



Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Monterey



Celebrating the life and works of RLS since 1994

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Calendar of Coming Events
Dates and Time subject to change-
updates will be emailed

July 15 Social Hour at Fernwood Winery, overlooking Fanny's Vanumantagi Ranch. Time and driving directions TBA. Carpooling recommended.

August 26 Following the footsteps of RLS in Pacific Grove (Pacific Grove Heritage Society, Chinese village, Church campground, Pastor's house, and more). Lunch after tour

September 16 RLS Hour/Zoom Salon – THE BOTTLE IMP is the suggested reading.

October 15 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers Gathering at Terry Trotter's Gallery in Pacific Grove to see his growing collection of RLS memorabilia. Time TBA.

November Unbirthday Party Monterey Public Library Community Room; Date and time TBA

December 8 & 9 Christmas in the Adobes, Monterey State Historic Park. Featuring the Stevenson House 5-9 pm
 TBA= to be announced

President's Message by Monica Hudson

Our 2023 season has seen our club grow, thanks to members who have brought friends to join. This has given the board new impetus to create gatherings, both in person and virtual, to explore the life and works of RLS. This literary journey is often a very private endeavor of reading, research, travel and collecting. I can envision you comfortable in an easy chair with one of RLS' books in your lap and wish you a good season of "traveling "with RLS. We are looking forward to having our club members share their "finds and passions" with all of us.

RLS Club Board of Directors through 2023

President: Monica Hudson
 Vice President: Lindy Perez
 Secretary: Bob Fisher
 Treasurer: Harish Joshi
 Librarian/Social Coordinator: Ruth Anne Krotzer
 Member-at-Large: Mimi Sheridan
 Member-at-Large: Amy Krupski
 Newsletter: Donna Gibson



RLS members at the Anniversary Tea; see page 3

Getting Together - Month by Month – with RLS

January

On January 11, actor and RLS Club member, **Keith Decker**, presented visions of the Monterey Peninsula as Robert Louis Stevenson would have seen it to guests of the Carmel Public Library Foundation. Drawing from THE OLD PACIFIC CAPITAL, letters, and period photographs, Keith offered a multimedia show using power point, music, and Stevenson's own words. Donning a kilt and Scots accent, Keith captivated the audience with this gem of local history. **Monica Hudson** and **Lindy Perez** joined Keith at the end of the show to answer questions from a curious audience. The lecture can be watched online at <https://carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/events/past-events-activities/>.



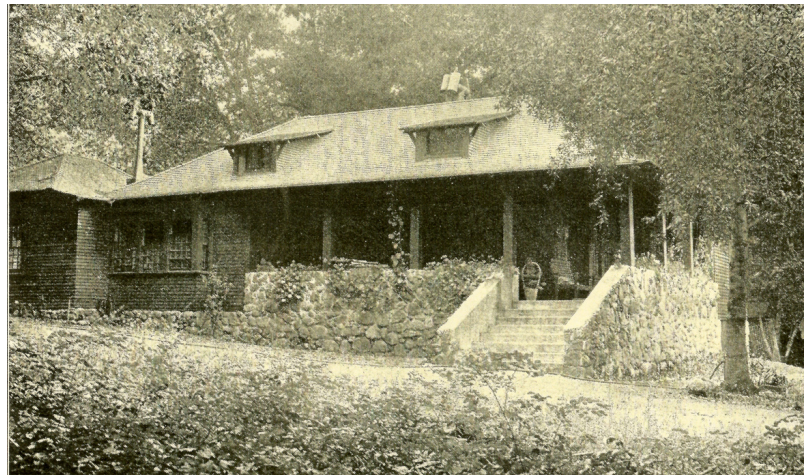
February

An online Zoom salon, "The RLS Hour," was held early Saturday morning on February 18 in order to include our friends from the UK. The selected work for discussion was THE LANTERN-BEARERS, an essay - part childhood memory, part artistic criticism. The readers particularly enjoyed the story of boys, congregating after dark above the Edinburgh coast, each concealing a bull's eye lantern under his top coat -- a metaphor for the hidden light which makes us human. Stevenson believed that writers had a responsibility to discover the song, jewel, or fancy within each of their characters. That is true realism. Literary aspects aside, participants admired Stevenson's ability to recall childhood, a time of freedom to explore unencumbered.



March

A combination of Zoom and power point was handled deftly by member **Robin Chapman** in a presentation of her research into Fanny Stevenson's "Vanumanutagi" ranch house in the hills above Gilroy, CA. The "RLS Hour" was held on Saturday morning, March 25, and attracted almost 20 participants from both sides of the Atlantic. Fanny purchased the property in 1900 and built a rustic lodge for her extended family and artist/literary friends to enjoy in a natural setting. Rare photographs taken by Fanny's nephew Louis Sanchez, which are archived at



the Monterey Public Library, capture the young adults posing in tents, playing music, and swimming in a nearby resort pool. Today the property is in private hands, providing grapes for the Fernwood Winery. Participants marveled at Fanny's independence and ability to navigate (a steamer automobile and other modern contraptions) as a "new woman" in the Bay area. An artist she met by the name of Marion Kavanaugh Wachtel created a painting of Vanumanutagi which has recently been added to the collection of **Terry Trotter** at his Pacific Grove gallery. The discussion at the end was fascinating and far-reaching. A video of Robin's presentation can be viewed on the club website: www.rlsclubmonterey.org

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April

A small group of RLS Club members gathered at the picnic area in Asilomar Conference Grounds, facing Monterey Bay, on April 16th and enjoyed an informed and lively discussion of **THE BEACH OF FALESA**, led by member **Amy Krupski**. We were impressed with Stevenson's knowledge of Island culture and his insights into 19th century miscegenation, imperialism and economic exploitation (to name a few) and the survival of true love between a British Trader and his Island wife, against all odds.

In addition to our spirited discussion and comradeship, we enjoyed sharing shortbread cookies and coconut water flavored with pineapple!



May

The celebration of Louis and Fanny's Anniversary on May 19 was held in the picnic area at Lake El Estero in Monterey. **Ruth Anne Krotzer**, hostess of the annual Tea Party, decorated the place with all-things-RLS and welcomed guests with her famous enthusiasm. Close to 30 members shared in the fun with entertainment provided by Elise on the flute and Keith with readings he had uncovered about this unique couple.





In Memoriam

We are sad to let you know that our club member, **Hugo Bianchini**, passed away earlier this year. Hugo, along with his wife Maureen, was a founding member of the RLS Club of Monterey. The idea of a club grew out of discussions held ahead of the centennial of RLS' death in 1994. Roger Swearingen, who is a good friend of the Bianchinis, suggested that something special should be undertaken to mark that event and so the RLS Club of Monterey was born. Many a RLS Club "Salon" was held at Hugo and Maureen's home, and we truly miss Hugo's kind nature and thoughtful contributions to our discussions. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Maureen and her family.

It is with sadness that we announce the recent passing away of another member, **Keyte Marui**, who was fondly known as our "Cookie Lady" for her Madeline and French pastry cookies which she consistently donated to our functions. She also excelled in photography and donated many photos highlighting our special events. No service will be held.

Richard Cota was an avid Monterey County and RLS history buff and loved discussing these topics! In past years, he frequently vacationed in Hawaii following in the footsteps of RLS. The date for his military funeral is pending. Feel free to call Ruth Anne Krotzer for information at (831) 601-1894.

Your Support is Appreciated!

The response to our March letter has been fantastic. The RLS Club of Monterey now has 73 members who have paid dues for 2023! For information on how to renew your membership, go to our website www.rlsclubmonterey.org and click Join.

Welcome New Members!

The RLS Club of Monterey is happy to welcome four new members to our club: **June Henry, Cynthia Kilian, and David and Ginna Gordon**. We encourage members to jump right in and take part in our activities. Most information arrives by email. We are a friendly group and love to meet new people.



Imaginative Summer Program for Children

RLS Club members **Lindy Perez** and **Ellen Maupin** have been invited back by Monterey State Historic Park to participate in their children's summer program: Los Exploradores.

Meeting at the Stevenson House and Garden, the children will learn about RLS's youth and the emergence of his imagination which became manifest in *A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES*. The children will read his poems, explore the garden, and then write a poem or draw a picture from their own imagination.

How to communicate with the RLS Club?

Please send an email message to rlsclubmonterey@outlook.com

The RLS Club website <https://rlsclubmonterey.org/>

RLS Club Newsletter co-editors: Donna Gibson and Lindy Perez

We welcome your stories and ideas for future editions.