

## **The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California**

Annual Meeting  
President 's Report  
Thursday April 16, 2015  
Francisca Club

We've had quite an eventful year. Our website was launched in March, 2014, and thanks to Marguerite Christiansen, continues to provide up-to-date information. I initiated writing bimonthly e-newsletters as a supplement to *The Quill*. We are having a contest to name that online newsletter with the prize being the Octagon House Halcyon Box!

Our new brochure was published (designed by Marguerite Meyer) and is lovely. Our Docent Manual was finished thanks to great efforts by Dosia Matthews and Julia Emby. Docent Trainings were started.

In June we hosted a Star Spangled Banner Sing-a-long in which 50 people participated. The Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bell Ringers (Of which Kimberlee Caniglia's son is a member) sang the full four stanzas.

During the summer we had many wonderful luncheons hosted by our Dames and all were lovely. The lunches are a great opportunity for our Dames to get to know one another better.

In October I attended the Biennial in Washington DC. It was such an exciting event, it inspired me to introduce a California Strategic Plan to help our California Society plan for the future.

So far this year Ruth Donohugh has organized many exciting events: Lecture at Octagon House "8 is Enough"; a docent led tour at Legion of Honor for the Houghton Hall exhibit and an incredible visit to the Carolands in Hillsborough.

In January our Semi-Annual Meeting was held in Pasadena. It was the first of many events to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Los Angeles-Pasadena-Santa Barbara Town Committee.

There were many other activities constantly being offered throughout the State this past year. It is an honor to be a part of such a dynamic organization and look forward to another exciting year.

Gail Sollid  
President, NSCDA-CA

National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California  
Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 2015  
Report of the Second Vice President  
By Mrs. Christopher James Selim Emby

As the Second Vice President to Gail Sollid this past year, I have been involved with the final publication and distribution of the Octagon House Docent Manual, coordinating and leading Octagon House Docent Training Events, and assisting Eloise Jonas with the Board Meeting lunches at Octagon House.

During the late spring of 2014, the revised Octagon House Docent Manual went through a final editing and proofreading process. It went to print in the beginning of the summer, and, after much anticipation, finally became available for sale to the membership. Copies of the Docent Manual are in the telephone closet in Octagon House and may be purchased for \$20. Be sure to take a copy that does not already say "Octagon House Copy" on the front of it. Please place either cash or a check in the marked envelope on the first shelf, and sign your name on the sheet to let us know that you have purchased a copy. Copies are available for members only. If you would like a copy of the manual sent to you, please coordinate this with Kimberlee, by calling the Octagon House office. For security purposes, please do not distribute any part of the manual to any nonmembers. Also for security purposes please shred any old copies of the manual you may have at home, or bring old copies back to Octagon House with a request for the office to shred them. As I have mentioned previously, this latest version of the Manual includes not only information about the decorative arts collection in the house, but also: guidelines on how to be an effective docent; how to interpret the collection; various duties and procedural information; answers to commonly asked questions, and an overview of the NSCDA. In addition we have enhanced the Appendices to include more instructive and/or informational descriptions of various types of ceramics, tables and chairs found in the house. Two additional three-ring binders in the telephone closet have

been enhanced with information about the collection and Octagon House. These three-ring binders are not to be removed from Octagon House; they are in-house reference tools only.

We had a number of Docent Training classes in the fall and winter for Dames who are interested in learning more about the house and the collection. Many of our Monterey members made the journey up-and-back to Octagon House in one day, to not only attend the training but also put their newly acquired knowledge to work and act as a Sunday docent; we truly appreciated their time and effort and rewarded each of them with a ceramic magnet in the shape of a dinner plate with a copy of a Canton Blue and White pattern that George and Martha Washington used on their china at Mount Vernon. Kudos to Marguerite Meyer, for coordinating the group and doing all the driving.

While I am stepping down as the Second Vice President, I will continue to work with Gail and the Docent Chairmen to hold more Docent Training sessions throughout the year. We need a larger pool of docents for Thursday and Sunday Open Houses, and encourage Dames to sign up for the docent trainings. If the Monterey Dames can come all the way up for training, we know that those of you who live even closer can make the journey and spend a few hours honing your docent skills.

Mother's Day, Sunday May 10 is a particularly difficult time to find docents, yet is a day when we tend to get a record number of visitors. If you can come and help us on Mother's Day, please be sure to sign your name on the sign-up sheet that is going around on a clip board. Also, please know that it is not a requirement to go through the docent training to be a docent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia WB Emby

Second Vice President

March, 2015

During the past year our San Diego Committee has certainly been devoted to the Society's mission statement to *actively promote our national heritage through historical preservation, patriotic service and educational projects.*

For the San Diego Committee our most important project is restoring – in partnership with the State of California – the Casa de Estudillo in Old Town back to its historically accurate period. Our Museum Properties Chairman, Terry Whitcomb, has devoted many hours of her personal time to this very visible home which attracts as many as 1,000 visitors daily – the most visited of all California State Parks, including Yosemite.

We welcome new member – Candace Gietzen -- to our Society making for a total of 112 Dames in the San Diego Committee. Our genealogists, Mary Anne Curray and Linda Balogh have been most diligent in working to qualify several proposed members.

Regarding our patriotic service efforts, we served dinner at the San Diego USO on October 14, 2014 to 134 individuals. The next dinner for our troops and their families will be on Tuesday, May 12. Our annual sponsorship of the naturalization ceremony was on Tuesday, March 25 at which we distributed almost 1,000 presidential rulers to our new citizens.

Connie Stone has put in many hours to create our San Diego web site while she and Mary Anne Curray have been writing, updating and editing our Ancestry book for inclusion on our web site as well. To date we have 109 ancestors in our Book. The Spring Business meeting was held on Tuesday, March 17. Iris Engstrand, Professor of History at the University of San Diego, spoke to us about the 1915 Exposition at San Diego's Balboa Park. Our Membership Coffee will be on Tuesday, June 9.

*Patricia Fleming, Chairman*



**The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America - in California**  
**State Annual Meeting - San Francisco - April 16, 2015**  
**Report of 5th VP and Chairman of Monterey Peninsula - Marguerite Meyer**

Membership of the Monterey Peninsula Committee currently stands at 39, with 2 courtesy members. We continued to receive submissions from members and encourage others to submit their ancestor vignette for Monterey's Ancestor Book.

This year's Colonial Dames **Founders Scholarship** of \$2000 was awarded to Alfonso Hill. The award is given to an outstanding history student from the Monterey Peninsula College. He is now a history major attending the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Pacific Grove High School students were again supported by our Dames' contribution of \$2000 towards their **Close Up trip to Washington, DC** which they took in the fall 2014.

Our **Summer Luncheon** was held in July at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. 25 members and guests were in attendance. The program, *Fabulous First Ladies*, was produced by guests Carolyn and Jeff Craig. It was a compilation of out-loud readings of profiles of 26 of the 44 first ladies of America. Each profile was accompanied by the First Lady's image in a PowerPoint slide show. It was interesting to learn some famous facts and some little known aspects of these women's lives as they served alongside their President husbands.

Our **Fall Luncheon**, October, was at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. 28 members and guests were in attendance. The program, *The First Woman M.D. on the Pacific West Coast*, was presented by Elaine Hermann, as she re-enacted the story of a woman who rose through difficult circumstances, displacement, grueling menial work, financial obstacles, and determination to educate herself, in order to reach a position of great value and importance.

On Oct. 18 there was a **Field Trip** for Monterey Dames and guests to visit San Juan Bautista. The 1/2 day trip included a tour at the local quilting shop, antique shopping, visiting the Cactus and Succulent Show and a Mexican lunch at La Casa Rosa. 3 attended.

This year my emphasis has been to promote interest from our Committee members to participate in **Field Trips** to Octagon House to docent and support our House Museum property in San Francisco. We made 3 trips, with 3-5 participants each, in August, November, and March. We received a pre-training from one of the N. Calif. Dames, and with the use of the new docent manual this is a very rewarding day of learning about and sharing with visitors the treasure of our Octagon House Museum.

Monterey's **Holiday Luncheon** in December was at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. 47 people were in attendance. Members brought sundry useful items to be donated at the Veterans Transition Center to be sent to our troops overseas. Entertainment was provided by the Carmel High School Chamber Singers. The group of 10 very talented girls, sang a mix of carols and other beautiful selections.

The Monterey Committee again donated \$200 to the **Monterey Lyceum** in Jan. 2015 to support their educational programs.

Members and guests at our **Feb. President's Tea** at Casa Serrano were treated to Monterey Dames Historian Francie Blinks' and her committee's compilation of the **Complete History of the Monterey Peninsula Committee** since its beginning in 1985. It includes a listing and photo of each past Chairman, their terms in position, and highlights of the various events, projects and accomplishments throughout the years.

I worked as one of 6 members of the NSCDA Codification Committee, with Chairman Leonora Branca, to update and unify the amendments to our Constitution and Acts in Council.

I am on the **California Strategic Planning Committee** with our State President Gail Sollid, Ruth Donohugh and Marguerite Christiansen. Members were emailed a letter asking for ideas on what are the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to our organization. Having a comprehensive plan will enable us to be a more robust organization that will engage our membership, be proactive instead of reactive, and enhance our ability to support our Mission Statement.

I continued to update our Monterey Peninsula pages on the California Dames website, with news, events and useful information.

Annual Meeting for Monterey was held March 25, 2015 at MPCC. 25 members and guests were in attendance. Annual reports were given by the Officers and Committee Chairmen. Historian Francie Blinks' presented her committee's compilation of the **Complete History of the Monterey Peninsula Committee** since its beginning in 1985. The binder will be retained by the Chairman from year to year, and updated regularly over time. The officers for 2015-16 were installed. Author Kathryn Gaultieri presented *Themes Revisited in Murder By the Sea*, about her research of Carmel history for creating her series of historical mystery books set in the 1920s.

Respectfully submitted, Marguerite Meyer

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN  
CALIFORNIA

MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT April 16, 2015

Since our last Registrar's report on April 16, 2014, we have sixteen new members, one reinstatement, three transfers in, four transfers out, six resignations, ten deaths, and four dropped.

NEW MEMBERS:

- Mrs. Kenneth Hart Beard, (Susan), SB 4/22/2014
- Mrs. Samuel Beaudoux Breck, (Helen), M 6/21/2014
- Miss Madeline Erickson Callander, LC, NC 1/1/2015
- Mrs. George Alexander Crichton, (Ann) LC, NC 1/7/2015
- Mrs. John L. Doyle, (Virginia), NC 4/22/2014
- Miss Leslie Ann Geyer, M 4/21/2014
- Ms. Candace Lee Gietzen, SD 12/8/2014
- Ms. Kinzie Rose Kramer, LC, NC 9/20/2014
- Ms. Langley Ellen Kreuze, LC, NC 2/11/2015
- Mrs. Robert Henry Laws, (Beatrice), NC 1/18/2015
- Ms. Letitia Leigh Sanders, NC 1/14/2015
- Mrs. Philip Sargent, (Helen), **LA-P-SB** 1/2/2015 d. 1/31/15
- Mrs. Jolene Semtner, LA 1/2/2015
- Mrs. Robert E. Stephenson, (Virginia), SD 1/1/2015
- Mrs. Le Roy Weller, (Dorothy), SB 3/30/2015
- Mrs. John Kent Williams, (Susanna), LC, SB **8/22/2015 2014**

REINSTATEMENTS:

1. Mrs. Cuyler Hampson Kidney, NC 4/26/2014

TRANSFERS IN:

1. Mrs. John Charles Clark, (Nancy), LA 10/23/2014
- Ms. Elizabeth Ann Clark (Elizabeth), LA from **Michigan** 9/20/2014
  - Mrs. Robert Vose **Sinnott**, (Rosa), LA 8/22/2014

TRANSFERS OUT:

1. Ms. Thayer Adams, Jr., **from ?** to Massachusetts 10/20/14
2. Ms. Elizabeth B. Andreini, (Betsy), Northern California to Florida 12/1/2014
3. Mrs. C. Blayne Colmore, (Lacey), San Diego to Vermont 10/2/2014
4. Mrs. John Barnard Wells, Jr., (Jane) **from ?** to Oregon 6/1/2014

RESIGNATIONS:

- Mrs. Ray Owen Burch, SD 3/28/2015
- Mrs. William Conti, LA-P-SB 4/4/15
- Miss Isabel Fletcher, NC 7/17/2014
- Mrs. Herbert Dee Ivey, Jr. SB **0/1/2014 what is the date? 10/16/14?**
- Mrs. John R. Kerman, SD 6/1/2014
- Mrs. B. Bevan McGowan, NC 12/26/2014

DEATHS:

- Mrs. Adolph W. Barkan, (Joan), NC 7/24/2014
- Mrs. Alfred C. Castle, (Elizabeth), M 9/1/2014
- Mrs. George David Hart, (Jessica), NC 6/29/2014
- Ms. Allyson Kneib, SD 11/3/2014
- Ms. Margaret C. Lieb, SD 2/28/2015
- Mrs. Charles Denver McPherson, (Mary), NC 6/7/2014
- Mrs. Chet Alexander Patterson, (Roberta), NC 1/20/2015 **10/27/14 ?**
- Mrs. Philip Sargent, (Helen), **LA-P-SB** 1/31/2015

## HISTORIAN'S REPORT

### ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 2015

I have served as Historian for the past year, and will pass on the responsibility to Ms. Leslie E. Evans as of the end of this One Hundred Twentieth Annual meeting of NSCDA-CA.

The Historian writes her report for the previous Dames Calendar Year from May 1 to the end of April, including the four Board of Governors meetings in June, September, December, and March, the Semi-Annual Meeting, and the Biennial Meeting.

I wrote the 2014 report last year, when I was first elected to this job, and found it hard to go over the past year's reports and catch up on material with which I was unfamiliar. I plan to write the 2015 report after this meeting, so that the newly elected historian can start from scratch at the first Board of Governors meeting in June.

A clear, factual record of the activities of the Dames Calendar Year will provide living proof of the importance and vision and commitment of NSCDA-CA.

Respectfully submitted  
Elizabeth Vezzani

## REPORT FROM CAROLEE ANDERSON, DIRECTORY SECRETARY 2015

Mrs. Rolf Gebhard Scherman (Charlotte) and I have been accepting and entering new information and corrections to get the new Directory ready for publication in August 2015. The Directory is a work in progress. Charlotte was kind and generous with her time to take over for me from July 2014 until March 2015 while I was recovering from surgery and treatment. At the present time we are working on this year's Directory. I welcome all new additions and corrections which need to be added before July. I will soon be contacting committee chairmen for lists of calendar for the forthcoming year, lists of donations and lists of new officers. Since September we have added seventeen new members whose names will be added to the Directory of 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolee Anderson, Directory Secretary  
ivbears@aol.com



GENEALOGY REPORT  
APRIL 16, 2015

Prospective members for this fiscal year have been patient as they wait for approval from their ancestral State.

Virginia Stephenson of Woodside has completed her application and has been accepted as a member of NSCDA.

Judi Nickey has contacted the MA genealogist and her papers are being reviewed. We hope to hear of her progress in the near future.

A new prospective member, Catha Hall will be finishing her genealogical paperwork and submitting them for membership.

Genealogist  
Valerie Hamilton

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America In California  
ANNUAL STATE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

April 16, 2015  
The Francisca Club  
San Francisco, California

The Membership Committee worked throughout the year reviewing all proposals submitted by NSCDA-CA members wishing to propose women to join the Society. We also continue to follow and support the current candidates as they navigate their way through the often-lengthy membership process.

Since the previous annual meeting held on April 17, 2014, the membership committee has met three times, and we have often spoken on the telephone and/or via e-mail to manage committee work. Of note, following the 2014 annual meeting, we welcomed Margot McCormick (Mrs. Edward McCormick) and Mrs. Jane Reynolds, as members of the Membership Committee — both of San Francisco.

- June 11, 2014, we met at the home of Margot McCormick (Mrs. Edward McCormick), at The San Francisco Towers, primarily to plan the annual Northern California Candidates' Luncheon, which was held on November 6, 2014 at Octagon House.

- November 6, 2014, we met briefly while setting up the annual Candidates' Luncheon honoring the Northern California candidates and their proposers. The sun was shining and everyone was in good spirits. Forty-one (41) attended, including 24 members, two guests, and 15 candidates. Eight were "new" candidates and this was their first Candidates' Luncheon. We enjoyed a wonderful presentation entitled, "Thinking Like a Naturalist: Reclaiming the Art of Natural History", by guest speaker John Muir Laws. "Jack" Laws is the son of Beatrice "Beatsie" Challis Laws (Mrs. John Laws), who was a candidate at that time and happily is now officially a new member!

- March 4, 2015, we met in Sonoma at the home of Nancy Maushardt (Mrs. Bernard L. Maushardt) primarily to discuss the e-mail queries by the public generated by our new beautiful California website, and how to gently relay the fact that membership is by invitation and sponsorship by current, active members who have known their candidates well for two years. The committee expressed concerns as to who would track and follow these e-mail queries, to ensure the guidelines for proposing new members as outlined in the Directory is consistently followed.

Since January 2015, nine women became new NSCDA-CA members, although sadly, we lost one new member just a few short weeks later (Mrs. Philip Sargent – Helen – of LA-P-SB). Now these delightful women should be encouraged to participate in our Society and to enjoy meeting other Dames in their areas. There is much to learn about the NSCDA-CA and we should continue to strive to offer a rich, rewarding membership experience.

We welcomed Kirsten Vernon (Mrs. Robert Vernon) as our guest, with Juanita Dickson (Mrs. James Dickson), current NSCDA-CA Registrar and ex-officio member of the committee. Kirsten will serve as Registrar following the NSCDA-CA annual meeting today. Congratulations and welcome!

Membership Committee business has doubled when compared to activity reported at the 2014 annual meeting. Formal invitations have been sent to 23 (versus 14) candidates, first paper packets were mailed to 22 (versus 13) candidates, first paper packets were returned by 19 candidates, and first papers were filed with 21 (versus 12) candidates' Colonial States.

There are currently 67 candidates pursuing membership – 38 Regular and 29 Legacy.

TOWN/COUNTY COMMITTEE	Regular	Legacy	Total
Northern California	10	10	20
Monterey	3	4	7
Los Angeles - Pasadena - Santa Barbara	12	7	19
San Diego	13	8	21
<b>CANDIDATES IN PROCESS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>67</b>

It is my understanding that one of major topics at the Biennial Council meeting in October 2014 was membership and plans to clearly outline the process for members and candidates alike at the national level. Bravo to this and I will follow this topic closely!

The following NSCDA-CA members contribute their time and energy to further NSCDA-CA membership and I am so grateful for their invaluable wisdom, advice, and support:

Town and County Membership Chairmen and Candidates' Helpers:

Northern California

- Mamie Gerlach (Mrs. Herbert H. Gerlach, Jr.)
- Anne Kasanin (Mrs. Mark Owen Kasanin)
- Lucy Maushardt (Mrs. Peter W. Maushardt)
- Nancy Maushardt (Mrs. Bernard L. Maushardt)
- Margot McCormick (Mrs. Edward McCormick)
- Mrs. Jane Reynolds
- Bobbie Saxton (Mrs. Richard E. Saxton)
- Diana Wild (Mrs. Nelson Wild)
- \* Juanita Dickson (Mrs. James R. Dickson) \* *Registrar and Ex-Officio member*

Los Angeles-Pasadena-Santa Barbara Membership Co-Chairs:

- Mimi Coombs (Mrs. Manvel L. Coombs), Pasadena
- Sarah Heatwole (Mrs. Mark Heatwole), Santa Barbara
- And --

Candidates' Helper:

- Susie Mitchell (Mrs. John Mitchell, III), Santa Barbara
- Susie also maintains the Genealogy Resources list for LA-P-SB candidates

Monterey Peninsula Membership Chair:

- Mary Threadgill (Mrs. Burney Threadgill)
- And --

Candidates' Helper:

- Marilyn Riehl (Mrs. Jeffrey M. Riehl)

San Diego Membership Chair

- Carol Shively (Mrs. Harold Hastings Shively, Jr.)
- And --

Candidates' Helpers/Genealogists:

- Linda Balogh (Mrs. Edward Balogh)
- Mary Anne Curray (Mrs. Joseph Ross Curray)
- Anne Marshall (Mrs. Stuart C. Marshall)

Our two NSCDA-CA Genealogists, Valerie Hamilton (Mrs. Lawrence Hamilton) and Diana Wild (Mrs. Nelson Wild) provide expert guidance and support to many of our candidates statewide.

Switching hats now, it is my pleasure to report on the status of the Octagon House Docent Manual. From June 2012 through June 2014, I spearheaded the efforts to update the Octagon House Docent Manual with Ad Hoc Docent Manual Committee members Julia Emby (Mrs. Christopher Emby), Nancy McAteer (Mrs. Thomas Knight McAteer), and Ms. Lamar Leland (Mardi). After careful review, new appendices were added and we updated the content of the 2012 edition prepared by Martha Steen (Mrs. William Steen), picking up from the 2003 and 2001 Octagon House Docent Manuals prepared by Ms. Janis Horne. We are so thankful for their hard work! The 2014 edition is now available for \$20.00.

It has been a joy and an honor to serve as NSCDA-CA Membership Chair for the past 11 years, and I look forward to welcoming many new members in 2015. Also, I am recruiting a dedicated Dame to work with me this year as Membership Chair assistant to ultimately take over as Chairman. It is an engaging position, and a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members and to really make a difference in our Society!

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. J. Christopher Matthews  
State Membership Committee Chair

cc: President  
Recording Secretary  
Historian  
Communications Chair

Diane M. Powell, Ph. D.  
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(916) 943-5434  
ctdiane@gmail.com

Mrs. Stanley Kenneth Sollid, President  
National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of California  
Octagon House  
2645 Gough Street  
San Francisco, California 94123-4402

Madam President:

The Spring issue of *The Quill* is presently at the formatter's and will be published by the end of April, 2015. In addition to California members, National Officers and Society Presidents also will receive copies of this edition.

Submissions for the Fall issue are welcome at this time. The cut-off date for those items is October 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Powell, Ph. D.  
Editor, *The Quill*

## **OCTAGON HOUSE MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**April 16, 2015**

On Saturday, June 14, Octagon House celebrated the anniversary of the "Star Spangled Banner" in tandem with a simulcast from Washington, D.C. The Golden Gate Boy's Choir led us in singing our National Anthem and other patriotic songs. Food and drink were served and a multi-generational audience had a wonderful time. (All events held at OH in 2014-15 will be covered in reports given by other members of the Governing Board.)

ADT and Tyco security systems rearranged their business model. Our security system (burglar& fire), which was registered with ADT, was transferred to Tyco over the summer. This process proved to be a lengthy undertaking. Thanks to perseverance and a lot of help from Emilio Lucero our system was "switched" over to Tyco in late fall. Our Tyco system operates in the same way as the prior ADT system.

In August, Kathryn Hobart and her team of appraisers spent 3 weeks at Octagon House evaluating the collection, as well as, other items in the house for insurance purposes. I worked with the team throughout the process and learned much about our fabulous collection and other important items. Questions were raised regarding the many valuable items in the house that are not part of the collection. It was recommended that a committee be formed to consider the best conveyance of these items.

The collection needs attention in terms of best practices for maintenance and display of these valuable assets. Framed items are especially vulnerable and would benefit from the application of updated preservation techniques. Thanks to Lee Miller and Jane Hillman we have received direction from professionals at the de Young Museum on how to proceed with this project.

In early summer of 2014, we contracted with Wooden Windows of Oakland to replace the lower sash of the window above the staircase in addition to sashes for several smaller, upstairs windows. They did an excellent job. In November, two sets of upstairs windows were tuned up; one set in the bedroom and one set in the library. The two windows in the library closet were both replaced with customized copies of the originals. The lower sash of the large window over the staircase was replaced and a new pane of glass was inserted into the right hand side of the upper sash. Modern, brass window latches were replaced by copies of the latches original to the house. All indicated windows were painted on the exterior by Everest Waterproofing. The interior of the windows will be painted in the spring/summer, when the house will need some exterior painting and repair.

A new hot water heater was installed in the basement of Octagon House on February 25, 2015. In preparation for the installation, the plumbers discovered that the per inch water pressure on the pipes was too high. (90 lbs. of pressure per square inch vs. the desired 50-60 lbs.). A pressure valve and expansion tank were installed in the basement. The reduction of water pressure will relieve the wear and tear on our aging pipes. Very small leaks were noted under the house from old pipes. The plumbers recommended replacing these 1940's iron pipes with copper plumbing. An inspection was conducted on March 10 and an estimate for the job was given. The kitchen sink faucet was replaced on February 25, as well. The gaskets that control

the water flow were not engaging and the water couldn't be shut off. Pipes under the sink were inspected and tightened.

Emilio Lucero and I are dedicated to maintaining and caring for Octagon House. My job would be impossible without Emilio's help and support, and I deeply appreciate his dependable loyalty to the house and our membership. I, also, want to thank the Dames, who contribute their time, interest and money to Octagon House as stewards of this historic property.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy R. McAteer (Mrs. Thomas Knight McAteer)  
Octagon House Manager

## THURSDAY OPEN HOUSES

### ANNUAL MEETING REPORT FOR APRIL 16, 2015

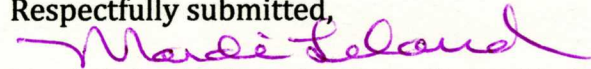
Since our annual meeting a year ago, we have held 19 Thursday Open Houses. I would like to acknowledge the following Dames who have made these Open Houses a success. First I would like to acknowledge the Docent Captains, who were responsible both for recruiting docents for their days and overseeing their days: Ruth Donohugh, Patsy Fish (3 times), Kelly Haines, Eloise Jonas, Dosia Matthews, Mimi McCarty (4 times), Patsy Raven (3 times) and Emily Riddell (twice). I was also Captain 3 times.

Secondly I want to acknowledge all those who volunteered as Docents, several of whom docented two and three times: Grace Barner, Sybil Boardman, Dinny Chase, Marguerite Christiansen, Nancy Coopersmith, Leslie Evans, Kitten Ford, Barbie Geisler, Jan Gunn, Peggy Hinman, Jill Hygelund, Eloise Jonas, Peggy Karren, Anne Kasanin, Amanda Kirkwood, Margie Martin, Ginny MacLean, Dosia Matthews, Mimi McCarty, Marguerite Meyer, Fan Moberg, Elaine Oldham, Jane Reynolds, Emily Riddell, Letitia Sanders, Martha Steen, Becky Stirn, Jolley White, Diana Wild and Nancy Zacher. Special kudos go to Kelly Haines who has docented almost every second Thursday of the month. We also had several friends of Dames who volunteered: Sharon Wilcox, Anne Zucchi, Leslie Geyer, Megan Collaghan and Nieves Turner. Many thanks to all of you.

Again, a big thank you to Emilio Lucero who opens and closes Octagon House for us, sets up our reception table, greets visitors at the door and helps in many other ways. Thank you also to our Office Manager, Kimberlee Caniglia for her office help to me.

Total Visitors:	365
Total Donations:	\$1,133
Total Sales:	\$ 348

Respectfully submitted,



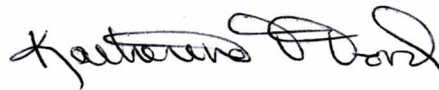
Mardi Leland, Thursday Open House Chair

ANNUAL REPORT OF OCTAGON HOUSE TOURS THROUGH MARCH, 2015

May, 2014, 40 Galileo High School Juniors with teacher were divided into groups of 7-8 students and given 7 minutes, to go through Octagon with the assignment to write a report on square footage, cost to rebuild, taxes, etc. Mrs. Carl Zachrisson, Mrs. Nancy Zacher and I were to offer no hints on any part of their exam. Students/teachers are not asked for contributions for tours.

March, 2015, 15 DARs from a local chapter sponsored by Mrs. Robert Haines, toured Octagon and were delighted with the house and its collection. Sales and contributions amounted to \$118.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine T. Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Mrs. Katherine T. Ford

Group Tour Chairman



**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR PRIVATE PARTIES AT OCTAGON HOUSE**

Annual Meeting  
April 16, 2015

There were 10 private parties held at Octagon House during the 2014-2015 year. This includes the 3 art shows held last April by Carlos Pillado, the owner of the trattoria next door to Octagon House, Pane y Vino.

The new fee schedule recommended by the Finance Committee and passed by the Board of Governors is as follows: \$100 for 25 or less guests; \$300 for 26 to 50 guests; and \$500 for 51 to 75 guests. One also must purchase a one-day insurance policy, which costs around \$200. There is also a new stipulation which disallows renting to any outside group or to groups of which Dames are members.

If you would like to rent the house, please call me, Eloise Jonas, to reserve a date and for help getting the insurance online.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eloise Jonas

## Museum Chair Annual Report – April 2015

The Museum Committee met on February 19, 2015 with an agenda that included potential new committee members, short term goals, long term goals, establishing a conservation fund, the disposition of redundant famous signatures and creating a new donation form. Without a quorum of members, no decisions were reached, but it was agreed that identifying the conservation needs of the collection was a priority.

To that end, a “wish list” of conservation needs was created as follows:

- replacing glass on the signers' cabinet;
- repairing the epergne on the sideboard;
- assessing any damage and/or wear on any items that can be restored;
- replacing the UV film on the windows;
- re-assessing the framing of the samplers to make sure that they are archivally framed;
- consulting with a museum expert about the effect of the temperature and humidity fluctuations in the house and how they may affect the objects;
- if suggested by the expert, installing a data logging system to monitor the atmospheric and light conditions;
- having the rugs inspected for any mite infestation.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Juanita Dickson donated an American papier mache head doll to the Octagon House collection. The Museum Committee voted to accept the donation and place the doll in the nursery display. A thank-you card and a donation acknowledgment letter were sent to Mrs. Dickson.

The Museum Committee will be meeting again during the week of April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**The NSCDA-CA Web Site**  
**Report to the NSCDA- CA Governing Board,**  
**Annual Meeting, April 15, 2015**

On March 5, 2014 we launched the nscda-ca.org website. It has been a busy year. Here is a short summary:

- 1) We started with about 50 web pages in March 2014 we now have 110 pages:
  - a. 22 pages are viewable by the public and are devoted to the Octagon House and general information about The NSCDA, The NSCDA-CA, and our public activities.
  - b. 88 pages are for our members: including the State Calendar, State Society News, Event Pages, Historic and Educational Projects Pages, Docenting Calendars, Membership, Forms, and a great deal more!
- 2) We had 2,546 users in this first year. Those users viewed 13,349 pages. Each quarter the number of users increased as we updated links to Google, Yelp and other search engines and our members used the website.
- 3) Top 12 pages visited are:

	<b>Name of Webpage</b>	<b># of Times Viewed</b>	<b>Website Section</b>
1	Home Page	2780	Public
2	Octagon House	1198	Public
3	Monterey Peninsula Home	482	Public
4	NSCDA Membership	424	Public
5	Calendar	402	Members Only
6	San Diego Home	90	Members Only
7	Historical Activities	315	Members Only
8	Members Section	310	Members Only
9	California Society - Overview	273	Public
10	Docenting	269	Members Only
11	Octagon House – History Uncovered	250	Public
12	Octagon House – Visiting the House Museum	210	Public

- 4) Marguerite Meyer, Connie Stone and Judy Mack are the town committee representatives to the Communications Committee each of them has contributed a great deal of time, talent and effort. For example: Marguerite Meyer and Connie Stone created a series of diagrams to help members “access the website.”
- 5) Thanks to Kimberlee Caniglia for her excellent design work and help in creating event pages.
- 6) Our appreciation to all of you who have sent in information to help us use this website as our dames “living room” – where we can exchange information on our many activities. Please continue to tell members of the communications committee when important dates are set or about information that our members or the public should know.

Many Regards,  
 Marguerite W. Christiansen

National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California  
Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 16, 2015  
Report of the Membership Development Chairman  
By Mrs. Christopher James Selim Emby

Membership Development activities this year were concentrated on providing new membership information to the other committee chairmen, so that they would draw on the skills and interests of our newest members in order to both enhance the activities of their committees and provide our newest members with a sense of "belonging". Gail Sollid and Marguerite Christianson were helpful with this endeavor in the creation of the Dames website and their abilities to create lists of members by geography and year of membership. Questionnaires that new members completed at their New Member luncheon were also helpful to this end. In the coming year I will continue to work with Gail to revise the New Member Questionnaire to get an even better understanding of the skill sets and interests of our new members.

This past March when Patsy Fish and I were discussing potential candidates for board officers and board of manager positions for the upcoming slate of officers, it became clear that we needed a better resource to draw from in terms of matching candidates to positions. I was able to obtain some job descriptions from Nancy McAteer, and plan to work in the coming year to create better job descriptions for each position and identify skill sets that are required for each job. This will help us better coordinate new members with committee activities right away.

The Common Ancestors Party will not be held in June as I will be required to spend a great deal of time back east with my parents for the next couple of months. It is my hope that the party can be held in the early fall.

Respectfully Submitted,