



NEWSLETTER



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<i>Calendar of Events: Proposed but not Promised for 2020</i>	
June & July events have been canceled due to COVID-19 (events may be announced if circumstances change)	
August 29 (Saturday) 4-6 pm Annual Lecture at the Stevenson House Speaker: Roger Swearingen, RLS scholar and club member (topic to TBA)	
October 3 (Saturday) 5:30-8 pm Annual RLS Club dinner and election of officers at Hacienda Carmel	
November (date TBA) Unbirthday Party for RLS at Monterey Public Library	
December (dates TBA) Holiday luncheon for Club members & Christmas in the Adobes for all	

President's Message

I'm writing this as I listen to Rita Leonard's CD entitled, *Selections from 'A Child's Garden of Verses'* by Robert Louis Stevenson. What a nice lyrical homage to our literary hero.

Hopefully you're doing as well as can be expected with the changes created by the Covid-19 pandemic. It's been good having extra time for our Club's ongoing contest to read as many books as we can by and about RLS. Just think, I could have been cleaning house and washing dishes.... I look forward to seeing you and enjoying special events together whenever it's possible. Meanwhile let's be as brave and optimistic as "Louis" was. Think about the time he valiantly visited the leper colony on Molokai. Remember that nothing lasts forever.

On May 19, 2020, at noon (PST), it was heartwarming to realize that RLS and Fanny admirers worldwide were commemorating their 140th wedding anniversary. How significant that we were together in thought and spirit!

My recent correspondence from Rita Leonard, President of the Stevenson Society of America, warrants our prompt attention. During 1887-1888, RLS, his family, and dog "Sport" resided in the Baker Cottage at Saranac Lake, New York. For decades the cottage museum has been supported through donations only; it is filled with extensive RLS memorabilia and has been a wonderful place to visit. My concern now is that the roof shingles are deteriorating and must be replaced this summer. The Stevenson Society of America funds are low, and we are invited to help save this American Shrine to RLS. Kudos to the Edinburgh Scots who have made a significant donation already. The RLS Club of Monterey, Board of Directors has cheerfully voted to send \$500 to help this important cause. Every dollar helps, and donations are tax deductible. Checks are payable and may be sent to: Stevenson Society of America, Inc., P.O. Box 607, Saranac Lake, N.Y, 12983.

Rita Leonard's email address is: rlstevenson.rl_spirit@yahoo.com.



Remember this: During his 1879 sojourn to Monterey, the adventurous Robert Louis Stevenson ventured over the hill to the Carmel Mission and attended Mass on Sunday, November 4, 1879. In his essay *The Old Pacific Capital*, he wrote, "the church is roofless and ruinous". Thanks to years of preservation efforts and private donations, the Mission has been majestically restored. That same concern and care needs to be shown to the Baker Cottage for its roof restoration. It is a privilege and honor to share in this essential upgrade, so the world may continue to enter through its doors.

My prayers and blessings to you and your loved ones, cordially,

Ruth Anne Krotzer, President, RLS Club of Monterey, (831) 601-1894

A Salon for the Afternoon

by Keith Decker

I drove to the highlands overlooking Monterey Bay to Chateau Bianchini on a balmy Sunday afternoon, February 16. The event was another ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON CLUB OF MONTEREY SALON. Our gathering was to celebrate the writings of our beloved author, and on this occasion we were to discuss the short story PROVIDENCE AND THE GUITAR written October, November 1878. This story was most certainly inspired by RLS travel to Cevennes in September of that same year. Our host and hostess, Hugo and Maureen, most graciously proffered coffee and proper British tea (milk first) with a table laden with scones, cookies, dips, shrimps, and other delights.

We gathered in the living room, and I was taken with the large numbers of our small club and also with the new members who joined our club and the enthusiasm which was exhibited by all. Maureen and Pamela shared their French acumen, and Edna added a Scots note to the discussion 'round the room. The Bohemian musicians and their humorous entanglements in Castel-le-Gachis brought about a lively exchange of interpretations and views on art, and with the introduction of Stubbs, the student banker from England into the mix, it turned to the realm of finance and art.

The wandering trio find lodging with an amateur painter and stoic wife, and spend the night with music and philosophy and all is well. "They are all mad," thought Stubbs, "but wonderfully decent."

Thank you Monsieur Berthelini and The Bianchini's for a most pleasant SALON.



Keith Decker (standing) with Hugo and Maureen at Chateau Bianchini



Laden Table



New members Helen and David Anderson with John Sanders

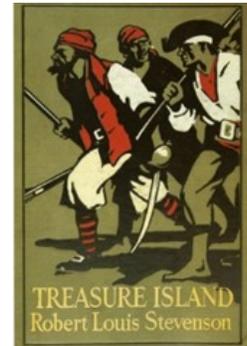
A Hearty Welcome to New Members

Much to our delight, folks continue to hear about us and ask to join the most convivial club in the old Pacific capital. Since the last report, we have welcomed eight (8) new members: **David and Helen Anderson, Richard Cota Jr., David Dilworth, Susan Hinde, Monica Latelle, Jean O'Brien, and David Laws.** We are looking forward to a time when we can get together with you.

These Stevenson Books Can Be Yours

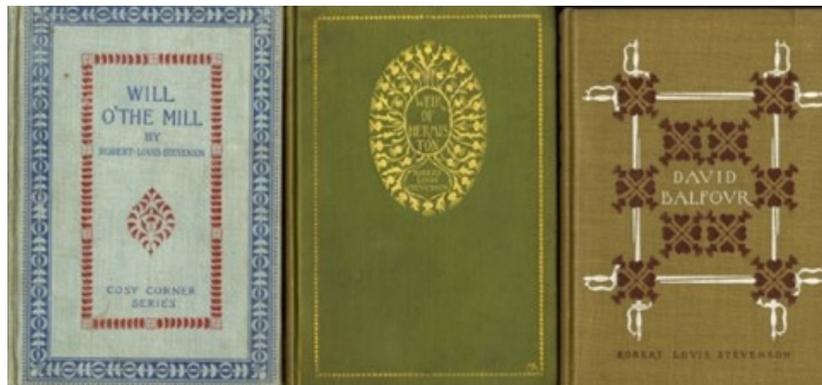
Good news! The following books are NOW on sale *for members only* from the Elizabeth Warfel Collection. Here is just a sampling of over 200 mostly rare books bequeathed to our Club. Any volume can be yours at an affordable price. Just call **Ruth Krotzer** at (831) 601-1894 or email her at rkrotzercolts@gmail.com. Proceeds support the RLS Club of Monterey:

- I Can Remember RLS*, by Rosaline Masson, 1922, \$8
Precipitas City: The Story of Literary Edinburgh, by Trevor Royle, 1980, \$10
The Colvins and their Friends, by E.V. Lucas, 1928, \$10
Robert Louis Stevenson, a Biography, by Frank McGlynn, 1993, \$15
Robert Louis Stevenson Treasury, by Alanna Knight, 1985, \$12
Travels in Hawaii, Grove Day, Editor, 1973, \$10
Francophile, Robert Louis Stevenson in France, by Robin Hill, 1993, \$5
Under the Wide and Starry Sky, by Nancy Horan, 2013, \$5 [novel]
Stevenson at Silverado, by Anne Issler, 1974, \$5
The Henley-Stevenson Quarrel, by Edward Cohen, 1974, \$5



PLUS, there are many **first and early editions** of books written by RLS at unbelievable prices. Call Ruth with the title you've been dying to own.

PLUS+PLUS, if you've ever wanted a **complete set of the works of RLS** (or almost complete), please call Ruth and make an offer.



A Salute to our Taste Buds

February 21st was the 15th annual "Chocolate and Wine Fundraiser" hosted by the **Friends of the Monterey Public Library**. It was "paradise" for chocolate and wine connoisseurs! Your Robert Louis Stevenson Club was happy to donate a few RLS books from the Elizabeth Warfel collection for the silent auction. The sum of \$125 was generated for the "Friends" who were most appreciative.

Way to Go, Joe

Scottish writer and professor, **Joseph Farrell**, who spoke to the RLS Club at Hacienda Carmel last September, finally had his article about Monterey published in his local press on April 18, 2020. The headline "Central California, the quintessential American romance of the open road" introduced his drive down our scenic coast with special attention given to the influence of RLS and Farrell's visit to the Stevenson House. "Although Stevenson spent only a couple of months in Monterey, he left a strong mark and is commemorated by the names of two schools and a museum." We appreciate Mr. Farrell for sharing his visit with the Scottish public and keeping in touch.

Stevenson House: Closed But Not Forgotten

Just days after RLS Club members and docents met with Monterey State Historic Park staff to plan the 2020 opening of the Stevenson House, the shelter-in-place directive from the Governor of California was announced. Due to the pandemic, the Stevenson House is closed until further notice. The Old French Hotel, aka Robert Louis Stevenson Museum ~ holding a world-renowned collection of RLS furniture, paintings, artifacts, and memorabilia ~ will not see the training of new volunteers and development of new exhibits and programs for now. Those of us who look forward to visiting and volunteering each summer at the historic adobe will wait patiently until the time is right for a safe re-opening.



For virtual tours of the Stevenson House, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_0q1OezP0w and

<https://roundme.com@montereyshp>.

HO-HO-HO

Social Gathering at Year's End



'Twas the season to be Jolly...and we were! Twenty RLS Club members enjoyed a Christmas/Holiday luncheon on December 17, 2019, at the Black Bear Diner in Monterey. In addition to the positive and enduring camaraderie, highlights included a "white elephant" gift exchange, sharing of favorite RLS writings, distribution of several articles by curator Mike Delahant at the Baker Cottage in Saranac Lake, and mesmerizing illusions from our "resident magician" **Harold Krotzer**. By popular demand, we hope to repeat this festive event in December 2020. Please join us!

RLS Club Board of Directors

President: **Ruth Anne Krotzer** rkrotzercolts@gmail.com

Vice President: **Elizabeth Anderson** ebanderson09@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: **Monica Hudson** monicahudson@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: **Edna Barker** ukedna@gmail.com

Treasurer: **Lindy Perez** lindycap@yahoo.com

MSHPA liaison/Tech support: **Harish Joshi** harishjoshi1@gmail.com

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Bende Kelly bendekelly@sbcglobal.net

Donna Gibson dmg6391@gmail.com

Rosemary Smith rgenchsmith2016@gmail.com

Newsletter support: **Bob Jaques** boj83@comcast.net

The Equator: Sheltered-in-Place

Sharp-eyed RLS Club member **Mimi Sheridan** recently saw an article about the remnants of the wooden schooner named *Equator*, Stevenson's "temporary home" as he cruised the islands of the South Pacific in 1889. Beached on the Snohomish River jetty in Everett, Washington since the 1950's, the *Equator* is in a state of decay despite its romantic history. Built in California as a vessel for the copra trade, it was chartered a year later by Louis and Fanny while they were staying in Hawaii. Later converted to steam and then to diesel, it was used in the fish-packing business in Alaska and then as a tow boat in Puget Sound. It finally sank off Deception Pass. Sadly, no one has yet come forward to restore the vessel to its original glory -- too bad because it would be a handsome sight in Monterey Bay.



The *Equator* is on the National Historic Registry

Saranac Selections

As Curator of the Stevenson Museum at Saranac Lake, NY, **Mike Delahant** has dedicated 40 years to studying and writing about Robert Louis Stevenson. We are delighted to learn that Mike has resumed writing his fascinating biographical essays about Stevenson, his family and friends, based on letters, records and photos at the Baker Cottage. Copies of his articles, printed in his local newspaper *The Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, have been mailed to our Club. We also appreciate Mike for sending copies of letters and speeches in the Museum from significant people such as: Isobel Field, Lloyd Osbourne, Austin Strong, Will Low, Sidney Colvin, Graham Balfour, Edmund Gosse, Sam McClure, Adelaide Boodle, and Gutzon Borglum, as well as general reports from the Stevenson Society of America, founded in 1916. For more information regarding the collection, feel free to phone Mike at the Baker Cottage, (518) 891-1462.

News from Edinburgh

Speaking of communication among friends, we hear regularly from **David Reid** of the RLS Club of Edinburgh, who was our special guest at last year's Anniversary Tea. Their Club has been keeping us in the loop during their Centenary year, even though most of their planned activities have had to be postponed due to Covid-19. Here is some of the interesting news from Scotland and beyond:

- ◆ Stevenson items at the National Library of Scotland include a miniature book collection which can be viewed at link <https://twitter.com/natlibscot/status/1163393407512961025>.
- ◆ A new fictionalized biography by Karen Steele has been released, titled *The Love Affair*; it is about the relationship between Stevenson and Fanny Osbourne.
- ◆ There is a RLS network in Fontainebleau that publishes a newsletter in French and English.
- ◆ The team of Neil Adam and Judy Turner from Australia are in the process of creating a musical version of Stevenson's Vailima Prayers to be called *The Windmill Needs the Wind*. Seven musicians have agreed to contribute their talents. Donations will be needed to accomplish this exciting enterprise. Learn more by going to link: <https://neiladamandjudyturner.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25279a5e48ed0875cebc0d958&id=08f39c735d&e=03e4fdb54>

PLEASE -- Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues

RLS Club dues are still only \$10 a year, paid in January or thereabouts. We very much appreciate your donations to cover expenses and keep the club going. Please mail your check made out to "RLS Club of Monterey" to Lindy Perez, Treasurer, P.O. Box 51504, Pacific Grove, CA, 93950.