

# NEWSLETTER



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<i><b>Calendar of Upcoming Events</b></i>	
<b>June 22 (Saturday) 10:30 am</b> Field Trip to Garland Ranch Regional Park, Carmel Valley (see article, pp. 1). Bring-your own picnic lunch.	
<b>August 3-4 (Saturday/Sunday)</b> Scottish Festival at Monterey Fair-ground.	
<b>August 31 (Saturday) 4-6 pm</b> Lecture at Stevenson House: "Dawn of the 17 Mile Drive," presented by John Sanders (see article, pp. 5).	
<b>October 5 (Saturday) 5:30-7:30 pm</b> Annual RLS Club dinner at Hacienda Carmel.	
<b>November 9 (Saturday) 2 pm</b> Unbirthday Party at Monterey Public Library.	
<b>December 13 &amp; 14 (Friday/Saturday) 5-9 pm</b> Christmas in the Adobes, Monterey State Historic Park.	

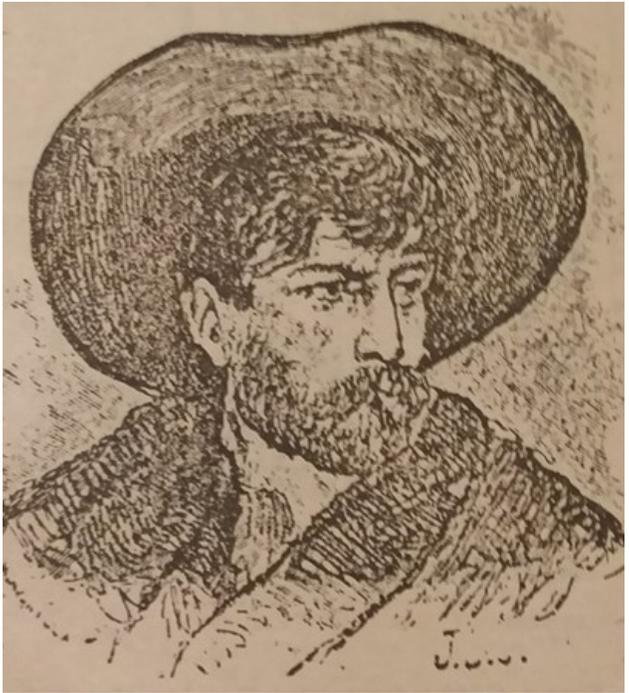
## *Summer Field Trip: Where Fanny Became the Storyteller*

Please join us on Saturday, June 22, when the RLS Club will gather at Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley to experience the place not far from where an old Spanish-style rodeo occurred in the spring of 1879. It was after this event that Fanny Osbourne collaborated with artist Joseph Strong, her future son-in-law, to create a literary portrait of early California.

Several months before Robert Louis Stevenson arrived in Monterey, Fanny, her children Belle and Sam (Lloyd) and sister Nellie, along with Joseph and his sisters Elizabeth and Ninole, accepted an invitation to a camping trip in order to witness an authentic rodeo on the Sargent Ranch in Carmel Valley. Afterwards, Fanny wrote a story about the adventure and Joseph created illustrations for an entertaining narrative that was published in *Lippincott's Magazine of Popular Literature and Science* in January 1880.

This rare article has been located, and copies will be given to each field trip participant for a group reading. Through Fanny's words, we will imagine vaqueros with lariats and a mad bull charging as we relive the colorful events which anticipate Stevenson's own trek into Carmel Valley.

**Date/Time/Place:** Saturday, June 22, 10:30 am – 1 pm at Garland Ranch Regional Park on Carmel Valley Road. Please RSVP to Edna Barker, [ukedna@gmail.com](mailto:ukedna@gmail.com) (831) 333-6917; Carpooling is recommended. We will meet in the roadside parking lot. Please bring a sack lunch and something to share, and remember to wear your walking shoes.



## Anniversary #139 for RLS and Fanny



The Anniversary Tea had to be brought indoors from the garden due to inclement weather. Thanks to the flexibility of Monterey State Historic Park, we were allowed to set up the tables in the sala of Stevenson House, where the décor, organized by board member **Ruth Ann Krotzer**, looked lovelier than ever.



Our honored guests were **David Reid**, president of the RLS Club of Edinburgh, Scotland, and his wife Alison. We were touched by their gracious comments and treasure the enduring relationship between our clubs. The Reids planned their visit to California to include the Tea and to see where Stevenson had been in Monterey and further north.



The entertainment was provided by Board member and seasoned actor **Keith Decker** who gave a stellar performance of his original work, *Velvet Coat—the Ragged Luck of Robert Louis Stevenson*.



Kudos to board member **Edna Barker** who saw to it that each cup of tea was piping hot and, along with other servers, passed around delicious member-made sandwiches and sweets as guests chewed and chatted .

# The Elizabeth Stuart Warfel Collection of Stevenson Books

“My mother’s passion with Robert Louis Stevenson started when she visited the house in Monterey in the late 1970’s,” explained Lesley Slifkin, the daughter of Elizabeth Warfel. “I remember she said to me as she was leaving the house that Robert Louis Stevenson’s voice came to her and said ‘learn my words.’ She took this very seriously.” For the next 30 years, her mother read his works, studied his life, visited where he had traveled, and befriended fellow RLS enthusiasts. To do so, Elizabeth decided to spend half of every year in Scotland and half in California. Wherever she went, she visited antiquarian bookstores and asked for books by and about RLS. This is how her priceless collection came to be.

After Elizabeth’s death in 2009, Lesley wanted the book collection to be donated to the Club in Monterey where her mother had many friends who shared her love and admiration for RLS. Earlier this year, board member **Harish Joshi** drove to Pasadena, CA to accept the collection at the home of Lesley Slifkin. He combined his round trip with a visit to the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. After the heavy boxes of almost 200 books were loaded into his car (and a pleasant day was had at the Huntington), Harish transported them back to Monterey for safekeeping. The Board is now in the process of finding good homes for all the books.

*Thank you Lesley and thank you Harish!*



Elizabeth Warfel with friends after visiting the grave of RLS at the top of Mount Vaea in Samoa

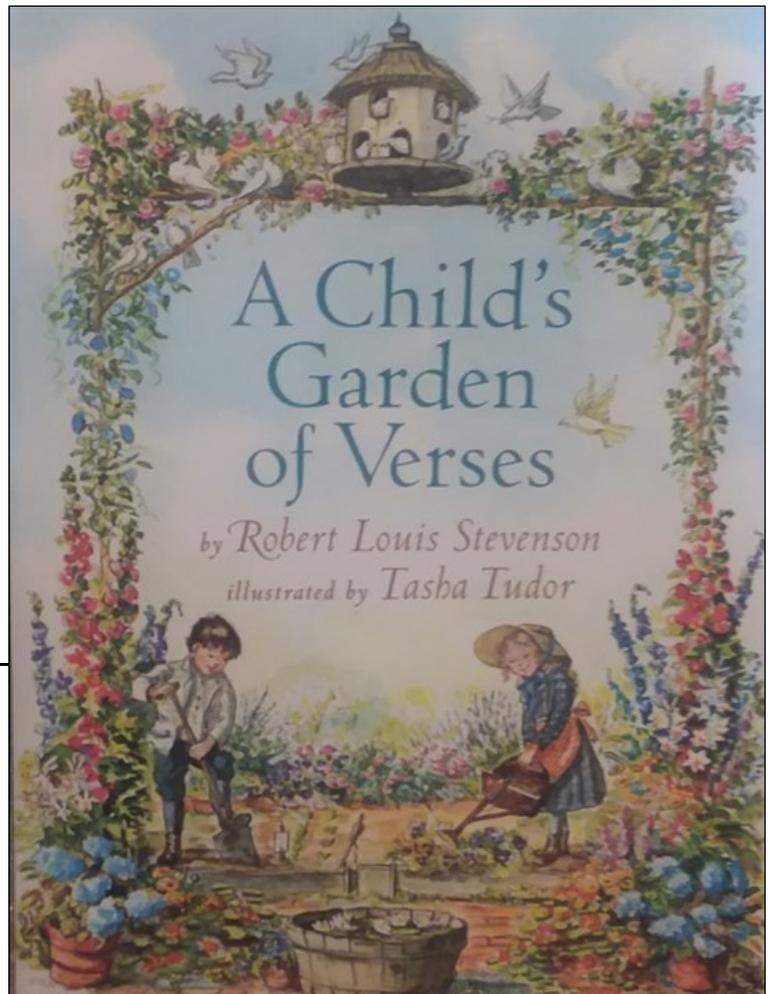


The first exhibit seen by Harish Joshi on entering the Huntington American Art Museum: the medallion of Robert Louis Stevenson in bronze relief by famous American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens

## February and March Salons

On February 10, Club members gathered at the comfortable home of Maureen and Hugo Bianchini to discuss a lesser-known story by RLS, *The Treasure of Franchard*, set in France. A lively conversation followed which revealed two opposing points of views: there were those who loved the comedy, irony, and unforgettable character of Dr. Desprez, and those who thought the story strange and uncharacteristic of RLS. Talk later turned to memories of France, especially visits to the village of Grez where Stevenson and Fanny first met.

On March 31, members met at The Park Lane lounge with their well-worn copies of *A Child's Garden of Verses* to read poems aloud and explain their personal significance. A broad range of verses was selected by participants who shared memories from childhood and from parenting their own children. Some club members who are/were teachers described how even today particular poems are integrated into the curriculum for elementary school students. Stevenson's insights into the mind of the child continue to ring true.



### New Stevenson Books for Sale at Custom House Store

Lucky for Club members who want to add to their Stevenson collection, the MSHPA store inside the historic Custom House has added several affordable books to its inventory. All purchases made at the store benefit the children's programs at the State Park. Here is the list:

**The Complete Stories of Robert Louis Stevenson**, edited by Barry Menikoff, Modern Library Classics, \$20.

**Robert Louis Stevenson, Seven Novels**, Canterbury Classics, \$24.99

**An Apology for Idlers**, Penguin Books, \$10. A collection of essays including *Falling in Love*, *Crabbed Age and Youth*, and *The Old Pacific Capital*.

**South Sea Tales**, Oxford World Classics, \$14.95. A collection of stories including *The Beach of Falesa*, *The Bottle Imp*, *The Isle of Voices*, and *Ebb Tide*.

**Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes**, Stanford Travel Classics, \$9.95.

Two new versions of *The Child's Garden of Verses*: a hardback illustrated by Tasha Tudor, \$19.99 and a Dover Read and Listen with CD, \$14.99.

## *Have You Ever Wondered How Stevenson Knew About the Coming of the Hotel Del Monte?*

You will have this question answered and many more at the Stevenson House Lecture, held this year on August 31, 4-6 pm. The speaker is John Sanders, local historian and expert on the famous Monterey Hotel, whose topic will be *"Dawn of the 17-Mile Drive."* This is an annual fund-raiser for Monterey State Historic Park Association (MSHPA). Tickets will go on sale in early August.

## *An Essay for Edinburgh*

In early February, Board members **Monica Hudson**, **Lindy Perez**, and **Elizabeth Anderson** began exploring perspectives that could go into our Club's part in a book celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Edinburgh RLS Club. Our discussion and email exchanges went on and on—as does our appreciation for Stevenson—while we drafted, focused, edited, and distilled our essay. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Monica sent "Stevenson has a home in Monterey" to Edinburgh, adding our hopes that it will add the Monterey Dimension to the volume and thanking them for inviting us to participate.

David Reid, president of the RLS Club of Edinburgh, responded with thanks and warm regards:

*A piece to reflect how R.L.S. continues to be a live and influential presence in our imaginative world was what we asked for and you have given us just that. You have given us a vivid impression of Monterey and the warmth of its people, past and present, as well as the inspirational figure Stevenson continues to be for you and the visitors who make the pilgrimage to the Stevenson House.*

## *We Welcome the Following NEW MEMBERS to the RLS Club of Monterey*

Chris Eplin   Linda Foster   Lud Geiger   Olivia Gonzalez   Monica LaVelle  
Laurie Lincoln   Jennifer Scott   Bonnie Van Meter

## *Other News of Interest*

- The RLS Club was represented by board members **Monica Hudson** and **Bende Kelly** in February at the Friends of the Library *Wine and Chocolate* fund-raising event. Our partnership with the Monterey Public Library is long-standing and valued: we collaborate on the *Unbirthday Party* for RLS each November, and the California Room holds the RLS Club's archives.
- The Stevenson House is open to visitors on Saturdays from 1-4 pm now through October. Docents of the Monterey State Historic Park, many of whom are Club members, volunteer time to share their enthusiasm for RLS.
- Let's welcome **Harish Joshi**, who joined the RLS Board of Directors this January and has already impressed us all with his dedication and good ideas.