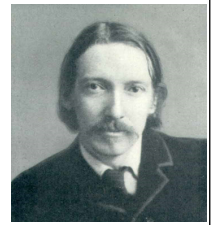




NEWSLETTER



Save the Dates for RLS Events in 2018



Sunday, February 11, 2-4 pm, A Valentine's Day Salon to celebrate and discuss a short story by RLS, *The Merry Men*, at the home of Maureen and Hugo Bianchini, 309 Mar Vista, Monterey. Bring a favorite finger food and RSVP by Feb 7 to Edna Barker at ukedna@gmail.com or call (831) 333-6917. Space is limited.

Saturday, March 24, 2-4 pm, The Park Lane Monterey, to share unique, rare, and treasured books by and about RLS.

Saturday, May 19, 4-6 pm, Third Annual Anniversary Tea in the Stevenson House garden to honor the marriage of Louis and Fanny.

Saturday, June 23, 10 am tour of historic Point Pinos lighthouse followed by lunch at Point Pinos Grill.

Saturday/Sunday, August 4-5, Scottish Festival at the Monterey County Fairgrounds.

Saturday, August 25, 4-6 pm, annual speaker presentation and fund-raiser for MSHPA. (Topic to be announced)

Saturday, October 6, 5:30-7:30 pm, annual dinner and election of board officers at Hacienda Carmel.

November (date to be announced), Unbirthday Party for RLS at Monterey Public Library.

December (dates to be announced) The 35th Christmas in the Adobes.

Notice will be sent to members in advance with details about all events.

Don't forget 2017 Christmas in the Adobes, Friday/Saturday, Dec 8-9, 5-9 pm, in downtown Monterey. Tickets can be purchased at the Custom House or online at mshpa.org

Membership Dues for 2018 are Due

Annual dues are still only \$10 and are due by February 1, 2018. Please mail a check made out to "RLS Club of Monterey" to Lindy Perez, Treasurer, P. O. Box 51504, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

If you are not currently a member but would like to join, an application form is available on our website rlsclubmonterey.org. Otherwise, you may send your dues to the above address and make sure to include your phone number and email address.

If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please contact Lindy at lindycap@yahoo.com or call (831)333-9316.

RLS Club Achievements in 2017

- * Thirty new people added to Club membership for a total of 90.
- * New and improved Club website www.rlsclubmonterey.org received over 100 hits.
- * “Welcome Booklet for Club Members” created and distributed.
- * With help from MSHP, RLS video transferred to DVD for easy viewing at SH (Stevenson House).
- * Louis and Fanny’s 137th wedding anniversary celebrated at SH with a Garden Tea.
- * Members volunteered to work as Docents at SH from April through October.
- * Home-hosted “Salon” for members discussed Travels with a Donkey.
- * Annual MSHPA fund-raiser presented “Stevenson and the Goat Ranchers of Carmel Valley” to a full house at SH.
- * Field trip to site of goat ranch hosted by Santa Lucia Preserve.
- * Annual Dinner at Hacienda Carmel reviewed past year and elected officers for 2018.
- * Members worked four shifts at the Stevenson House over History Fest weekend.
- * Annual Unbirthday Party at Monterey Public Library was celebrated with readings.
- * Members will work two evenings for Christmas in the Adobes, December 8 & 9.
- * Name badges for board members and RLS Club pins for members were ordered.
- * RLS pens and wine glasses were sold to publicize and raise money for the Club.
- * Printed hand-outs about RLS made available for visitors at SH, and two newsletters composed and distributed to Club members.

Welcome New Members to the RLS Club of Monterey

Come along with us on a journey to learn about Robert Louis Stevenson, the man and the storyteller. You’ll find the sharing and camaraderie a highlight in your life!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| *Lee Henderson and Donna Gibson | *Ken and Linda MacPhee (from Limekilns, Scotland) |
| *Melissa Newlin | *Tate Schieferle (great-grandson of Lloyd Osbourne) |
| *Tom Melkonian | *Maryanne Martin |
| | *Michael Upton (advocate from Edinburgh) |
| *Frederic Hollister | *Alyson Kuhn |
| | *Ellen Maupin |
| *Bob and Liz Fisher | *Kathleen Greenfield |
| | *Elizabeth Anderson |

A Day at the Goat Ranch in Carmel Valley

On a sunny Saturday in September, some eighteen members of the RLS Club met at the entrance of the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel Valley to experience first-hand the landscape over which Robert Louis Stevenson wandered in 1879. The field trip was organized by Club president Monica Hudson. After securing permission to cross into the gated and closely-monitored preserve, the caravan of four vehicles drove miles along a winding road through the rare natural beauty of the Santa Lucia mountains and valleys. Eventually, we arrived at the path and foot bridge which led across San Clemente Creek and up to the meadow where Jonathan Wright and Anson Smith built their ranch 150 years ago. As we struggled to climb the hill, we thought of the goat ranchers who carried Stevenson up to their cabin where the exhausted, sick writer was nursed back to health. He then returned to Monterey and Fanny.

Club members were joined by Christy Fischer, Executive Director of the Santa Lucia Conservancy, which oversees 18,000 acres of the Preserve. She greeted our group warmly and shared the fascinating history of the location. Rumsen Indians, famous for their basketry, had chosen this place as their winter village three to four thousand years before Wright and Smith settled there. Today it is a designated archeological site due to the presence of a midden where shells and artifacts have been found. She pointed out a round stone on the ground used by Indians to grind acorns. In 1818, fifty years before the goat ranch, the residents of Monterey escaped to this site when the Privateer Bouchard attacked and burned the Spanish settlement. At that time, the mountain remoteness was a definite advantage.

Sadly, all that is left of the rustic ranch structures of Smith and Wright are the stone chimney and fireplace and a scattering of wooden boards buried in tall grass and poison oak. Several attempts to save the cabin and create a memorial to RLS never materialized. Ultimately, the cabin was dismantled by the Conservancy when it was learned that teenagers were using it as a hangout and lighting fires. A tall healthy pear tree stands near the ruins, a remnant of the orchard planted by the ranchers. The Club hopes to take a graft from this ancient tree for transplanting at the Stevenson House.

The adventure concluded with the group sharing stories of Stevenson's time in Monterey and reading letters he wrote about the goat ranchers, followed by a picnic lunch at the Visitors Center.





May 20 - Love was in the air at the Anniversary Garden Tea commemorating the marriage of RLS and Fanny. Thirty guests were served tea, petit-fours and other delicacies at beautifully decorated tables, thanks to our volunteer servers – Steve Cole, Fred Bologna and Keith Decker. Amy Krupski entertained with her harp and Keith Decker inspired with his readings about our beloved couple.



August 26 - To remember the coming of RLS to Monterey in 1879, Stevenson House hosted a talk by Lindy Perez. She shared her research into the true identities of the goat ranchers who rescued Stevenson in Carmel Valley. The archive photographs added authenticity to the historical events. If you missed the lecture, find it on our website: rlsclubmonterey.org.



October 7 – Club members enjoyed the RLS annual dinner at Hacienda Carmel. Participants reviewed the past year's accomplishments and elected next year's officers. Following a delicious meal pleasantly served, a lively round-table discussion began with participants choosing a family member or friend of RLS and telling why they would like to spend a day with that person. Very entertaining and revealing!



November 4 – Once again, the “Unbirthday” of RLS was celebrated at Monterey Public Library with Club members joined by many friends of the library. Keith Decker gave an exceptional reading from “Travels with a Donkey.” Lindy Perez shared the story of Annie Ide and Stevenson’s gift of his birthday. The RLS Club was pleased to honor Jeanne McCombs, Library Special Events Coordinator, who for 23 years has organized this unique celebration. The festivities concluded with tea and a “Treasure Island” cake.

Just For FUN



Which of our RLS Club members lived and went to school in the same Parish where Robert Louis Stevenson attended for a short time when he was 12-13 years old?

The answer will be revealed at the February 11, 2018 “Salon” with a prize for the winner. [Board members not eligible.]

Board Members of the RLS Club of Monterey, 2017-2018

President: Monica Hudson
66 Highway 1, Carmel, CA 93923
(831) 238-3374 monicahudson@gmail.com

Vice President: Ruth Ann Krotzer
3001 Jean Street, Marina, CA, 93933
(831) 601-1894 rkrotzercolts@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lindy Perez
P.O. Box 51504, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 333-9316 lindycap@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary: Bende Kelly
22670 Gallant Fox Road, Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-1750 bendekelly@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary: Edna Barker
1076 Haviland Terrace, Seaside, CA 93955
(831) 333-6917 ukedna@gmail.com

Website Manager: Patrick Gallagher
716 Rosemont Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(408) 483-9366 wpgallagher.home@gmail.com

Newsletter: Bob Jacques
83 Via Encanto, Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 375-0517 bobj83@comcast.net

Board Member-at-Large: Rosemary Smith
The Park Lane – 200 Glenwood Circle #436, Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 251-2782 rgenchsmith2016@gmail.com

Board Member-at-Large: Keith Decker
PO Box 5044, Carmel, CA 92921
(831) 920-4562 actordecker@yahoo.com