



The Gazette

Celebrating 50 Years
www.BeniciaHistoricalSociety.org

Spring 2023



P.O. Box 2393, Benicia, CA 94510

Officers

President

Belinda Smith

Vice President

Richard Jenny

Recording Secretary

Christie Sattler

Corresponding Secretary

Yolanda Wallace

Treasurer

Mike Hill

Historian/

Past President

Jerry Hayes

Directors

Kerry K. Carney, DDS

Betsy Henderson

Anastasia Heuer

Suzanne Hyde

Larry J Miller

Leann Taagepera

Newsletter Editor

Betsy Henderson

Southern Pacific Caboose On Track To Restoration

In 2000, Southern Pacific donated a caboose to the City. Recently, the City reached out to the Main Street Foundation, which operates the Depot, and to former Mayor Jerry Hayes to discuss the future of the caboose. When it was acquired, the original intent was to place the caboose at the former train Depot. The BHS has committed, by resolution, to support the renovation and relocation of the caboose, and to participate in fundraising for this purpose. For more information on this project, please email us at info@beniciahistoricalsociety.org.

Historic Preservation and Housing

In the past few years the State has passed several pieces of legislation to make it easier to build housing. Unfortunately for Benicia, there are few provisions for protecting historic districts. Most recently there was concern about proposed sites in the our historic downtown, and at the City Cemetery and Benicia Arsenal, both on the National Register. Only the proposed cemetery site was removed. Two Arsenal housing projects approved in 2022 are being challenged in court. There is a need for housing and there is opportunity for infill development. However, it needs to be respectful of our historic assets. For more information on the lawsuit visit 1000friendsphb.org. BHS will continue to provide feedback to the City and updates to members as needed.

Speaker Series

COMING SOON!

SPEAKER #2

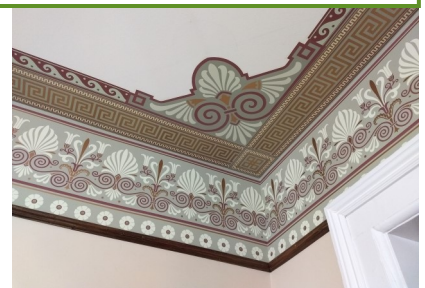
Beate Brühl, Restoration Artist

Beate Brühl is an accomplished and award-winning Benicia-based restoration artist renowned for the restoration and design of painted ornament in historic buildings. Beate will shed light on how she is able to uncover and recreate hidden ornament, colors, and decorative patterns in historic buildings, including the California Theatre in Pittsburg, Ca, the New Mission Theatre in San Francisco, and the Oroville State Theatre. Beate will discuss her work in relation to historical preservation and restoration and her role as a liaison between conservation architects, construction companies, and clients.

Calling All Members

Please provide your email address so we can better serve our membership.

info@beniciahistoricalsociety.org



Remember to buy your tickets to the

2023 Vintage Home & Garden Tour

See the Calendar of Events for more info

Our Mission

The Benicia Historical Society began in 1973. The purpose of the society is to bring together people interested in the history of Benicia and California. The society works to preserve the history and heritage of our city for future generations. Our goal is to enhance historic Benicia through education, communication and community involvement.

Did You Know? Introducing a new series featuring Benicia History. The Founding of the Benicia-Vallejo Stage Line, by Jerry Hayes

Milo Passalacqua was born in Benicia in 1886 and had worked in local shipyards and tanneries. In 1915 he was working in a Benicia grocery when he learned about a pair of men's attempt to start a bus line between Vallejo and Benicia. They had given up on the idea but Milo liked it. He believed a bus would cost \$1,000 but only had \$250. After Mr. Crooks at the Bank of Benicia turned him down for a loan, he borrowed \$500 from Benicia Brewery owner Gus Gnauck and \$250 from butcher Wally Wassmann. The next day Milo bought a bus in San Francisco. His friend Bert Mason drove it to Benicia but would not agree to be the driver, so Milo learned how to drive. The bus line became his first business and it ran for over 75 years.

Newsletter



PO BOX 2393
BENICIA, CA 94510

The Benicia Historical Society

Connecting People With the Past

Calendar of Events

May 13, 2023 **Saturday 11:00am—1:30pm** **2023 Benicia Vintage Home and Garden Tour** Tickets are on sale at Compass Real Estate, 615 1st St and Benicia Depot, 90 1st St. Tour tickets are \$35 each and VIP tickets are \$60 each and include wine and appetizers at Inn at Benicia Bay, 145 E D St at 1:30pm. For more information, contact Richard Jenny at 925-876-0654.

May 22, 2023 **Monday 7:00 pm** **Board of Directors Regular Meeting**
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room—ALL ARE WELCOME

May 29, 2023 **Monday 10:00 am** **Memorial Day Ceremony**
Historic Arsenal Cemetery, Benicia, organized by Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall

June 26, 2023 **Monday 7:00 pm** **Board of Directors Regular Meeting**
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room—ALL ARE WELCOME

July 3, 2023 **Monday 6:30—9:00 pm** **Torchlight Parade**
First Street

July 4, 2023 **Tuesday 9:00 pm** **Fireworks**
Benicia waterfront

July—No Board meeting

August 28, 2023 **Monday 7:00 pm** **Board of Directors Regular Meeting**