

NEWSLETTER



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Calendar of Upcoming Events ***(Emails will provide further information on each event)***

March 17 (Sunday) from 3-5 pm
RLS meets St. Patrick. Pot Luck at Bianchini residence.

April 6

RLS house re-opens for docent-led tours from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday through September 28.

May 3-4 (Friday-Saturday)

Exhibit opens: "A tribute to Francis Adler Elkins, Interior designer." (See more details on page 2).

July

Walking tour of RLS's haunts and hang outs in Monterey. Date TBA.

August 23 (Friday p.m.)

Annual Celebration at Stevenson House of RLS' arrival in Monterey.

September 14-15 (Saturday-Sunday)

"Art in the Adobes" with artwork displayed in the Stevenson House. Visit www.artintheadobes.org for info.

November 12 (Tuesday)

RLS Unbirthday at Monterey Library. Howard Burnham presents: "*Myself and the Other Fellow: RLS in Carmel Valley, 1879.*"

RLS Club President Monica Hudson's Message

We have a successful year behind us with the Club's energy focused on keeping RLS' memory in Monterey alive. On any Saturday from early spring to the end of September you could find members of the RLS club staffing the Stevenson House. Armed with knowledge of our favorite author's life and work, and with enthusiasm to share that with the visiting public, our Club has been instrumental in enabling California State Parks to keep the Stevenson House open to the public. Club members have been keeping a vigilant eye on the upkeep of local landmarks and plaques which commemorate Stevenson's stay in Monterey, and our continued effort to bring several Stevenson-related events to our community has been met with good attendance. We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends at our next gathering or at the Stevenson House on a Saturday.

Jules Simoneau House

Jules Simoneau's home, now part of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, has been historically renovated and the original foundation discovered in the process.

A new "Simoneau House" metal plaque will be hung and a more sturdy information panel installed.

Descendants have also donated additional photos and family history items to the House.

The RLS Club has been invited to visit when all work is completed.

We would like to thank MIIS for their continued interest in this Historic House visited by RLS on so many occasions.

Membership Dues Reminder

Your dues make possible the Newsletter and the events that the Club sponsors. If you have not already paid your 2013 dues, please send a check for \$10.00 made out to the RLS Club of Monterey to :

Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Monterey

P.O. Box 624

Monterey, CA 93942

If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please email the Club Treasurer at bobj83@comcast.net.

A Tribute to Interior Designer Frances Adler Elkins (1888-1953): Elements of a Timeless Style

There is very good evidence that Frances Elkins is one of the main reasons that the Stevenson House was acquired and given to the State Parks for a museum. Why? Elkins was a decorator for both Celia Tobin-Clark and Edith Van Antwerp at the time they became owners. Consequently, on the weekend of May 3-4 there will be the following Spring 2013 Stevenson House event:

"A Tribute to Interior Designer Frances Adler Elkins (1888-1953): Elements of a Timeless Style"

At the time of preparation of this Newsletter details were still being worked out, but here is the tentative schedule:

Friday: Elkins Scholar, Scott Powell, Presentation with power Point: 7:30-9:00 p.m. Champagne aperitif served on patio following presentation.

Saturday: Set up of Frances Elkins small artifacts/photos in Dining Room of Stevenson House: 9:00 (closed to public during set up).

Local Elkins experts Jerry Welling and Diane Bower presenting individual viewpoints/areas of expertise in relation to Frances' interior design, followed by questions and answers by Jerry, Diane and Scott: 10:00 -12:00 a.m. (Jerry and Diane yet to be confirmed).

Scott will return to Stevenson House from 3-4 p.m. to be on hand to visit with members of the public who are interested in Elkins.

Items will be left on display for the afternoon docent 'open house': 1-4:00 p.m. Elkins artifacts will be removed at 4:00 p.m., so this is a one-day only opportunity.

A fee will be charged for the Friday/Saturday evening event - one fee only to make things simple. Viewing during the docent open house will be free to the public. If you are willing to help with set-up and take-down for the reception on the patio, or serve drinks, the first six volunteers to let Lisa Bradford know about helping will be eligible for a discount on the ticket price (TBD). You may contact her at: Lisa Maldonado Bradford, Interpreter I, Monterey State Historic Park, 20 Custom House Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940, telephone (831) 649-7109, email Lisa.Bradford@parks.ca.gov.

Why I Volunteer at the Stevenson House (or What's In It for Me?) Comments From a Few of our Docents

"I volunteer because it's good for me and I learn things from my visitors. I know I am needed and appreciated. A win-win."

"I love making connections with people I don't know by discovering a common experience or shared passion. Visitors who are attracted to the life and literary imagination of R.L.S. are generally well read and well traveled; they appreciate the courage, compassion and humanity of Stevenson."

"It is fun to volunteer at Stevenson house. You meet and talk with interesting visitors from all over the world and share our fine Stevenson collection."

"I love the life and writing of R.L.S. as well as the history of Monterey. Since visitors come from all over the U.S. and the world to visit the Stevenson House, it is a privilege to meet and speak with them of Stevenson in old Monterey."

"I left the House with a smile and a warm feeling. People with boating experience made a connection with the Casco's voyage, with the help of the globe that traces that trek. They gained a new appreciation of the character and personality of Louis Stevenson."

A Chance Encounter with an Old Friend

Does this ever happen to you?.....You're reading a book or listening to the radio when – out of the blue - you recognize a quote from or reference to Robert Louis Stevenson? One of our Club members said that this happens to her so often that she has started keeping track. Here's a sample:

1. Writer's Almanac on National Public Radio (2013) - a Stevenson poem, "In the Highlands" was read by Garrison Keillor.

2. The Education of Henry Adams (1907) – a historian from a famous American family wrote of his visit with the Stevensons in Samoa.

3. Sweet Thursday (1954), the sequel to Cannery Row by John Steinbeck - the last chapter took these words and theme from A Child Garden of Verses: "I'm sure we shall all be as Happy as Kings."

4. The Greatest Journey, by David McCullough (2011) - Stevenson's friendships with artists John Singer Sargent and August Saint-Gaudens are described during their days in Paris and Britain.

5. The Lark (1895) - a literary and humor magazine published by San Francisco bohemians was dedicated to Stevenson after his death.

6. Steampunk tales by James Blaylock (1990's plus) – these popular stories were inspired by "New Arabian Nights" with the central character named St. Ives.

7. The Autobiography of Mark Twain (2010) – the recently published memoirs describe a meeting between Twain and Stevenson in Washington Square, NYC, in 1888, when the two discussed "submerged renown."

8. National Prayer Service led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, the day after President Obama's Inauguration (2013) - Stevenson's story of the Lamplighter was retold for its inspirational message.

Images, themes, and phrases from Treasure Island and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are constantly "borrowed" from Stevenson's writings to make a point or a profit! The more one reads Stevenson, the more one understands how much a part of our everyday culture he is.

Stevenson House Archives: Always in Use

There has always been interest in the Stevenson House Archives. This diverse collection of documents and photograph continues to be researched and utilized. The Stevenson House Archives Finding Guide can be found on the Online Archives of California web site. The MSHP Curatorial Staff is always responsive to requests for materials or information from the Archive Collection, further promoting and sharing the unique historic resource located in Monterey. Here is a sample from the first two months 2013 of who is seeking information from the Archives.

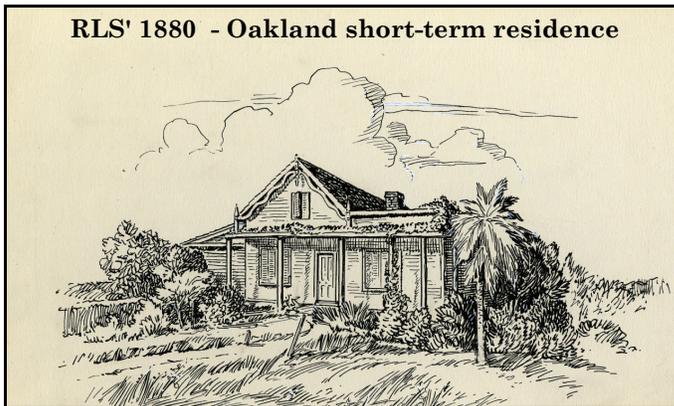
Benoit Razy from Paris, France is producing a feature film adapted from "Travel with a Donkey in the Cévennes". He was seeking historic images from the Stevenson House Archives which included a photograph of the Osbourne cottage in Oakland where RLS was ill in spring of 1880,

Dr. Gillian Hughes, Manchester England is editing RLS' "Weir of Hermiston" for the New Edinburgh Edition of the Collected Works of Robert Louis Stevenson. She requested scanned images of the two pages of RLS' manuscript from the Stevenson House Archives.

Letitia Henville, a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto, is currently working on Stevenson's 1890 collection Ballads. She requested electronic copies of RLS' original composition, "Farewell to Tautira". This title is among the three sheets manuscript music for flageolet that Stevenson composed.

Jane Condie, of the Advocates Library in the Parliament House, Edinburgh was also seeking RLS music. She requested a copy of "Aberlady Links" which was included in an opera recital sponsored by the Advocates Library. The Stevenson House On-Line Archives and be found at: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt838nb3bw/>

RLS' 1880 - Oakland short-term residence



Travel with RLS



This is a photo of Florac, a beautiful town on the Tarn River, with rippling brooks and flowing water throughout the town. Visiting there on his Travels with a Donkey RLS thought it to be the most beautiful spot in the Cevenne.

Last November our meeting at Monterey Public Library fell exactly on RLS' birthday, November 13. While the receipt of gifts is always associated with birthdays we chose to celebrate Robert Louis Stevenson's day with one of the lasting gifts he gave to us, his vivid accounts of all the places he visited during his lifetime. In doing so he has sparked an interest in hundreds, if not thousands of present day travelers to follow in his footsteps and explore the far corners of the world. He inspired many of us to pack our bags and seek adventure in places off the beaten track. Armed with RLS we leave *Michelin, Frommers and The Lonely Planet* at home and set out to discover our new surroundings through the eyes of our favourite writer, and we are always amazed how "spot on" his descriptions still are today. Among us are armchair travelers who, in the comfort of their homes, follow RLS in the atlas or on a globe. But then there are those souls for whom only the "real thing" is good enough, who have to see, smell and touch the land and meet the people in these faraway places. Such adventures have to be shared and on November 13th three of our club members did just that. Keith Decker had been to Edinburgh, Maureen Bianchini to the Cevenne and Rosemary Smith to Bournemouth. They brought their photos and tales of discovery, joy and excitement, their challenges and successes and always stories

RLS and Mark Twain

Below is a copy of a painting done by Joe Mora's brother Louis of RLS and Mark Twain in Washington Park in New York. Louis Mora was a very well known painter and sculptor on the East coast.

