



NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Calendar of Events

Sunday April 25: 3 P M

Meet at The Book Haven, Monterey. Bring an R.L.S poem to share

Saturday May 22: 2 P M

A Celebration of RLS and Fanny's 130th wedding anniversary.

Members will meet in Stevenson gardens at 2 P M and walk to Orientations (the former Marsh's) on Lake El Estero for 3 P M Tea.

The Tea includes coffee or tea and a choice of pastry. \$5 per person.

Limited to 15 persons. Make out your check to the RLS Club with a "tea" notation on it and send it to Maureen, at 309 Mar Vista Dr. Monterey 93940 no later than May 17

Saturday, June 19: 8 P M

"Treasure Island" Carmel Outdoor Forest Theater

July and August: No meetings. Happy vacation!

THE SCOTS RETURN!

The RLS Club of Edinburgh will again be visiting Monterey for 4 days

September 2 – 5.

Plans are to visit Vanumanutagi Ranch, Point Pinos Lighthouse, The Goate Ranche and other RLS sites. There will also be a reception at the Stevenson House.

Saturday, September 4: 4 - 6 P M

Stevenson House Reception for the Edinburgh RLS Club

Their president, Ian Nimmo, has offered to speak. Details and other activities with the Scots will be announced by e mail

Thursday, October 20: 7 P M

Halloween - Scary stories by RLS.
Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library

Tuesday, November 7: 7 P M

"Unbirthday" Celebration" at the Monterey Library with cake provided by the Club and a performance by Keith Decker

Saturday, December 18: 6 P M

Potluck Christmas Party at the Bianchinis

RLS Club of Monterey Board Members

President: Monica Hudson

Secretary: Bende Kelly

Treasurer: Bob Jaques

State Park Liaison: Kris Quist

Members At Large:

Maureen Bianchini

Keith Decker

Sue Mencarini

Rosemary Smith



Pirates prepare the black spot
Illustration by N C Wyeth

Oh Oh

The 'Black Spot returns to haunt delinquents

Forget to pay your \$10 dues in January?

Send checks to:

RLS Club Box 2562

Monterey, Ca. 93942

To avoid having to raise dues, we are now e mailing newsletters and announcements. Please notify us of any change of address. No e mail? Let us know and we will use snail mail.

RLS and the The Chinese Connection

On March 12 several Club members attended an excellent lecture and slide show about the local Chinese history given by historian and author Sandy Lydon courtesy of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society.

In *Across the Plains* RLS writes about the Chinese on the immigrant train as being notably cleaner and more industrious than the Europeans and Americans on the same train who were openly prejudiced against the Chinese.

RLS also wrote about going by Chinatown on in his walks along the shore between Monterey and Pacific Grove.

In 1906 this thriving village burned to the ground. Local residents just watched while it burned, and then looted the site.

Many descendants of the residents of the destroyed Chinese Village attended the lecture and were given a round of applause at the end of the program.

A wonderful evening in spite of the heavy rain.



RLS And The Bohemian Connection

By Lindy Perez

I like to think what ultimately brought Louis and Fanny together in the French village of Grez-sur-Loing in 1876 was a shared attraction to the Bohemian lifestyle. RLS dabbled in Bohemianism as a university student in Edinburgh and in France. Fanny found it in San Francisco when she studied art at the School of Design, located in the same building as the newly formed Bohemian Club. Here she met artists and writers in what was becoming the cultural center of the city.

To learn more about the origin of the Bohemian art scene, I located the "source" book, *Vie de Boheme*, written by Frenchman Henry Mürger and published in 1851. He was the first to chronicle the comic escapades, fleeting romances, and undaunted spirits of the penniless young artists and poets inhabiting the Latin Quarter in Paris. Chapter by chapter, we witness their zany, ingenious, and often outrageous conduct.

The first of the breed was purported to be Francois Villon; RLS makes reference to Mürger in his critical study of Villon. Clearly, RLS and Fanny were never as careless and irresponsible as Mürger's gang, but they embraced the free spirit and sense of adventure of the Parisian youth. Mürger's tales gained popularity and were widely read in Europe and America.

RLS Club of Monterey

PO Box 2562

Monterey 93942

Another RLS Bohemian Connection

Rodin, the famous French sculptor, was introduced to RLS by William Henley in England in 1881. In London in an article in *The Times* written in 1887 Rodin was blasted by a Royal Academician who noted the radical Frenchman's inability to win prizes in his own country. Stevenson took up arms and wrote to *The Times*. "The public are weary of statues that say nothing. Well, here is a man coming forward, whose statues live and speak, and speak things worth uttering. Give him time, spare him nicknames and the cant of cliques and I venture to predict...he will take a place in the public heart.

Moved, Rodin gratefully sent Stevenson a small plaster cast of his new amorous pair, *Eternal Springtime*. Stevenson took this sculpture with him when he moved to his new home in Valima in Samoa.

Students everywhere imitated the dress, manners, and gaiety of his characters. By the 1870's, the trend had reached California. Two decades later when Fanny returned to San Francisco following the death of her husband, Bohemianism had captured the imagination of many young artists and writers of that city. To her surprise and delight, Robert Louis Stevenson was their idol! Some of these young men would soon become Fanny's protégées.



In Remembrance of an RLS Member

We will miss our member Hugh Smith who along with his wife Rosemary were founding members of the RLS Club of Monterey. He died peacefully with Rosemary by his side.

Current California Connection

The RLS Bohemian connection in California will be noticed in a new production by The Forest Theater Guild at the Outdoor Forest Theater in Carmel this spring. RLS Club member Keith Decker will play Long John Silver in their new production of "*Treasure Island*." This production is part of the Forest Theater Guild's 100 year anniversary celebration of theater in early Carmel acknowledging its early Bohemian connections. "*Treasure Island*" was first performed by the Forest Theater Guild in 1911.



The pirates gather to give the black spot to Long John Silver.