



The Gazette

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www.BeniciaHistoricalSociety.org

P.O. Box 2393, Benicia, CA 94510

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Dedication of the Wassmann Bench

By Jerry Hayes, Historian, Benicia Historical Society

The dedication of a Memorial Bench honoring longtime Benicia residents Harry and Diane Wassmann will take place on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 11:00 am. The bench has been installed at the west end of the Benicia Public Library (near the Sesquecentennial Clock) to honor their contributions and as a remembrance of these remarkable Benicia residents.

Harry Wassmann was born in Benicia and dedicated his entire life to recording and preserving Benicia's rich history. He was a founding member of both the Benicia Historical society and the Benicia (Camel Barn) Museum and contributed countless hours to the success of both organizations.

Harry's wife, Diane Wassmann, was a dedicated elementary school teacher at St. Dominic's School and retired from teaching after many years with the Benicia Unified school district at Robert Semple Elementary School. She was a member of the Friends of the Benicia Public Library since the inception of that organization and shared her love of reading at children's storytime when the library was still on East 'G' street.

Friends and family will gather for this dedication. The public is invited to join in honoring this talented and amazing couple.

Winter 2023



Speaker Series

SPEAKER #1

Leann Taagepera, Cultural Resources Specialist

Topic: The Solano Train Ferryboat

When: Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 7:00pm

Where: Benicia Capitol

\$5 Admission (BHS Members Free)

Our very own Leann Taagepera, who recently was awarded a Master of Arts in Cultural Resources Management from Sonoma State University, will speak about her research and the digital exhibit she prepared as part of a graduate level class taught by the director and staff of the California State Railroad Museum.

SPEAKER #2

Beate Brühl, Restoration Artist

When: April, 2023, Date TBD

Beate Brühl is an accomplished and award-winning Benicia-based restoration artist renowned for the restoration and design of painted ornament in

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.

The Solano Train Ferryboat Era – The Glory Days of the Historic Town of Benicia

By Leann Taagepera

The Southern Pacific Railroad's train ferry Solano was a technological marvel and the largest train ferry in the world when it began service in 1879. Its home port was the town of Benicia, California's former Capital. After fifty-one years of ferrying trains, its service ended in 1930. It was replaced by a train bridge that spanned the Carquinez Strait and is still used today. The ending of the train ferry was a loss to the small, close-knit town of Benicia, as the Solano was important to the economics and every-day life of the townspeople. In fact, the ferry was beloved. Yet, Benicia was resilient and survived the loss of the ferryboat. The townspeople now appreciate its gloried past and revel in its scenic waterside location and the important parts it has played in our state's history, including that of the railroad.

Save the Date!

May 13, 2023

The **Benicia Vintage Homes Tour** is back! Join us on Saturday May 13th, 2023 for a tour of 7 historic Benicia homes. We will have a limited number of VIP tickets which include drinks and appetizers at the Inn at Benicia Bay after the tour. Look for tickets to go on sale in March around town or on the Benicia Historical Society website BeniciaHistoricalSociety.org.

Newsletter



PO BOX 2393
BENICIA, CA 94510

The Benicia Historical Society

Connecting People With the Past

Calendar of Events

December 10, 2022 Saturday 11:00 am Dedication of Wassmann Bench
West end of Benicia Library grounds—ALL ARE WELCOME

December 11, 2022 Sunday 3:00-5:00 pm Holiday Party
Estey Realty, 216 First St, Benicia—DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 23, 2023 Monday 7:00 pm Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room—ALL ARE WELCOME

January 25, 2023 Wednesday 7:00-8:30 pm Speaker Series #1—Leann Taagepera
"The Solano Train Ferryboat Era" Benicia Capitol—ALL ARE WELCOME

February 27, 2021 Monday 7:00 pm Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room—ALL ARE WELCOME

March 27, 2023 Monday 7:00 pm Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room—ALL ARE WELCOME

April 24, 2023 Monday 7:00 pm Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room—ALL ARE WELCOME

May 13, 2023 Saturday 11:00am—4:00pm 2023 Benicia Vintage Homes Tour
Tickets will go on sale on our website and around town in March.