

# STCHS and Library News



## From the President's Desk - Harret Codeglia

Yet another busy year for STCHS has gone into the books:

- We held our two biggest fundraisers: the Wine Tasting Cruise on Pine Mountain Lake and the Labor Day BBQ. Both events were well attended, the weather for both was perfect, and both events were financially successful. Thank you to Patricia Gibson for chairing the BBQ, to Karen Hopkins for running the bake sale (yum), to Lindsey Lorant for running the silent auction, to JoAnn for teaching line dancing, and to all the amazing volunteers who help set up, clean up, sell tickets, bake goodies, tend the bar, run the children's games.
- The Wine Tasting Cruise was once again a sell-out. The wines were delicious, as was the food. As in past years, the guests never wanted the day to end and are already clamoring for tickets to the 2025 event.
- Thanks to the generosity of Bay Cal Painting, STCHS was able to have the Cobden House repainted at a much-reduced rate.
- Three new docents joined the ranks and allow us to have the museum open 3 days a week. Thank you to all the docents who greet visitors so warmly and provide information, manage store sales and encourage folks to learn more about our interesting local history.
- One sad note for the year is that a driver left Highway 120 and drove up on the stone sidewalk of the Wells Fargo Building in Big Oak Flat. Damage was done to the iron doors, the brick and stone wall, and the sidewalk. We are working with the driver's insurance company to make repairs, but this building is 175 years old and replacement parts must be hand made.
- The Board of Directors for STCHS continues to meet monthly and all existing directors are continuing to serve in 2025. They are: Harriet Codeglia (President), Scott Belser (Vice President)  
Patricia Gibson (Secretary), Catherine Santa Maria (Treasurer)

Other board members continuing their roles are Kathy Brown (Displays and Docent Coordinator), David Roberts (Curator), and Lindsey Lorent.

- A number of work days were held both at the museum building and at the Gamble Block in Big Oak Flat. Grounds cleanup is continually needed. Thanks to all the volunteers who join the fun.
- Interior lighting has been added to the Wells Fargo/Gamble building and an open house event is in the planning stages so everyone can come explore this unique structure.
- STCHS assisted GCSD to upgrade Mary Lavaroni Park signage. We provided historic content, photos and a detailed historic map.
- STCHS continues to provide historic articles to the Chamber for their newsletter and website.
- We began the process of digitizing video and audio recordings from our archives.
- STCHS popular speaker programs resumed in the Resilience Center. Video recordings of past programs will be added to our YouTube channel. Programs will continue beginning the first Friday of April.
- Up-to-date equipment has been purchased and installed in the Ken Friend Theater in the museum
- Displays in the museum have been updated and new exhibits are in planning stages

We will be happy to arrange a private opening of the museum or tours of the Gamble Block for you and your group. Email to [gygmstchs@gmail.com](mailto:gygmstchs@gmail.com) or leave a message at 209 962 0300.

## **FOGL in 2024 - Virginia Richmond**

Friends of the Groveland Library celebrates our key accomplishments and contributions to the community during this past year. Among other activities:

- FOGL volunteers read to preschoolers at the library every Friday morning.
- We presented "Groveland Authors' Day" with local authors presenting their books and describing their writing.
- We continued donating books to the Sonora jail and juvenile detention center and to Skyline Assisted Living.
- We donated \$3,000 to Tenaya elementary school to purchase additional books for classroom libraries and we contributed \$400 to Stuff the Bus to help purchase school supplies at the elementary school.
- Volunteers manage the Book Nook to raise money for the library and to supply our community with gently used books for all ages.
- Once again we donated \$10,000 to the County to pay for our 5th day staff and to buy books for the library.
- In March we provided books and volunteer readers for Read Across America - Dr. Seuss Day at Tenaya Elementary.
- Bookleggers volunteers read to children in grades PreK- 2 to help instill love of reading early.
- At the end of school, we gave away books to all students in grades K-4 to take home.
- We donated books for the Toys for Tots Christmas project.

We invite you to join us in supporting literacy in our community and the Groveland Library. Just send your name and email address with a check for \$25 to FOGL, PO Box 43, Groveland, 95321.

Captions: Our team of Book Nook volunteers

Children pick out free books to take home

Local author Bill Ferraiolo describes his writing



## **STCHS Joins GCSD To Improve Laveroni Park**

During this past fall and winter STCHS partnered with the Groveland Community Services District (GCSD) to provide historical information and photos for new information plaques in Mary Laveroni Park. In 2024 GCSD was awarded a \$1 million CalTrans grant for a "rehabilitation and beautification" project in Groveland's beloved public park. The overall project included new restrooms and seating, walking paths, and other improvements to benefit local residents and visitors alike. In recognition of STCHS's leadership in historical preservation, GCSD asked STCHS to develop new information plaques to be mounted in the Park. STCHS volunteers Kathy Brown and Scott Belser, along with President Harriet Codeglia, selected vintage photos from the Museum's collection and developed explanatory text to bring the history to life. Two plaques focused on local Me-Wuk history and the Hetch Hetchy Railroad which was headquartered in Groveland during the 1910s – 1940s. In addition, STCHS supplied text and photos for a large display in a free-standing "information kiosk" that offered a full history of our community – from Me-Wuk days through the Gold Rush and Hetch Hetchy to modern times. GCSD design consultants and engineering staff converted STCHS's efforts into the physical boards to be installed throughout the Park. As of February 2025, the boards have been completed but are awaiting final installation. STCHS key role is noted on the boards with its logo and QR code. Be sure to visit the Park in the spring and enjoy the new window into our history – and be proud of STCHS's part in providing it!





## Commemorative Patio Bricks

These personally engraved bricks are a lasting way to remember a birthday, anniversary, a special occasion, or a loved one, while showing support for the ongoing programs of STCHS and the Museum. They are set in the Memorial Patio to the right of Museum entrance. The patio is never closed!

Contact the museum at [gygmstchs@gmail.com](mailto:gygmstchs@gmail.com) to purchase a commemorative brick, or come into the museum Friday, Saturday or Sunday from 10 until 2.



**STCHS**  
**PO Box 180**  
**Big Oak Flat, CA 95305**





## Renewal Time

It's time to renew your STCHS membership dues for 2025! You can renew by mailing in your dues, or online at [www.grovelandmuseum.org](http://www.grovelandmuseum.org), or by signing up in the museum.

Our membership categories include individual or family membership for \$25.00, Supporter for \$100.00, Sponsor (Business) for \$250.00, Benefactor for \$500.00 and Patron for \$1000.00. Your dues and donations help support the museum, the preservation of the Wells Fargo Building and Cobden House and other STCHS projects. STCHS is a 501C3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your continued support!  
Catherine Santa Maria  
STCHS Treasurer



Shirley Sardella - Above

Laura Silvestro - Below



## WINE TASTING CRUISE – AGAIN!

What could be more fun than riding in a boat around Pine Mountain Lake to various homes, sipping local wines and snacking on a cracker or two? Mark your calendars for the 19th annual (except for one COVID year) WINE TASTING CRUISE on Pine Mountain Lake. The date is May 17, 2025.

Request your ticket order form now! This event always sells out. Send an email with your interest to [winetastingcruise@gmail.com](mailto:winetastingcruise@gmail.com). Or pick up an order form at the museum, Friday, Saturday or Sunday from 10 until 2.

This is the biggest fundraiser for STCHS and a very good time!



## POP


The building of the Groveland Yosemite Gateway Museum was made possible by many dedicated volunteers who started fundraising in the 1980s. On September 1988 the first "Poison Oakers Picnic" was held in Mary Laveroni Park. There was music, food, of course, panning for gold and a photo display.

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### GROVELAND YOSEMITE GATEWAY MUSEUM

*Southern Tuolumne County Historical Society*

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# Bay Cal

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**The museum is currently open  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 10am - 2pm**