown in 2001 regarding David's impact on the Sonoma community which still stands today:

"It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for David Aguilar. I have known David for over fifteen years and have called on him many times to provide sound reinforcement for the events I've produced.

David has always proved to be on time, completely prepared for any contingency, and a real pleasure to work with personally. He has a special rapport with performers, event staff and the public. During the time I have used his services the events he has provided assistance to have been civic, private, and community benefits in nature. Each and every time David has been a tremendous asset in making these events most successful.

It is truly one of life's pleasures to write a letter of this kind for one so deserving"

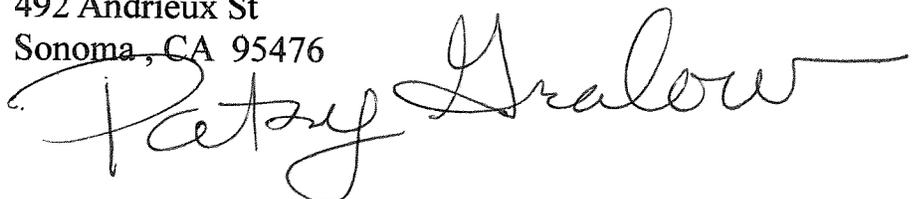
Ken Brown

Mayor

March 18, 2001

It is for the above reasons and statements that I would like to nominate David A. Aguilar for Sonoma's Treasure 2013.

Ms. Patsy Gralow
492 Andrieux St
Sonoma, CA 95476



City of Sonoma Nomination for the 2013 Treasure Artist of the Year



I am nominating Leta Davis for 2013 Treasure Artist of the Year. Leta is truly a Renaissance artist. She is a musician, performer, music educator, painter, sculptor, and ceramicist. She was founder and is band leader of Simka—a local klezmer and jazz band that has performed countless times at numerous music venues, events, fundraisers and festivals. They have performed gratis for many local fundraisers and have donated their time as a band for auction items. Leta created the Sonoma Chamber Orchestra and the Little Fiddlers who have toured Sonoma Valley Schools bringing classical and fiddle music to local students. The Little Fiddlers have been entertaining Sonoma on the 4th of July for 25 years, as well as doing many Bay Area television appearances and have played at the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. Leta has been teaching violin, viola and cello to hundreds of local music students in Sonoma from the ages 7 to 70. Nigel Armstrong, who was a prize winner of both the Menuhin and Tchaikovsky International Violin Competitions, began his career and love of the violin with Leta. Many of her students have gone on to professional careers in music. This year Leta created the Green Light Community Orchestra, an orchestra for all ages. It is a cross style orchestra playing bluegrass, rock, blues and classical music. Leta has played with the Santa Rosa, Napa and California symphonies. She, along with her husband David, has given Salon concerts at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art Salon series, as well as at numerous concerts at wineries around the valley.

Always giving back to the community and sharing her love of music, Leta has launched the Valley Vibes El Sistema, a privately funded program to provide lessons and instruments to underprivileged children at El Verano School. Public schools have virtually lost all their music programs due to the changing economic environment. Most recently Leta has been raising funds for her Green Light Music program that provides a system for teaching classroom teachers how to bring music into their classrooms everyday. Currently her program is in its pilot stage at Woodland Star Charter School with plans to make it widely available in the next few years.

Leta's artistic talents go beyond the field of music. As a painter and sculptor she has shown her work at the Art Guild Gallery (Sonoma), Lyndon Design Gallery (Gualala), Ren Brown Gallery (Bodega Bay), Eminent Design Gallery (Sonoma), Johanna Spillman Gallery (SF), The Loft at Liz's (Los Angeles), the former Coyote Gallery (Sonoma) among others.

As a muralist her work can be seen at Bartholomew Park Winery, Wells Fargo in Sausalito and Willits Brewery. Leta faux finished all the walls at our own Sebastiani Theater.

I have attached a recent article from the Press Democrat that describes Leta's devotion to having music in young people's lives over the past 25 years. It also highlights her Green Light Orchestra and music program.

Leta Davis has devoted her entire life to sharing her love of music. For over 25 years, we, the residents of the Sonoma Valley, have been the beneficiary of that love and passion. Hundreds, if not over a thousand, children and adults have had their lives enriched by her dedication to spreading the gift that music brings to the human experience. Her work has never been about personal gain, it has always been about the gift of giving a treasure to her community. She has enhanced all of our lives and her legacy will last well beyond her own. For this reason I believe she is most worthy of being the 2013 Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Avram Goldman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Avram Goldman

Sonoma, CA.

MUSIC MENTOR: POPULAR SONOMA TEACHER LETA DAVIS HAS BEEN MOLDING YOUNG MUSICIANS FOR 25 YEARS AND NOW LEADS AN ORCHESTRA

Published on July 14, 2013

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BYLINE: DIANE PETERSON THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

PAGE: D1

With her short, spiky hair and bare feet, **Leta Davis** of Sonoma looks more like a yoga instructor than a conductor as she leads the Green Light Orchestra during a strings camp held in early July.

The 54-year-old violinist, who has been teaching young string players in her Little Fiddlers program for 25 years, started the orchestra earlier this year for players of all ages, from 7 to 70.

"Sonoma has never had a community orchestra," she said. "I think classical music needs to be broken open, musically. ... We do bluegrass, jazz and classical."

Whether playing "Eye of the Tiger" by the rock band Survivor, or Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, the musicians were given constant reminders about intonation and bow technique, along with music theory and positive reinforcement.

"Please be quiet. Please do not play," Davis asked the group of mostly young musicians. "What key are we in? G. Good. Let's go over the bowstroke at the beginning. Open A. Elbow and upper arm up. Bow at the frog. Two feet on the floor, back straight."

Despite the disciplined approach, Davis also managed to make the sight-reading session fun. That's evident when the first violinists giggle and grin while confessing to getting "totally lost" in the Brandenburg.

"I can have 100 kids around me, and it's no problem, because I know how to set boundaries," she said. "I give them skills and structure and creativity at the same time."

Growing up in Cape Cod, Davis was the oldest of four children. She and her siblings were among the first children in America to learn the Suzuki music method, a teaching style developed in Japan that used the principles of language acquisition, including early beginning, listening, encouragement, parental support, constant repetition, learning with other children and then learning to read music.

"I studied with Dr. (Shinichi) Suzuki when I was 8," she recalled. "In Suzuki, I was taught to copy and listen. I just happened to have enough technique to play fairly well."

At age 11, she won a violin contest and became the youngest member of the Cape Cod Orchestra. Then she received a full music scholarship to Connecticut College, where she also studied art.

But it was her studies 15 years ago with Zaven Melikian, the former concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, that made her the teacher she is today.

Frustrated because her students were hitting a wall -- and not getting into the San Francisco Youth Orchestra -- she took some time off from teaching to fill in the blanks in her education.

"Zaven taught me how to teach classical violin technique," she said. "My experience in the larger music world taught me that Suzuki needs the support of traditional European methods."

At that point, she had already started to teach Sonoma's Nigel Armstrong, a young violinist who went on to place fourth in the XIV Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition in 2011.

She recalls Armstrong, who started with her at age 5, as a voracious student.

"Talent is wild, and you have to put that bit in that horse's mouth and still let them be wild," she said. "Nigel was wild when it came to music."

Although her mother was a pianist and a preschool teacher, Davis did not set out to become a teacher. In fact, it kept seeking her.

After college, she started her own commission art business in Boston, painting murals for banks and hotels. She married and moved to Sonoma in 1985, then found a job as a stock broker for Paine Webber in Napa. A colleague's wife asked her if she could teach violin at Napa College once a week.

Her son Alex was born in 1987 and her son Chris, now a singer/songwriter in L.A., followed in 1988. She launched the Little Fiddlers so that she could have the flexibility to raise her own kids.

"Within a week, I had 10 students," she said. "Then it grew to 25, 35 and 60 students, plus an orchestra."

Leveraging her teaching skills, Davis is currently on a crusade to make music more vibrant in the community.

In addition to Green Light Orchestra, she has launched Valley Vibes El Sistema, a privately funded program that provides lessons and instruments to underprivileged children at El Verano School.

She is also developing Green Light Music, a system for teaching classroom teachers how to bring music into their classrooms, everyday.

"I don't think music makes you smarter. It makes you more efficient at using your brain," she said. "I see Green Light Music being adopted by schools across the country. Then, it's going to enrich everything that comes after it."

For more information, go to www.littlefiddlers.com and www.greenlightorchestra.org.

You can reach Staff Writer Diane Peterson at 521-5287 or diane.peterson@pressdemocrat.com.

Nomination for Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year



Nominee: Todd Evans

Playwright, Theatre Producer and Community Volunteer

I am placing the name of Todd Evans for consideration as Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year for 2013. Todd's most recent play, "Troublesome Creek", just completed a very successful run as part of the Sonoma Theatre Alliance's Summer Festival of Theatre at Andrews Hall at the Sonoma Community Center. The play was produced by Todd's production company, Sonoma Stage Works.

Todd has produced four original plays in the past five years. His work "Smoke Rising" appeared at the Spreckels' Center in Rohnert Park in 2008. His play "Battle Road" appeared at the Ross Valley Players Theatre in Marin County in 2009. His "Last Hurrah of Horace Packard" appeared in Andrews Hall in 2010 and "Troublesome Creek" just wrapped up on the Rotary Stage.

Todd enjoys writing "historically realistic" plays. "Troublesome Creek" revolves around a visit to a small Kentucky coal-mining town in the fall of 1962 by Rachel Carson who was on a book tour promoting and explaining her book "Silent Spring". This book had a historic impact on the environmental movement and almost single-handedly led to the banning of the toxic pesticide DDT throughout the country. Todd is continuing to tell that important story through his play.

Todd's production company, Sonoma Stage Works, is also producing Play Fest 2013 this coming weekend, September 20, 21 and 22. SSW invited playwrights from around the Bay Area to submit short plays for consideration of being produced this summer. They screened 84 entries and had a staged reading of twelve plays in early June. This has led to the production of six of the plays in the Play Fest this week. Todd is also serving as co-director of this entire effort.

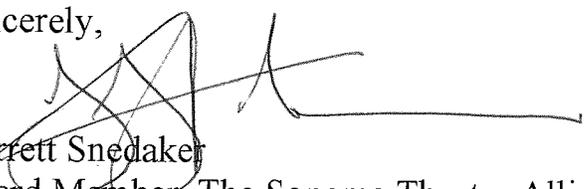
Sonoma Stage Works, and Todd, have also produced other plays throughout the years in Sonoma. In 2011, he produced "The Odd Couple"; and in 2012, he produced both "Lobby Heros" and "Kitchen Witches". Many, many local residents enjoyed these great productions.

Todd and leaders from Avalon Players, CAPS Productions and Silver Moon Theatre founded the Sonoma Theatre Alliance in 2010. In the words of the Alliance's Executive Director, Jaime Love, "Todd's vision was essential in creating the collaborative format that is in use today". Todd served as the first President of the Sonoma Theatre Alliance's Board and held that position for three years. He led the fundraising campaign headlined "Take Your Seats" that enabled STA to acquire 80 comfortable theatre seats and risers to transform Andrews Hall into a viable theatre space. This effort eventually led to this year's renovation of Andrew's Hall, a partnership of the City of Sonoma, the Sonoma Community Center, the Rotary Club and the Sonoma Theatre Alliance. If you have seen a play this summer in Andrews Hall (and a few thousand have already done so), part of the thanks goes to Todd.

The Board of Directors of the Sonoma Theatre Alliance, of which I am one, support this nomination for Todd. We believe that it is perfect time for an individual from the theatre arts to be recognized for the many contributions that they make to the lives of Sonomans. I know when I attend the theatre at Andrews Hall – I see many local folks who gain inspiration, introspection, and/or a good hardy laugh from this valuable local cultural resource.

Todd is not only an outstanding local playwright, he produces and directs productions that challenge and inspire us. He has also put his shoulder behind the wheel of the community effort to have permanent live community theatre in a beautiful venue here in Sonoma. Without Todd, who knows if any of this would have come to pass. He is truly deserving of the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year Award.

Sincerely,



Gerrett Snedaker
Board Member, The Sonoma Theatre Alliance
327 E. Napa St., Sonoma

RECEIVED
AUG 29 2013
CITY OF SONOMA

James Rawls

Antoinette J. Kuhry
484 East Napa Street
Sonoma, CA 95476
707-996-2131 w
Akuhry@vom.com

Ms. Gay Johann
City of Sonoma
Sonoma, CA 95476

Re: Sonoma Treasure Artist

Dear Gay:

Enclosed please find materials on Sonoma resident, JAMES J. RAWLS, my nomination for the 2013 Treasure Artist.

As you can see, he has a formidable background on the subject of California History. As a writer, teacher, lecturer, and editor he has made his mark over a span of many years.

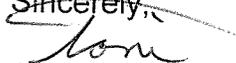
He is the author or editor of more than thirty books on California and United States history. He was "Dr. History" on the radio and worked with Disney on its California Adventure theme park.

This would be a most appropriate time for him to be honored by the City as he retires this year from his post as Reviews Editor for the California Historical Society's quarterly, *California History*. He held this position for thirty years, a third of the lifespan of this ninety-year-old publication. Also this year he published the tenth edition of his college textbook, *California: An Interpretive History* (McGraw-Hill, 2012), the most widely adopted text in its field.

Locally, I think Jim has given talks or workshops over the years at each of our venerable historical organizations.

Jim Rawls is truly a "Sonoma Treasure Artist".

If you have any questions, or need copies of some of his books, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Kuhry

James J. Rawls



Jim Rawls, a native of Washington, D.C., received his B.A. with honors from Stanford University and his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author or editor of more than thirty books in California and United States history, including *California: An Interpretive History* (McGraw-Hill, 10th edition, 2012), *A Golden State: Mining and Economic Development in Gold Rush California* (University of California Press, 1999), *Chief Red Fox is Dead: A History of Native Americans Since 1945* (Harcourt Brace, 1996), *California Dreaming* (McGraw-Hill, 1995), *New Directions in California History* (McGraw-Hill, 1988), *California: A People, A Place, A Dream* (Chronicle Books, 1986), *Land of Liberty: A United States History* (Holt Reinhart & Winston, 1985), and *Indians of California* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1984).

Rawls also is the author of several books for young readers, including two biographies introduced by the late Alex Haley. He served as a consultant for Walt Disney Imagineering in the development of Disney's California Adventure theme park and is the editor of a multi-volume children's history series published by Little, Brown & Company. For five years he appeared as Dr. History on KNBR Radio, San Francisco. For more than a quarter century he has been the Reviews Editor of the quarterly *California History: The Journal of the California Historical Society*. Rawls has taught at Diablo Valley College, San Francisco State University, and the University of California, Berkeley; he is a Fellow of the California Historical Society and a recipient of the National Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Texas. He currently serves as a lecturer on voyages for Lindblad Expeditions and the National Geographic Society.

Jim and his wife Linda recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Their son Benjamin is a film editor in Hollywood and daughter Elizabeth teaches dramatic arts in Australia. Their grandson Asher James soon will be four years old and holds dual citizenship in the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Australia.

JAMES J. RAWLS

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Sonoma, California 95476
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PERSONAL

Born November 10, 1945, Washington D.C.
Married December 29, 1967, Sacramento
Children born November 23, 1975 (son) & December 9, 1980
(daughter), San Francisco

EDUCATION

B.A. Stanford University (1967)
M.A. University of California, Berkeley (1969)
Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley (1975)

Additional coursework at Oxford University (Wadham College),
University of London (Heythrop College), Church Divinity School of the
Pacific (Graduate Theological Union), Vanderbilt University, and
University of Washington

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Diablo Valley College
Instructor of History, 1975-2007

University of California, Berkeley
Visiting Associate Professor, 1989
Visiting Lecturer, 1977-1981

San Francisco State University
Part-time Instructor, 1971-1975

HONORS

National Teaching Excellence Award, University of Texas
Award of Merit, League for Historic Preservation
Fellow, California Historical Society
Faculty Lecturer Award, Diablo Valley College
DVC Nominee, Hayward Award for Teaching Excellence
Scholar-in-Residence, California State University, Sacramento
Honors in History, Stanford University
Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors, Stanford University

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

California: An Interpretive History, coauthor (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 10th ed. 2012; 9th ed., 2008, 8th ed. 2003, 7th ed. 1998, 6th ed. 1993, 5th ed. 1988, 4th ed. 1983).

A Golden State: Mining and Economic Development in Gold Rush California, coeditor and author of introductory essay (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999).

California History: Teaching with Primary Sources, author and editor, (Peterborough, NH: Cobblestone Publishing, a division of Simon & Schuster, 1998).

Chief Red Fox is Dead: A History of Native Americans Since 1945, author (New York: Harcourt Brace Publishers, 1996).

California Dreaming: More Stories from Dr. History, author, foreword by Frank Dill and Mike Cleary (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1995).

Dr. History's Sampler: More Stories of California's Past, author, foreword by Frank Dill and Mike Cleary (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1994).

Dr. History's Whizz-Bang: Favorite Stories of California's Past, author, foreword by Frank Dill and Mike Cleary (Palo Alto: Tioga Publishing Co., 1991).

New Directions in California History: A Book of Readings, editor with introduction, author of essay "Views from the Outside" (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1988).

California: A Place, A People, A Dream, coeditor with introduction, author of title essay (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1986).

Indians of California: The Changing Image, author (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984; paperback ed., 1986).

Dan De Quille of the Big Bonanza, editor with introduction and notes, foreword by Oscar Lewis (San Francisco: The Book Club of California, 1980).

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Los Angeles Area Missions in California, consulting editor
(Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2008)

San Francisco Bay Area Missions in California, consulting editor
(Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2008)

Southern Coast Missions in California, consulting editor (Minneapolis:
Lerner Publications, 2008)

Central Coast Missions in California, consulting editor (Minneapolis:
Lerner Publications, 2008)

Inland Valleys Missions in California, consulting editor (Minneapolis:
Lerner Publications, 2008)

Monterey Bay Area Missions in California, consulting editor
(Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2008)

Family and Friends, coauthor (New York: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 2007).

People and Places, coauthor (New York: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 2007).

California Communities, coauthor (New York: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill,
2007).

Our Golden State, coauthor (New York: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 2007).

Making a New Nation, coauthor (New York: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 2007).

Ancient Civilizations, coauthor (New York: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill,
2007).

The California Trail, editor (Peterborough, NH: Cobblestone
Publishing, 2002).

California: Adventures in Time and Place, consultant and principal
writer (New York: National Geographic and McGraw-Hill School Division,
1998).

Book of the American Civil War, editor (Boston: Little, Brown and
Company, 1998).

Book of the American Colonies, editor (Boston: Little, Brown and
Company, 1996).

Book of the New American Nation, editor (Boston: Little, Brown and
Company, 1995).

Book of the American Indians, editor (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1994).

Book of the American Revolution, editor (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1994.)

Never Turn Back: Father Serra's Mission, author, foreword by Alex Haley (Austin: Steck-Vaughn Company, 1993).

Dame Shirley and the Gold Rush, author, foreword by Alex Haley (Austin: Steck-Vaughn Company, 1993).

Know Kentucky, author (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1987).

America and Its Neighbors, coauthor (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2nd ed., 1986).

The World, coauthor (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2nd. ed., 1986).

Land of Liberty: A United States History, coauthor, foreword by Walter Cronkite (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1985).

Louisiana, coauthor (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1986).

Our New York, coauthor (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1985).

MULTI-MEDIA

"California's Great Thirst: A Glance at the Contentious History of California's Water" Broadcast on KQED Radio (FM 88.5) on August 7, 2003; and "The California Mission as Symbol and Myth" Broadcast on KQED Radio (FM 88.5) on January 10, 2002. [streaming audio on the Bancroft Library website: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/info/lectures.html>].

Restless Hearts: A Glance at the Background and Origins of Trinity Episcopal Church, author (Sonoma: Trinity Episcopal Church, 2003). [Trinity website: <http://www.trinitysonoma.org/Learning/education.html>].

California History Online: An Online Guide to Over Three Hundred Years of California History, author (San Francisco: California Historical Society, 2001) [CHS website: <http://www.calhist.org>].

Golden Dreams (starring Whoopi Goldberg), screenwriter and consultant (Glendale: Walt Disney Imagineering, 2001) [motion picture].

Historia de la California Hispánica, author and recorder (Berkeley: Regents of the University of California, 2001) [cassette audiotape].

"The Hispanicization of California, 1769-1846" and "The Mission as Symbol and Myth," author and recorder, *From the Bancroft Library: History of Early California* (Berkeley: Regents of the University of California, 2000) [cassette audiotapes].

The History of California CD-ROM, content advisor (Annapolis: Instructional Resources Corporation, 1999) [CD-ROM].

"San Diego," "San Jose," "Sacramento," "Oakland," "Fresno," in *Microsoft Encarta 96 Encyclopedia* (Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 1996) [CD-ROM].

ARTICLES

"The Lighter Side of California History," fourteen-article series in *San Francisco Chronicle*: "The Missed Cue of Commodore Jones" (January 9, 2004), "California's Roving Capital" (January 16, 2004), "Jeans that Won the West" (January 23, 2004), "Bummer and Lazarus" (January 30, 2004), "Squibob" (February 6, 2004), "Humorists of the Comstock" (February 13, 2004), "Those Naughty Nataquans" (February 20, 2004), "Camels in California?" (February 27, 2004), "The Great Diamond Hoax" (March 5, 2004), "Boontling" (March 12, 2004), "Hatfield the Rainmaker" (March 19, 2004), "A Rube Goldberg Device" (March 26, 2004), "An Ode to the Yo-Yo" (April 2, 2004), "The Great Snake Mystery" (April 9, 2004).

"Dame Shirley and the Gold Rush," in Mary Lou McCloskey and Lydia Stack, eds., *Visions: Language, Literature, Content* (Boston: Thomson, Heinle, 2003), 210-214.

"San Francisco," "Anaheim," "Palo Alto," "Santa Barbara," "Carmel," "Monterey," "Palm Springs," and "San Bernardino," in *The World Book Encyclopedia* (Chicago: World Book Publishing, 2001).

"Admissions Day," *The Museum of California*, XXIV (September 2000), 16.

"The California Missions," *California Chronicles* (September 1999), 2-5.

"Harrison Gray Otis," in John A. Garraty, ed., *American National Biography, Volume 16* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

"Traditional Lifeways of the Native Peoples of Northern California," *California Chronicles* (November 1998), 2-6.

"Ask Dr. History," monthly column, *California Chronicles* (1998-1999).

"Looking Backward: The Californios Tell Their Own Story," *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Winter 1998).

"Fresno," *World Book Encyclopedia* (Chicago: World Book Publishing, 1997).

"Afterword," *Missions of the Los Angeles Area, Missions of the San Francisco Bay Area, Missions of the Southern Coast, Missions of the Central Coast, Missions of the Inland Valleys, Missions of the Monterey Bay Area* (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 1996).

"California: A Place, A People, A Dream," in Sonia Maasik and Jack Solomon, eds., *California Dreams and Realities: Readings for Critical Thinkers and Writers* (Boston: St. Martin's Press, 1995).

"California," in Joan Hoff and Robert Ferrell, eds., *Dictionary of American History* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1995).

"The San Francisco Earthquake," in *Encyclopedia of the American West* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1995).

"Healing Old Wounds," *Humanities Network*, XV (Winter 1993), p. 4.

"The California Mission as Symbol and Myth," in *California History: The Magazine of the California Historical Society* LXXI (Fall 1992) 341-362.

"Study Guide for *The Grapes of Wrath*," (Salt Lake City: The Book Group, 1992), 1-3.

"In the Wake of Columbus: Rethinking the Legacy," in Carolyn Baun, ed., *Columbus and After* (San Francisco: California Council for the Humanities, 1992), 4-8.

"The California Dream," in *The Commonwealth: The Weekly Publication of the Commonwealth Club of California*, LXXXVI (January 27, 1992), 50-55.

"Indian Miners in the California Gold Rush," in Lowell John Bean & Sylvia Brakke Vane, eds., *Ethnology of the Alta California Indians* (New York: Garland Publishing Co., 1991), 296-313.

"James D. Hart: A Tribute and Remembrance," in *California History: The Magazine of the California Historical Society*, LXIX (Winter 1990), 384-387.

"The Great Depression and World War II, 1930-1945," in Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., and Gloria R. Lothrop, eds., *A Guide to the History of California* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1989), 51-61.

Foreword to Sally B. Woodbridge, *California Architecture: Historic American Buildings Survey* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1988).

"The Earl Warren Oral History Project: An Appraisal" *Pacific Historical Review*, LVI (February 1987), 87-97.

"The Pomo Indians," in L.P. Stevens and J.M. Newbum, *Pomo Dawn of Song* (Cupertino, CA: California History Center, 1987).

"Serra's Mission," *San Jose Mercury News*, July 5, 1987.

Foreword to Oscar Lewis, *Silver Kings: The Lives and Times of Mackay, Fair, Flood, and O'Brien, Lords of the Nevada Comstock Lode* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1986).

"Great Expectations: William Swain, J.S. Holliday, and The World Rushed In," *California History*, LXI (Fall 1982), 162-167.

"California," *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the States* (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1981).

"California: Visions and Revisions," *The Wilson Quarterly*, IV (Summer 1980), 57-65. (Reprinted as "California in the American Mind," *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, July 6, 1980).

"Bernard DeVoto and the Art of Popular History," *The Pacific Historian*, XXV (Spring 1981), 46-51.

"The Innocent Fair: San Francisco's Panama Pacific International Exposition," *California Historical Courier*, XXXI (June 1980), 4-5.

"The Rise and Fall of the California Dream," *California Historical Courier*, XXIX (October 1977), 6.

"The Greatest Californians," *California Today* (July 1976), 6-18.

"Gold Diggers: Indian Miners in the California Gold Rush," *California Historical Quarterly*, LV (Spring 1976), 28-45.

REVIEWS

American Historical Review, American Indian Quarterly, The American West, The Journal of American History, California History, Southern California Quarterly, The Annals of Iowa, The Pacific Historian, Western Historical Quarterly, California Historical Quarterly, San Francisco Review of Books, The Catholic Historical Review, Latin American Indian Literatures Journal

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviews Editor, *California History: The Magazine of the California Historical Society*, 1983-2013.

Advisory Board, *West-Northwest Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, 1994-present.

Historian and Naturalist, National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions, New York, New York, 1995-present.

Consultant, "Disney's California Adventure," Walt Disney Imagineering, Glendale, California, 1995-2001.

Advisory Board, *California Chronicles*, Cobblestone Publishing Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire, 1997-2000.

Member, California Council of the Museum of California, 1995-1998.

Consultant and Editor, *The California Missions Series*, Lerner Publications Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1994-1998.

Consultant and Editor, *USKids History Series*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1990-1998.

Creator and on-air Host, "Dr. History," twice-weekly feature on California history, KNBR radio, San Francisco, 1990-1995.

Moderator, "Heirs of Columbus: A Quincentennial Chautauqua," National Endowment for the Humanities, California and Oregon, 1992.

Consultant and Writer, "Different Ways of Knowing," The Galef Institute, Los Angeles, 1991-1992.

Advisory Committee, Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life, 1988-1991.

Member, Board of Trustees, California Historical Society, 1984-1987.

Chair, Publications Committee, California Historical Society, 1984-1987.

Member, Board of Advisors, California Times, Public Affairs Radio sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, 1984-1987.

Chair or commentator at annual meetings of the Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, and the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA.

Speaker at meetings of Commonwealth Club of California, National Council for the Social Studies, American Association of Supervisors of Curriculum Development, San Francisco Council for the Social Studies, East Bay Council for the Social Studies, California Historical Society, Crocker Art Museum, The Oakland Museum, Sacramento Book Collector's Club, California Writers Club, Institute of Local History at University of California, Santa Barbara, Institute of Governmental Studies at University of California, Berkeley, Conference of California Historical Societies, Carberry Tower Summer Institute (Scotland), Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, Huntington Library, Stanford University, University of Redlands, Rancho Los Alamitos (Long Beach), Friends of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Consultant for various radio, television, and film projects sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Humanities, Film Arts Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, KQED San Francisco, Greystone Pictures, California Indian Radio Project, Public Broadcasting System (PBS), WGBH Boston, Arts and Entertainment Network (A&E), Imagine Entertainment, Walt Disney Imagineering (WDI), and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE

Jim Rawls

By Michelle Bouchet

History is more than a bunch of names and dates hidden in dusty tomes on a library shelf. It's tales of love and hatred, power and generosity, life and death.

It's stories about people – how they lived, what they did. What happens today may be the subject of a chapter in a history textbook 10 years from now.

But whether or not anyone will feel compelled to open that book and take a peek at that chapter is up to both the historians who write it and teach it.

California historian Jim Rawls, 50, recalls when he was studying history in college. The Sonoma resident was taught by some of the top history professors in the country, and their enthusiasm inspired him. "They had a good story to tell, and they told it well," he said.

That influence has colored his own teaching career, and also led to a KNBR radio show, "Dr. History." Rawls is known for his ability to make history come alive – to turn a lecture into a story-telling session, to weave the different strings of historical events into an understandable pattern.

Rawls' love of history is rooted in his childhood. He was born in Washington D.C., a city at the center of countless historical events and home to many historical figures. His family traveled frequently, and he said his father made a point of stopping at historical landmarks wherever they went.

"Seeing history as more than something in a book – I'm sure that had to do with an early interest," he said.

That interest led him to California, where he attended Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his masters and doctoral degrees.

During his college career, when he was trying to decide on a specialization, "I came to realize that California was the longest place I'd been. I thought I would make this my home. I decided to possess the spot by learning its history," he said.

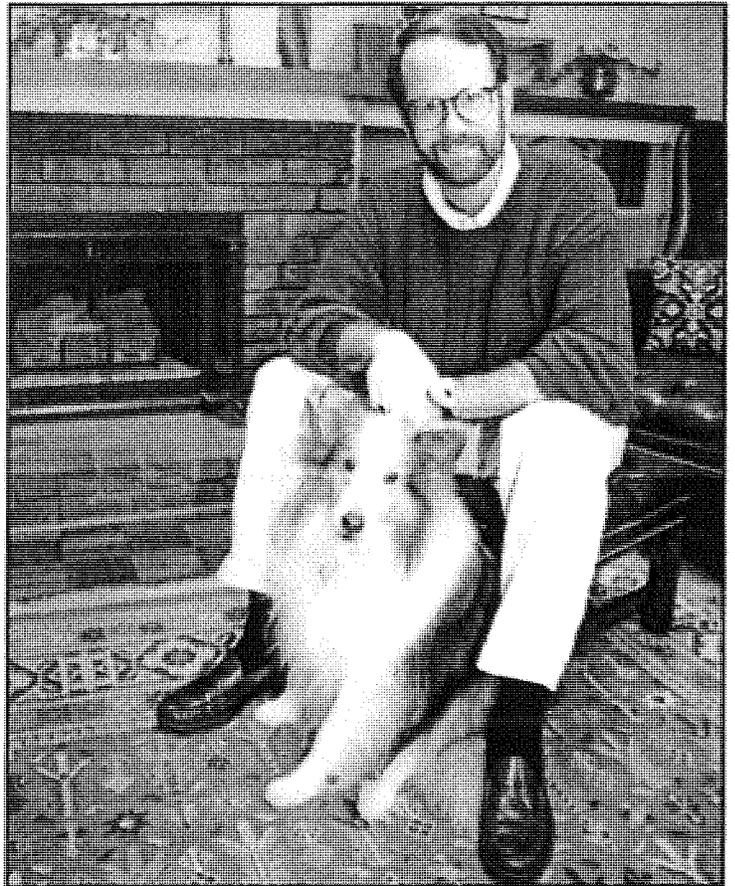
Learning the history of California gave the East Coast native a connection to his adopted state. "It gave me a connectedness. I feel like I'm at home in California," he said.

For Rawls, learning its history made California familiar – and, as a teacher, he's an avid believer that it can do the same for others. "If you don't know the history of an area, you just see the surface," he said. "History adds another dimension."

He used Sonoma Plaza as an example. Without knowing its history, "You see tourists walking around, a few skateboarders, some pretty trees – that's it," Rawls pointed out. Add a few stories about what used to be and, "You can see the railroad, the dusty Plaza, etc. It all comes alive for you."

"To me, saying history is boring is saying life is boring," Rawls said.

But history isn't only important on the personal level, said Rawls. For a society to progress, it's important that its people and leaders know its past.



LOCAL HISTORIAN JIM RAWLS, here with his Sheltie, "Josh," approaches history as a story to tell.

"We do hopefully learn from the past and can make more informed, enlightened decisions," he said. "It's especially important in a democratic society, where we're called upon to make choices."

A prolific author, Rawls has written numerous historical articles as well as several books for both adults and children. He's a consultant for a variety of projects and has served as editor to publications such as "US Kids History Series."

His own books for children are filled with vignettes and colorful stories that are both informative and entertaining.

"I think it's (learning history) is so important, that it can't be left for just the academics," he emphasized.

Rawls sees one of the roles of the historian as providing a context in which to place current events. As the world becomes smaller, knowing what has led up to current problems and issues is the basis for understanding them and coming up with solutions. Even relatively minor historical events – like the Bear Flag revolt – can add to the understanding of what else was occurring in the world.

"We might want to look at it in the larger context of areas of conquest around the world at the time," explained Rawls, noting that it's important to see events as other than isolated incidents. In his class, he teaches about the life of Jack London, using how he lived and what he wrote as a key to understanding the times. As he learned in college – he's got a good story to tell, and he tells it well.

Rawls lives in Sonoma with his wife, Linda, and their two children, Ben and Elizabeth.

Michelle Bouchet is news editor of The Sonoma Index-Tribune.

CALIFORNIA HISTORY, September 2008
Published quarterly © 2008 by California
Historical Society

LC 75-640289/ISSN 0162-2897

\$40.00 of each membership is designated
for California Historical Society membership
services, including the subscription to *California
History*.

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Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco,
California, and at additional mailing offices.

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Send address changes to:
California History CHS
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San Francisco, CA 94105-4014

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meaningful part of their contemporary lives. In
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steward of historical resources within its care;
supports the work of other historical organiza-
tions throughout the state; fosters and dissemi-
nates scholarship to the broadest audiences; and
ensures that California history is integrated fully
into the social studies curricula at all levels.

A quarterly journal published by CHS since 1922,
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History and Life*. The Society assumes no respon-
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Manuscripts for publication and editorial cor-
respondence should be sent to Janet R. Fireman,
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FROM THE EDITOR

COMING OF AGE

In the annals of altruism, specifically in the book about disseminating learn-
ing and appreciating California history, James J. Rawls is inscribed as leader
of the pack. This year marks his twenty-fifth anniversary as Reviews Editor of
California History. Jim expertly winnows the list of books about California and
the West appearing every season, selecting crackerjack reviewers and oversee-
ing the process that gets books into their hands, their reviews back to his desk,
and copy conveyed to our editorial offices. Impressive as this silver milestone
is, equally astounding is the performance of his valuable service on a voluntary
basis. Although Jim eschews any celebration, we have chosen to announce in
this column his immensely appreciated and unheralded achievement, con-
gratulating and thanking him warmly for the broad benefit he has brought to
California studies. Jim Rawls—it's not for nothing that some people call him Dr.
History—has sculpted a niche of teaching achievement and service to the his-
torical profession for the ages.

In this issue, we are also celebrating reunion and brotherly love, persistence and
the politics of inclusion, intellectualism and civilization. In a trio of essays, these
values and concepts bridge California's coming of age from the mid-nineteenth
century to recent years.

Salvatore John Manna's resourceful piece, "A Brothers' Reunion: Evolution's
Champion Alfred Russel Wallace and Forty-niner John Wallace," reveals the
remarkable careers and touching relationship of the most famous living natural-
ist of his time and his brother, who was perhaps the most accomplished civil
engineer in the Sierra and Central Valley.

Robert Denning has constructed the edifice of John Conness's career, today little
known and little appreciated in his own time. In "A Fragile Machine: California
Senator John Conness," this all-but-forgotten individual receives the coming of
age he deserves as a consummate nineteenth-century politician who was ahead
of his time in a progressive commitment to inclusionary racial beliefs.

"California Civilization and European Speculative Thought: An Evolving Rela-
tionship" brings a heady story to these pages. Scholars have probed the intel-
lectual and cultural outpourings in the state associated with European thinkers;
here Josef Chytry advances original ideas concerning California as beneficiary
of Europe's intellectual standing and later its emergence as a world civilization,
measured by international influence and philosophical exchange.

Has California come of age? Yes, and then some.

JANET FIREMAN



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS: Rawls brings history to life wherever he goes.

spirituality and a love of travel. "When you travel your senses are heightened. You're out of your regular environment and you're seeing and experiencing new things. I like to seek out places that have a history of major religious activity."

Over the years Rawls has been a history instructor, the author of some two dozen books, the popular "Dr. History" on a San Francisco talk radio station, a consultant for the creation of Disney's California Adventure and a licensed lay preacher in the Episcopal Church. The son of a military man, he grew up near Washington, D.C. "We'd go to what I called the Egg House, which was the Jefferson Memorial with the dome, or to the Lincoln Memorial or the White House or the Capitol building. These were all in my hometown, so to speak. With that, you can't help but have a historical consciousness."

At Stanford in the mid-1960s, Rawls studied English because he loves writing, but he switched majors. "I was getting better grades in history. That seemed to tell me maybe I should go that direction." He earned his PhD from UC-Berkeley.

It was the Vietnam era, and his initial interest was foreign policy. "I thought I could make a contribution by studying the origins of American policy and its evolution." When Rawls applied for conscientious objector status, his draft board ordered him to report for a preinduction physical. He had no church affiliation, but his opposition to the war was based on religious and moral grounds. "I think ethics is an important part of religion. So I could easily and without any dissembling present that as a religious argument." The appeals board agreed and granted him CO status.

As a grad student Rawls got a job teaching part time at San Francisco State, where he scrambled to pull together a course on California history. At first he was dismayed at this unfamiliar topic, but it became his passion. "If anybody knows of me, it's because I'm a California historian. That's what I would hang my hat on, primarily." His dissertation focused on the war against

Faith in History

James J. Rawls leads modern pilgrimages to ancient sites.
by Patricia Lynn Henley

In the musty catacombs beneath England's Canterbury Cathedral, 30 people listen intently to the last sermon preached by Thomas Becket, who was assassinated by supporters of Henry II on December 29, 1170. Silence falls as the group reflects on where they are and what they've just heard.

"It was Becket's Christmas sermon, in

which he had a premonition of his death," explains historian James J. Rawls. "We were right on the spot, basically, where Becket was murdered and we listened to his last words being read aloud."

The experience was part of a 2004 tour led by Rawls, '67, and the Rev. Canon Stephen Brannon. Conducting modern pilgrimages to ancient places, Rawls says, brings together the major threads of his life: a strong academic bent, a hands-on approach to popularizing history, a deep

California's native peoples and developed into a book, *Indians of California: The Changing Image* (U. of Oklahoma, 1986). He also has published leading elementary and college-level California history texts.

Until his retirement last December, Rawls taught at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Calif., for 30 years. In 1990, a former student working at San Francisco's radio station KNBR sought him out, and for the next five years Rawls was "Dr. History" during the morning drive slot. Twice a week he engaged in three minutes of banter about some aspect of early California.

One thing led to another: his radio spot spawned a book series, starting with *Dr. History's Whiz-Bang: Favorite Stories of California's Past* (Tioga, 1991). Then one of the books made its way into the hands of the man charged with creating Disney's California Adventure, who hired Rawls as a consultant. Rawls presented seminars to Disney's imagineers and helped write the storyline for the park's centerpiece film, *Golden Dreams*. He later joked to his students that they could slog through his course for a semester or go to the theme park and watch the whole thing in 23 minutes. "It's all there," he explains. "It's the same story, just in a little different format. Condensed."

Rawls has long believed in popularizing history. At San Francisco State he led three-day travel courses on Jack London, starting at the author's birthplace in San Francisco and ending at London's gravestone in Sonoma Valley. Other ventures included stints as a naturalist and historian on cruise ships.

Through the years, Rawls's religious awareness deepened. At Cal, he had studied English church history in the 16th and 18th centuries. "One of my history professors told me, 'This is living stuff. We still do this, we still have the Book of Common Prayer.' So I started attending the Episcopal church in Berkeley," he says. Rawls and his wife, Linda Higdon, moved to California's Sonoma Valley in 1986, and there he became licensed as an Episcopal lay preacher. He struck up a friendship with Brannon, and the two hatched the idea for On Pilgrimage tours, which began in 2004.

Rawls's interests blend perfectly as he leads a hike to the spot where Mary Queen of Scots was captured or escorts a group

through an ancient mosque in Spain. "Jim puts together his profound historical knowledge with a deep spirituality and just a great personality, and brings it all together. He loves sharing his knowledge and experience," says Brannon.

The trips average 12 days, focusing on one region and taking in both must-see spots and what Rawls calls "hidden gems"—places with historical, sacred or literary significance that are unknown to the average traveler. So far Rawls and Brannon have led one pilgrimage a year—to western England, Scotland and Andalusia in Spain during Easter week this year. But they may schedule them more often, since the 30 spots on next year's trek to northern England are already filling up.

Barbara Cobb, a two-time pilgrim, says that's because Rawls and Brannon provide an excellent balance of historical and spiritual information, and set the stage for contemplative awareness. "There's camaraderie with the other modern pilgrims plus a feeling of continuity with people who have done this throughout the ages. It's very personal," she says. "It's a time to reflect, a time to get away from our normal life and a time to get closer with God."

Pilgrims range in age from mid-20s to mid-80s and include Roman Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Episcopalians and at least one Buddhist. "I would characterize them as people who are spiritual seekers, who have a spiritual hunger and are interested in this type of travel, whatever their religious background," Rawls explains.

Outside Oxford, the first pilgrimage visited a relatively obscure church that inspired Lewis Carroll's *Alice In Wonderland*. The tiny, unheated building houses a healing well that predates Christianity. One by one the tour members disappeared down the steps to the underground pool. They dipped their hands in the water and then just sat and thought for a moment. When they returned, many had tears in their eyes. "It allowed people to commune, to be open to God's healing power," Rawls says. "That's what it's all about; just being aware." ■

PATRICIA LYNN HENLEY, MA '95, is a journalist in Sonoma, Calif.

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More Stories of California's Past



Jim Rawls

INDIANS
OF CALIFORNIA

THE CHANGING IMAGE

By James J. Rawls



Thena Trygstad



September 16, 2013

City Clerk
Sonoma City Hall
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA 95476

Dear City Clerk:

I wish to nominate Thena Trygstad as Sonoma Treasure Artist.

Thena is an accomplished mixed media and gourd artist who was juried into the Arts Guild of Sonoma at least a decade ago and soon became their president. Under her 8+ year leadership the Guild was transformed into the vibrant community-oriented gallery it is today.

For many years Thena volunteered as a mentor to school age children. She soon realized her vision to offer art to underserved Sonoma Valley children as Artescape, the community outreach program affiliated with the Art Guild of Sonoma. Thena initiated Artescape by finding the funding and the space, putting these first steps together so she and the dedicated staff of Artescape could offer a venue for creativity to the diverse population of Sonoma Valley.

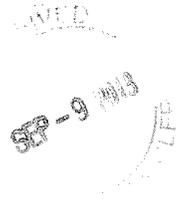
She is a dynamo of creativity and administrative energy. A rare combination in the world of the arts and someone Sonoma would be proud to have as a Treasure Artist.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judi Danner".

Judi Danner
267 W. MacArthur Street
Sonoma, CA 95476

City Clerk
Sonoma City Hall
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA 95476



Dear Members of the Cultural and Fine Arts Commission;

I would like to nominate Thena Trygstad for the 2013 Sonoma Artist Treasure award.

I have known Thena for fifteen years now and she is remarkable in so many ways. When we first met she had retired as Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs from U.C. Medical Center and was ready to have time to 'make art'.

We started as gourd artists together and she became a member of the Arts Guild showing her whimsical work over the years. She coordinated the student shows for the high school artists to show work at the Guild twice a year. She served as president to the Arts Guild for 8 years and we volunteered for the Guild to do art projects at the 'garden' through the Ecology center.

Thena volunteered her time co-teaching Gourd workshops for adults, and for eight years we went into the fourth grades and taught 'gourd art' to the various schools in the valley with Art Rewards the Student through the Museum.

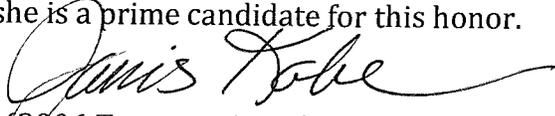
For several years Thena also donated her time to teach gourd art to Presentation School.

Now she is the director and co-founder at ARTescape, again donating her time to once a month ART PLAY, a program to give free art to smaller kids and their parents providing one to one time making art together. Thena is writing grants to provide scholarships for kids who need more art in their lives. She is working with the home school kids through ARTescape developing an art program for them as well as working with Solo Quest.

Thena devotes her time to providing more art for the kids in our valley and for the past two years co-created a Drawing class free for our local teachers.

She is a treasure to all who know her and one of the most capable people I know!

I feel that she is a prime candidate for this honor.

Sincerely, 
Janis Kobe (2006 Treasure Artist).
janiskobeko@gmail.com

Barbara Jacobsen 650 4th St. W. #43 Sonoma, CA 95476 707-938-8188

barbj2@gmail.com www.sonomacollagestudio.com

City Clerk
Sonoma City Hall
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA 95476



Dear Members of the Cultural and Fine Arts Commission;

I would like to nominate Thena Trygstad for the 2013 Sonoma Artist Treasure award.

I have been deeply impressed by Thena's skills and unwavering commitment to our local arts community in many areas, including the following:

- President of the Arts Guild of Sonoma for 8 years
- Co-founder and administrator of ArtEscape, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing low-cost and free, high-quality arts education to children (and adults) of all ages in the Sonoma Valley community
- Art instructor at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art for 8 years
- Voluntary mentor of students through the Sonoma Valley School district, the Garden, after-school art classes, etc.
- My colleague and co-facilitator of Journey Book workshops since 2004.
- Assemblage and book artist extraordinaire! Some fine examples of her latest work can be seen at the Arts Guild through September, along with work by one of her student mentees, as well as at our Journey Book Open House in Readers' Garden on Sunday September 15.

But none of these words adequately describe the amazing qualities I so admire about this extraordinary woman.....her creativity, intelligence, humor, reliability, and competence in dealing with any type of situation, and especially her selfless dedication to helping others. Working with Thena as we developed and expanded the Journey Book process for the last 8 years has been a delight and a privilege. She is a fine artist and craftswoman. I can think of no one more qualified, and would be honored to have her chosen as my successor; the 2013 Treasure Artist of Sonoma.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Jacobsen".

Barbara Jacobsen

Sonoma Treasure Artist 2012