

Casa del Herrero

WINTER 2017

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

THE CASA
GETS READY
FOR AN
EXCITING
2017

INSIDE:
BIRD HOUSE RENOVATION
COMPLETE
CHRISTMAS AT THE CASA
IS A WRAP
NEW BOARD MEMBERS
ROSE GARDEN GETS A SPRUCE UP

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CASA DEL HERRERO

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Cover and inside front page photos courtesy of Matt Walla.

Casa del Herrero takes as its mission
to maintain, preserve, and restore
the house, furnishings, gardens, and history
of the Steedman/Bass estate for the benefit of
the community, visiting public, scholars,
educators, and students.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is with great pleasure that I write this, my first message as executive director of Casa del Herrero. Like all of you, I have a strong passion for the Casa, connection to our local history, and keen interest in the architecture of George Washington Smith. As I have long known, the engagement we all have with the Casa runs deep, and comes from a love of this special place that is like no other.

As I settle into this new role, I cannot help but think of George Fox Steedman, and what he must have thought the day of the 1925 earthquake. He was staying in a local hotel, which did not fair well when the earthquake hit, and he likely drove up to the Casa with trepidation as to what he would find. To his astonishment, the house was perfectly intact, and he moved in that day. As I move into this new role, I bring with me excitement and enthusiasm for 2017. I feel like Steedman on that fateful first day—happy to have a strong foundation to build on, and hopeful for what is to come.

That strong foundation continues to get stronger because of our Casa family—all of you who give generously of your time and resources. I have been extremely impressed by the engagement of our donors, as well as our volunteers and docents, who give their all to make the Casa the best it can be. We really could not do it without your support, and I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.

In this edition, you will find more about our wonderful donors and dedicated volunteers, as well as our recent conservation efforts and community connections. As you will read, Casa del Herrero is an integral part of the local community – a treasure that remains as valuable today as it did in 1925.

Warm wishes for a happy new year!

Jessica Tade
Executive Director

Longtime Supporter Laura Bridley Continues to Leave Her Mark on Casa del Herrero

Growing up in Montecito, Laura Bridley always felt connected to the community and a commitment to the special place she called home. While attending UC Santa Barbara, this sense of place turned into a passion for city planning, leading to her first job as an assistant city planner for the Architectural Board of Review and the Historic Landmarks Commission. It seems only natural that her interest in the built environment, dedication to preservation of historic spaces, and enthusiasm for local history would bring her to Casa del Herrero. “I love the Casa because it has so much integrity,” said Laura. “In my life as a city planner, I have seen many buildings torn down. The fact that the Casa has been kept intact all these years is really amazing. It makes me feel good to be a part of its preservation.”

Laura has been connected to Casa del Herrero since its inception as a foundation, drafting the Conditional Use Permit for visitors and daily operations, and serving as the organization’s first executive director. The process began when Laura became acquainted with George Bass who was looking to make good on his mother’s wishes to preserve the family’s Montecito estate as a house museum and public gardens. This was the early 1990s, and Laura came highly recommended due to her recent work drafting and implementing a Conditional Use Permit for Lotusland. “Ultimately, I knew that in the creation of the foundation, we were



“In my life as a city planner, I have seen so many buildings torn down. The fact that the Casa has been kept intact all these years is really amazing.”

saving an important monument that defines Montecito,” said Laura. “In addition to support from George Bass and his family, I had a great Steering Committee that really helped me. Casa del Herrero would not have made it without the local community.”

Today, Laura has returned to her career as a city planner and consultant, but remains involved with the Casa through committee work, and as a dedicated donor. With help from

donors like Laura, the foundation is able to preserve and steward the estate, keeping the door of access open to all those wishing to engage with the Casa. “What better place could my donation go than to keeping a piece of local history alive?” said Laura. “I would consider any donation at any amount to the Casa a legacy gift for this reason alone.”

And even after all these years, Laura still has a deep passion for the Casa that for her will be a lifelong love affair. “I think everyone should make a point of visiting the Casa, and bringing some friends,” said Laura. “When people come here they are amazed to find such an incredible place right in their own backyard. They cannot believe they have lived their whole life in this town and never seen one of its most spectacular monuments.”

Birdhouse Sundial Renovation Preserves Cherished Piece of Casa History



After reading an article in *Sunset Magazine* titled “Why Don’t You Build a Sundial for Your Sunset Garden?” in June 1933, George Fox Steedman was inspired, and created a birdhouse sundial, which today remains an iconic item in Casa del Herrero’s south garden.

In typical Steedman style, the creation process was meticulous, with each section of the sundial drawn multiple times until he was satisfied with the final product. The research for the placement of each section was extensive to ensure that the time would display correctly. Today, that

The Casa became part of the Country Place era, which counted a garden sundial as an important stylistic component.

research continues to pay off as more than 80 years later the sundial still marks the correct time.

The birdhouse design was based on Gothic styles, and includes zodiac signs. The mottos “Use well thy time,” “Fast fly my hours,” “Good work lives on,” and “The night brings rest” can be found one each on the four sides. With the placement of the birdhouse in the garden, the Casa became part of the Country Place era, which counted a garden sundial as an important stylistic component.

Over time, weathering and sun exposure began to affect the birdhouse, and it became necessary to do restoration. During a Valentine’s Day visit to the Casa gardens, Marsha and Jaime Constance were introduced to the birdhouse, and decided to sponsor its restoration. “Casa del Herrero is such a beautiful Montecito landmark, and preserving it is important,” said Marsha Constance. The birdhouse was impeccably restored by South Coast Fine Arts, and remains today an intriguing item on the garden tour. Because of donors like Marsha and Jaime Constance, Casa del Herrero was able to preserve a cherished piece of its history.



Guests were greeted by festive holiday decorations and songs provided by the Santa Barbara Revels.



The Santa Barbara Revels.



Guests enjoyed appetizers in the main formal garden.



The evening's honoree Silver Belle Sharon Bradford and her husband David.

To celebrate the festive holiday season, Casa del Herrero held its annual Christmas at the Casa event in the month of December. Guests arrived to twinkling Christmas trees and a house overflowing with holiday fun and good cheer. Hearty appetizers were provided by Jessica Knight Catering, and were enjoyed as the sound of the Santa Barbara Revels drifted through the air.

"Christmas at the Casa is always a magical event," said Meghan Stoll, co-chair of the Christmas Committee. "I enjoyed working with our hardworking, volunteer committee to bring our vision of a Casa Christmas to life."

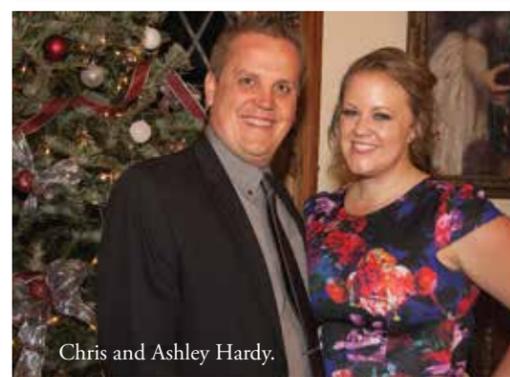
"For me, the Christmas event is always such a special evening," added Elizabeth Storm McGovern, co-chair of the Christmas Committee. "Meghan and I both love the Casa, and after all of our planning and hard work, it was really wonderful to see our Casa friends and supporters coming together for such a festive event."

The evening was also a celebration to honor Sharon Bradford, a longtime Casa del Herrero supporter. Sharon served on the Casa's Board of Trustees for six years, and chaired the Christmas at the Casa Committee for two years, in addition to providing valuable input while on the Nominating and Executive committees. Sharon's board and philanthropic experience also includes Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; Elings Park; Direct Relief; Santa Barbara Zoo; Santa Barbara Historical Museum; and the WWW Foundation. She has chaired the Music Academy of the West Gala twice, and is a member of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara. For her commitment and dedication to Casa del Herrero, Sharon was honored as the Casa's Silver Belle.

"Sharon Bradford has long been a dedicated supporter and enthusiast of Casa del Herrero," said Susan Jackson, president of the Casa del Herrero Board of Trustees. "Honoring her this evening is just a small reflection of our gratitude. We are so thankful for Sharon's efforts, as well as those of our other donors and sponsors whose support makes our stewardship and preservation of the estate possible."



As guests arrived to Casa del Herrero, they walked down a pathway lit with chandeliers.



Chris and Ashley Hardy.



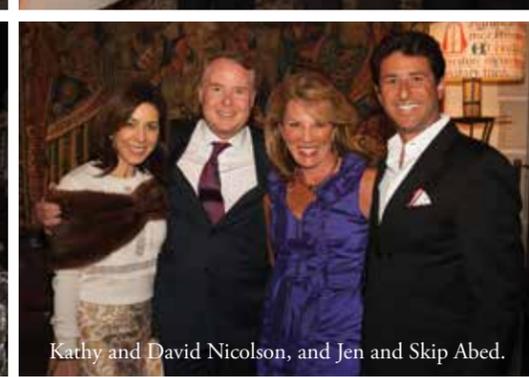
Neil Korpinen, Rick Erickson, and Carolyn and Robert Williams.



Marianne Sprague, Joan and Palmer Jackson, and Robert Stoll.



Susan and Palmer Jackson, Jr.



Kathy and David Nicolson, and Jen and Skip Abed.



Jennifer Burrows, Daniel Gibbings, and Laurel Barrack.



Fran Morrow and Karen Clark.

Christmas at the Casa

Celebrating a Festive Time of Year



Some members of the Christmas Committee: Mari McAlister, Susan Jackson, Elizabeth Storm McGovern, Meghan Stoll, Sharon Bradford, Emily Jones, and Cheryl Ziegler.



Tom Schultz, Jessica Tade, John Bridley, Rick Erickson, and Laura Bridley.



Marshall and Gretchen Milligan, and Guy and Vicky Strickland.



A holiday evening under the stars.

Christmas at the Casa was a beautiful and festive event thanks to the Christmas Committee including Elizabeth Storm McGovern (co-chair); Meghan Stoll (co-chair); Jen Abed; Kelly Cox Bilek; Heather Biles; Alexandra Bongaerts; Jessica Bowlin; Laura Bridley; Dinah Calderon; Susan Jackson; Emily Jones; Mari McAlister; Betsey Moller; Suzanne Tucker; Brett Vapnek; and Cheryl Ziegler.

Casa del Herrero
would like to thank everyone who attended
this year's Christmas at the Casa. A special thanks
to these sponsors and in-kind donors for generously
supporting our work:

Silver Bells

David Bradford
Karen and Stephen Clark
Cynthia and John Hall
Natalie and Brett Hodges
Joan and Palmer Jackson
Susan and Palmer Jackson, Jr.
Travis and Thomas Kranz

Susan and Bill McKinley
Gretchen and Marshall Milligan
Nanette and Henry Nevins
Meghan and Robert Stoll
Fred Burrows and Ben Tucker
UBS Santa Barbara
Cheryl and Peter Ziegler

Christmas Bells

Laura and John Bridley
Nancy and Robert Gregory

Elizabeth Storm McGovern
Mary Lynn and Warren Staley

Sleigh Bells

Beverly and Joe Hardin, Jr.
Bobbie and John Kinnear
Amy and Michael Mayfield

Janet and John McCann
Kellen and Andrew Meyer
Cynthia and Chapin Nolen

Joanie and Gery Zacher

Jingle Bells

Jen and Skip Abed
Anita and Chris Anderson
Joanna Kerns and Marc Appleton
Robin and Peter Barker
Laurel Beebe Barrack
Alisa and Robert Baur
Geri and Jerry Bidwell
Kelly and Tom Bilek
Heather and Chris Biles
Boone Graphics
Wendy and Christopher Blau
Alexandra and Joost Bongaerts
Sheila and Michael Bonsignore
Ella and Scott Brittingham
Lynn and Christopher Brown
Gay and Tony Browne
Michele and Arnold Brustin
Susan and Brett Caine
Dinah and Ricardo Calderon
Louise and Timothy Casey
Betsy and Kenneth Coates

Kathryne and William Dahlman
Jane and John Dailey
Dancing Tides Foundation
Jane and Bruce Defnet
Sally and Patrick Enthoven
Julie and Bill Esrey
Hon. and Mrs. Paul G. Flynn
Tisha Weber Ford
Judy and Ernie Getto
Mary and Doug Hampson
Ashley and Chris Hardy
Joan and Robert Hollman
Emily and Blake Jones
John and Margaret Wise Foundation
Lynn Morris Contracting
Jennifer and John Markham
Suzanne Tucker and Timothy Marks
Mari and Patrick McAlister
Cornelia and Brian McGrath
Nicki and Steve McHugh
Mari and Hank Mitchel

Betsey and John Moller
Mary and Jim Morouse
Fran Morrow
Susan and Ron Morrow
Nancy Zink O'Connor
Lucinda (Lester) and Walter E. Owen III
Rabobank Wealth Management
Eileen and Alex Rasmussen
Valerie and A.J. Rice
Geoffrey Claffin and Alison Wrigley Rusack
Barbara and Wayne Smith
Phyllis and Philip Smith
Catherine and Matt Stoll
Tracy and Robert Stoll, III
Robert Sweeney
Elaine and Bob Toledo
Village Frame and Gallery
Dorothy Waugh
Carolyn and Bob Williams
Albert P. Hinckley and Katherine P. Wise
John C. Woodward

Welcome to New Board Members – Kelly Cox Bilek, Bryan Goligoski, and Emily Jones

Casa del Herrero is pleased to welcome its newest board members – Kelly Cox Bilek, Bryan Goligoski, and Emily Jones. Board members are engaged volunteers who provide leadership in stewarding the historic house museum and gardens.

“Kelly, Bryan, and Emily are great additions to our board, bringing with them a wealth of expertise,” said Executive Director Jessica Tade. “Their experience and enthusiasm will continue to move the organization forward with positive momentum as we preserve history in service of the local community.”

A native of Dallas, Texas, **Kelly Cox Bilek** attended Lakehill



Kelly Cox Bilek

Preparatory School before receiving her bachelor's degree in history from Texas Christian University, where she also graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and with departmental honors. She then received a juris doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law. She has practiced law in Houston, Texas for more than 20 years with a focus on toxic tort litigation, as well as consumer and securities fraud class actions. Today, she is a partner in The Bilek Law Firm, LLP of Houston.

Always ready to give back to her community, Kelly served for three years as trustee and chairman of develop-

ment for the Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation in Columbus, Ohio, which promotes women's scholarship and leadership opportunities in addition to being the caretaker for two house museums – one in Columbus and the other in Monmouth, Illinois. Her other philanthropy and board service revolves around children's issues including serving as a court-appointed guardian *ad litem* for the CASA Foundation of Houston, Inc., as a troop leader for Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and as a board member for Storyteller Children's Center of Santa Barbara.

Bryan Goligoski brings a strong interest and passion for education, the Santa Barbara community, and architecture to the board of Casa del Herrero. He recently completed an eight-year term as a trustee on the Cold Spring School Board, and was



Bryan Goligoski

president for the past four. He is currently on the Board of Directors at the Knowlwood Tennis Club, where he has been president for the past two years. Bryan previously served as the president of the Cold Spring School Foundation, and was on the board of the Foundation for Santa Barbara High School and the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

A graduate of UCLA, Bryan studied the history of American

architecture with the renowned professor Thomas Hines. He maintains an interest in a variety of architectural styles ranging from the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, G.W. Smith, and Wallace Neff.

Emily Jones has long been engaged with the community, moving to Santa Barbara with her family



Emily Jones

after working for various advertising agencies. She has been involved with local nonprofit organizations including Storyteller Children's Center, SmART Families, and the Breast Cancer Resource Center. Additionally, Emily is a trustee for the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum and is the board treasurer for the Kirby-Jones Foundation, an organization whose mission is to support K-12 arts and education in Santa Barbara County. Emily received a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley, and an MBA with an emphasis in marketing from the University of Southern California.

Thank you to our retiring
board members
Jane Dailey, Steve Thompson,
Henry Nevins, and Neil Korpinen!
You will be missed!

For Docent Carolyn Williams, Casa del Herrero Fulfills a Passion for History and Interest in Education

After just a week in their new Montecito home, Carolyn Williams and her husband Bob hosted their first out-of-town guests. Wanting to be good hosts, Carolyn asked her new next door neighbor what she might do to make the stay enjoyable. Without hesitating, the neighbor directed Carolyn to visit Casa del Herrero. Carolyn booked a tour, and was completely enchanted with the Casa on her visit. Now, five years later, Carolyn is a dedicated docent and volunteer. “I have an interest in history, and immediately found the Casa intriguing,” said Carolyn. “I became a volunteer docent because I wanted to share the Casa’s history with visitors while also finding a way to give back.”

Carolyn thrives on discovering meaningful ways to engage with her community, and is most often drawn to cultural organizations that fulfill her passion for understanding history and creative expression. Part of this stems from spending much of her professional career working as a middle school and high school language arts teacher where she loved communicating new ideas to students. “I have always enjoyed taking something I find exciting and translating it into knowledge I can pass on to others,” said Carolyn. “My background as an educator absolutely informs my passion for and interest in Casa del Herrero.”

And with Casa del Herrero, there is much to be passionate about. From being one of the finest examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in America to the Moorish-style



gardens to the extensive collection of fifteenth and sixteenth-century fine and decorative art objects, the Casa truly has something of interest for every visitor. “I continue to be intrigued by the fact that the house museum in many ways is essentially unchanged from the time of its original owners,” said Carolyn. “It is amazing to stand in the house and see all of the original furnishings or walk through the garden and see so much of the original intent still intact.”

Carolyn and her husband Bob (who has served on the Casa board for 5 years) have moved several times in their 48 years together, and are now happy to call Montecito home. For Carolyn,

the Casa feels like an extension of this sentiment as she is so completely drawn to its mission and the creative inspiration she gets from being at the estate. “For me, the Casa is a place where I can use my skills as a teacher while keeping my passion for art and culture ignited,” said Carolyn. “There is so much to engage with from the George Washington Smith connection to the antiquities and medieval art objects to the original owners’ family history. All of this together just seemed like a good fit for me. Even after five years, I continue to find new details and new things to discover. It just gets better and better.”

Casa del Herrero Receives Rose Garden Improvement Grant from Montecito Rotary Club



Casa del Herrero is pleased to announce that it was the recipient of a fall 2016 grant from the Montecito Rotary Club. The funding will provide for necessary improvements to the Casa’s rose garden.

Carrie Steedman filled the rose garden with varieties and colors that fit her fancy. Utilizing original garden drawings, the Casa will be able to plant nearly 20 rose bushes reminiscent of her original intent.

“The rose garden is a gem – one that continues to delight those visiting the Casa,” said Duke McPherson, chair of the Casa del Herrero Garden Committee. “With this grant, we will be able to restore the rose garden to its original grandeur.”

The Rotary Club International is made up of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in their communities. These efforts are supported by the Rotary Foundation, which turns generous donations into grants that fund the work of members and partners around the world.

Casa del Herrero is grateful for the funding, which will not only bring about necessary rose garden improvements, but also assist the Casa in its ability to be a world class destination for all those visiting the historic house and gardens.

Our Casa is Your Casa Become a Member Today

While membership has its privileges, the most important benefit is the support your gift provides to Casa del Herrero. With your help, we can do our good work even better, preserving and stewarding the house, museum, and gardens, and providing education and outreach. Your membership keeps the door of access open to all those wishing to engage with the Casa – to share our local history, to preserve our fine art objects, and to keep George Washington Smith’s architecture a vital, living presence in our community.

Join us! Become a member today!

For information on becoming a member, please call (805) 565-5653 or visit casadelherrero.com.



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to schedule a tour.

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Your membership keeps the
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those wishing to engage
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make our work possible.
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