



NEWSLETTER



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<p><i>Calendar of Upcoming Events</i></p> <p>November 12, 2013 (Tuesday) 7 pm "Myself and the other fellow" by Howard Burnham, in the Monterey Public Library. (See Flyer Page 4).</p> <p>December 6 & 7, 2013 (Friday and Saturday) 5pm - 9pm Christmas in the Adobes - Stevenson House Open for event. (See page 5).</p> <p>January 18, 2014 (Sunday) 3-5 pm Post Christmas party at the home of Bende Kelly (Please RSVP at 649-1750) Bring appetizers, wine will be provided.</p> <p>March 17, 2014 (Monday) Musical afternoon, more information later.</p> <p>May 17, 2014 (Saturday) Potluck lunch at the home of Monica Hudson, 11am to 3 pm.</p>	<p>News from the RLS Museum in St. Helena</p> <p>The Robert Louis Stevenson Museum, in St. Helena, is pleased to have just acquired a bequest of Stevensoniana from the late Clarissa Porter. As the heir of Austin Strong's wife, Mary, Mrs. Porter had inherited Austin's Nantucket home and many Robert Louis Stevenson related materials which were housed within. Included in this acquisition is Robert Louis Stevenson's grandfather clock, circa 1800, which contains a note inside it from Austin stating that the clock had originally been in Thomas Stevenson's home at Herriot Row, Edinburgh, before being packed up and sent to Vailima. Also included are other furnishings and decorative items from Vailima, such as some Burmese brass trays and vases, the Saint-Gaudens bronze of RLS given by the artist to the family, a sketch by Isobel Strong, and the terrestrial globe which sat on Stevenson's desk. You can see the items by visiting the museum, which is open Tuesday through Thursday 12noon to 4pm or by scheduling an appointment."</p>
	<p>Membership Dues Reminder</p> <p>Your dues make possible the Newsletter and the events that the Club sponsors. If you have not already paid your 2014 dues, please send a check for \$10.00 made out to the RLS Club of Monterey to :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Monterey, c/o Robert Jaques, Treasurer 83 Via Encanto Monterey, CA 93940</p> <p><u>The deadline for dues is by January 31, 2014.</u> If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please email the Club Treasurer at boj83@comcast.net.</p>

News From the Edinburgh, Scotland Chapter of the RLS Club

The Edinburgh Club is a member of the Alliance of Literary Societies, a Club of Clubs as it were. They have begun to distribute their journal electronically. Skiving in bookshops is a form of idleness and so a sin, but has occasional compensations such as *The Beach at Falesà* reprinted by Melville House Publishing of New York (they appear first to have brought it out in 2005) in their series "*The Art of the Novella*". Neatly produced, and pleasant to see continued interest. Read and enjoy!

It seems that the traveling Scots did it again with a trip to the Stevenson Cottage at Saranac. Where they were welcomed with pipes and fiddle and, we hope, a 'wee dram'. It would have been worth the trip to hear Ian Nimmo sing "Sing me a Song of a Lad that is Gone", John Sheldon recite "Ticonderoga" and Ailene Hunter read the RLS poem "Winter".

A wonderful adventurous group of folk, our Scottish friends! We hope to see them in Monterey soon.

A very large Great Tapestry of Scotland featuring a panel of the boy Stevenson surveying the "pleasant land of Counterpane", that will be touring throughout Scotland, is now in Edinburgh.

A new Statue of RLS as a boy has been recently installed in the garden of the Parish Church in Colinton, where Louis played with his many cousins while visiting their grandparents.

Coming Soon: "Stevenson's Treasure" a new Historical Novel about RLS's year in California by Mark Wiederanders

Mark Wiederanders, a Sacramento author with family ties to the Monterey area, announced that his novel, *Stevenson's Treasure*, will be published by Fireship Press in early 2014. The book, set mainly in California, tells the story of RLS's quest to make Fanny Osbourne his wife. Based on research using original letters, scrapbooks, manuscripts and world travel, the book is getting great advance reviews. Mary Burns, author of *Portraits of an Artist: a Novel about John Singer Sargent*, writes that "*Stevenson's Treasure* is an exhilarating ride through the Golden West as we follow Robert Louis Stevenson from France and Scotland to Monterey, California in search of love and inspiration. The opening sentence is a stunner: 'Fanny Osbourne had not expected to fall in love with a penniless writer in bad health who was closer to her daughter's age than to her own' and the novel just gets better from there." Some of you may know Mark's son, local resident John Weed who plays fiddle with the Celtic band, Molly's Revenge. John figures in how the novel came to be – his dad learned, several years ago, that Stevenson collapsed and almost died in the hills just above John's Carmel Valley home, and began following RLS's fascinating trail...

Special Visitors to the Stevenson House

On a Saturday in September, a surprise visitor walked into the Stevenson House. Tate Lloyd Schieferle introduced himself to the docents as the great-great-grandson of Fanny Stevenson as well as the great-grandson of Lloyd Osbourne. His mother Teddy became the literary executor of the Stevenson legacy at the death of his great uncle Alan Osbourne. In a recent settlement of his parents' estate, Tate was awarded literary executorship, which means he is now the family member responsible for copyright decisions. Having inherited a creative mind and with experience in computer graphics, Tate hopes to establish an online presence for researchers and readers of Stevenson. While no unpublished manuscripts have come to light, Tate has scrapbooks, photos, letters, and news clippings kept by Fanny and Lloyd. Connecting his family stories and photos to other documented history of the Stevenson-Osbourne clans would be a true contribution to the Stevenson legacy. The RLS Club plans to stay in touch with Tate and follow his progress.

Another visitor, Natalie Dykstra, came to Monterey this summer to do serious research on Fanny Stevenson. She is a Professor of English at Hope College and a published biographer. Like many of us, she is fascinated by the life story of Fanny, a woman truly ahead of her time. Club members spent many hours sharing what we knew about Fanny and her extended family. It will be a few years before this new biography of Fanny is completed.

Wouldn't it be grand if Natalie and Tate could meet?

Stevenson, Stoddard and Simoneau: A Three-Way Friendship

By Lindy Perez

In the historic San Carlos Cemetery in Monterey, approximately eight paces separate the grave markers of Charles Warren Stoddard (1843-1909) and Jules Simoneau (1820-1908). Both men were friends of Robert Louis Stevenson and had a significant influence on his life. Stoddard paid tribute to Simoneau when he died in 1908; seven months later Stoddard himself was eulogized in Monterey.

In the late nineteenth century, three men were ranked as the best writers of tales from the South Seas: Herman Melville, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Charles Warren Stoddard. Stevenson and Stoddard were not only contemporaries, they had intersecting lives. As described by RLS in *The Wrecker*, their first meeting was in the bohemian district in San Francisco at a time when Stevenson was just beginning his life of travel and Stoddard was well into his. It was in conversation with Stoddard about his adventures in Hawaii and Tahiti that Stevenson first "fell under the spell" of the Islands. Stoddard wrote his version of this 1880 encounter in his book *In the Footprints of the Padres*.

Several years earlier, Stoddard was in Europe with friend Joe Strong who was studying art in Munich and who would later become Stevenson's step-son-in-law. In 1878, Stoddard and Strong indulged in the bohemian lifestyle while staying in Monterey with other artist friends from San Francisco. They "breakfasted at Simoneau's, in the inner room with its frescos done in beer and shoeblacking." Later Stoddard lived in Hawaii with Strong and wife Belle. He visited the Leper Colony on Molokai in 1884 and corresponded with Father Damien, some 6 years before Stevenson wrote his famous open letter to the Rev. Hyde, defending Damien's truer Christianity.

Jules Simoneau, an educated and well-read Frenchman, immigrated to California and settled in Monterey by the 1870's. He became the proprietor of the Lyon's Ale Depot and French Restaurant, which soon became a favorite haunt for artists. This is where Stevenson had his meals as a newcomer to Monterey in 1879. Simoneau became close friend, chess partner, and guardian angel to the ailing and near-penniless writer. Stevenson never forgot this kindness and nurtured the friendship for the rest of his life by sending Simoneau affectionate letters and autographed first editions of his books.

After the death of RLS, Fanny Stevenson and Belle Strong kept in touch with both Jules Simoneau and Charles Warren Stoddard. They visited Stoddard in Manhattan in 1903, the year he published *Exits and Entrances*, containing sketches of famous writers he knew. The first chapter was a reflection on Robert Louis Stevenson. By 1905, Stoddard had returned to California and decided to visit Monterey to learn more about Stevenson's time there. As it turned out, he remained in Monterey for the rest of his life. Like so many other writers and admirers of RLS, Stoddard would stop by the house on Van Buren Street where Simoneau had lived for decades. The old man delighted in talking about his special friendship, proudly showing the books and letters he had received from RLS and Mrs. Stevenson. He told Stoddard precisely which room RLS rented in the Stevenson House. Based on these conversations and his journals, Stoddard wrote an article about Stevenson and Simoneau for *The National Magazine*. The original journals and letters from Stoddard's last years in Monterey are in the archive collection of the Stevenson House. His writing expresses a longing for a bygone era –

Monterey that I loved so dearly has gone clean, or unclean, to the devil. The curse of progress in modern improvements has robbed it of its only charm – it was the ideal haunt of Poets, Artists, Bohemians. All that made it picturesque, restful, charming has utterly vanished.

.and recalls Stevenson's insight in *The Old Pacific Capital*.

Good Scottish Shortbread

With one pound of flour mix well two ounces of sifted sugar, and one of candied orange-rind or citron, sliced small; make these into a paste with from eight to nine ounces of good butter, made sufficiently warm to be liquid; press the paste together with the hands, and mould it upon tins into large cakes nearly an inch thick, pinch the edges, and bake the shortbread in a moderate oven for twenty minutes, or longer, should it not be quite crisp, but do not allow it to become deeply coloured. **Ingredients:** Flour, 1 lb., Sugar, 2 oz., Candied orange or citron, 1 oz., Butter, 8 to 9 oz. **Cooking time:** 20 minutes or more.

From "Modern Cookery for Private Families Reduced to a System of Easy Practice in a series of Carefully Tested Receipts" London 1868. (This book belonged to Mrs. Thomas Stevenson, who commented about this recipe... "To many this is a very indigestible compound though agreeable to the taste". My Opinion: That is what makes this "fun".



**Monterey Public Library
Presents the Annual
Robert Louis Stevenson Unbirthday**

**“Myself and the Other Fellow: Robert
Louis Stevenson in Carmel Valley, 1879”**

A performance by

Howard Burnham



**Monterey Public Library
625 Pacific Street
Monterey**

**For ages 16-up
SEATING RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**

**(831) 646-3949
mcombs@monterey.org
www.monterey.org/library**

**Delicious Unbirthday Cake courtesy of
the RLS Club of Monterey**

**Tuesday, November 12
7:00 p.m.**

Christmas in the Adobes Info & Tickets

Christmas in the Adobes 2013

Monterey's Signature Holiday Event-

Dates: Friday December 6 & Saturday December 7

Time: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night

Stroll through the streets of Historic Downtown Monterey and visit 19th C. adobes for fandango dance lessons at Custom House, or bagpipes and cookies at Robert Louis Stevenson House. Refreshments, games history and fun await the entire family during Monterey's signature holiday event.

Tickets go on sale beginning Oct 15, 2013 at Cooper Museum Store - 525 Polk Street at Alvarado in Historic Downtown Monterey or online using the link below. Present your military I.D. at the Cooper Museum Store to receive \$5 off regular price of one-night Adult Ticket.



Ticket Prices - \$25 Adult 18 and over; \$2 Youth ages 6-17; Children 5-and-under free. **Save \$5** on one-night adult pass by purchasing ticket on or before October 31. Take your time and see all the buildings with a two-night Gold Pass for \$40.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW via PayPal

Tickets purchased on-line can be picked up at Pacific House Museum Will Call on the night of the event - Located on Custom House Plaza near Fisherman's Wharf. Proceeds benefit Monterey State Historic Park children's educational programs.

Buying Tickets on Event Nights

You may purchase tickets on event nights at the Cooper Museum Store 525 Polk St. @ Alvarado or at Pacific House Museum on Custom House Plaza.

Will Call Pick-up at Pacific House Museum

Due to amount of on-line ticket sales, Will Call will be open at Pacific House Museum, next to the ice rink on Custom House Plaza, prior to the event [**Dates and times TBA**] Will Call will also be open on event nights at Pacific House (Dec. 6 & 7) starting at 3 p.m.

THIS YEAR'S PARTICIPATING HISTORIC BUILDINGS

California's First Theater - Sponsored by Mary Powell in memory of Howard T. Powell

Casa Abrego

Casa Amesti

Casa Del Oro (Jos Boston Store)

Casa Serrano

Casa Soberanes - Co-Sponsored by Fish Hopper Restaurant and Old Fisherman's Grotto Restaurant

Colton Hall

Cooper-Molera Adobe - Sponsored by Kathy Miller in memory of Dr. Clair A. Weast

Custom House - Sponsored by the Inns of Monterey

De La Torre Adobe (Old Federal Courthouse)

House of Four Winds

Lara Soto Adobe

Larkin House - Sponsored by Sotheby's International Realty- Lisa Barkalow #01491728; Jacquie Adams #01702965

Mayo Hayes O' Donnell Library

Merritt House

Monterey Museum of Art

Old Whaling Station

Pacheco Adobe

Pacific House - Sponsored by Toy Bryant in memory of Bill Bryant

Pickett Fence Garden Shop

Robert Louis Stevenson House - Sponsored by the Point Lobos Foundation

Rodriguez-Osio Adobe - Co-Sponsored by Crawford Annis Professional Offices and Holistic Diet Life

Royal Presidio Chapel/San Carlos Cathedral