

The Newsletter of the FITCH MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION



One mountain,  one river, one community

June 2015

President's Message

*Greetings to all of you on, or temporarily away from,
Fitch Mountain —*

The year is just half over, and your FMA has been busy on all fronts. The officers, trustees, and committee members continue to work on improving our community and on representing you to local agencies and officials on a wide range of issues: water usage, conservation, and rates; future regulations on onsite waste systems, aka septic systems; road safety and fire hydrant upkeep; holiday-period traffic and parking; development of the Fitch Mountain Summit Park; and the future of the Del Rio Woods Beach, to name just the major issues — all of which are reported on in detail in this newsletter.

If you have thoughts, concerns, or suggestions on these or other issues, please don't hesitate to contact the appropriate committee chair or one of your FMA trustees or officers. The more we hear from you, the more representative and effective we will be.

All of these topics will also be touched on in our annual General Membership Meeting, on Sunday July 5th, at our by-now-traditional spot, the outdoor BBQ area at Villa Chanticleer, from 1:00-4:00 pm. Please do come, so we can hear your input on a host of topics. Our new 4th District Supervisor, James Gore, will speak, as will LandPaths Executive Director Craig Anderson. And Fitch Mountain's peerless thespians, the Camp Rose Players, will entertain us as well! [*Details of the logistics and agenda of the meeting are on the next page.*]

Kudos to those individuals who just pitch in on their own and improve our Mountain environment! I just noticed the exemplary fire-fuels reduction on the hillside at 2030 North Fitch Mountain Road, which should be a model for all of us (me included!). And of course the decades-long efforts by some at the end of Redwood Drive to maintain that access path to the river. And the guy across from the bottom of Hilltop Drive who cleans and trims the whole area. Thank you! You are an inspiration for each of us to "look around and do something for the Mountain community."

Well, enough preaching from the President. See you at Villa on July 5th — tell me how we're doing!

—Dave Henderson

Annual Meeting—the Details!

The Fitch Mountain Association's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 5, from 1:00-4:00 pm, in the BBQ/picnic area of Villa Chanticleer.

If you haven't already done so, please rsvp to Donita at donitaproctor@gmail.com or 433-8789 with names and numbers of your contingent and, most importantly, your preferences as to beef or veggie burgers.

Come before 1:00 so you can pick up meeting materials and update/renew/initiate your FMA membership. Why membership? Note that this is a meeting for FMA members (and their guests), and you need to be a member to vote on any resolutions or elections. FMA is your voice for Mountain issues, and when we work with County and local officials, etc., on a wide range of issues, we want to be able to show that we represent a committed membership truly representative of our Mountain community. Remember that renters, property owners, and even "Flatland friends" of Fitch Mountain are all encouraged to sign up as members. Your financial support of \$20 per member enables us to make signs and flyers about parking and other issues, rent the Villa for our gatherings, purchase supplies for our improvement projects, make donations to organizations supporting the Mountain, et cetera....

The Association will provide beverages and burgers (again, beef or veggie—let us know!). Please bring your own plates and silverware and a dish to share. The "assigned" potluck dishes, going by last names, are: A-F: Salsa, chips, nuts, or desserts; G-L: Veggies or green salad; M-R: Pasta dish or casserole; S-Z: Fruit or fruit salad. We'll start eating at 1:00.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 with—drum roll please!—a performance by the Camp Rose Players! Other agenda items include updates on relevant County issues, including the future of Del Rio Woods Beach; the status and future of Fitch Mountain Summit Park; and the Fitch Mountain water conservation mandate. There will also be Association business including a financial report; VP election; and reports from the Roads and Safety, Fitch Mountain Park, and Wastewater Systems committees. There will be opportunities for questions and feedback throughout the meeting.

So be sure to come to the Villa on the 5th of July to participate in the issues of your community, plus food, friendship, and entertainment!

Community Service Award

Association vice-president Kathryn Henderson proposed, and the Trustees approved, the establishment of an annual Fitch Mountain Community Service Award, to be given each year to a "hero of Fitch Mountain," someone who has contributed to bettering our community environment and quality of life and thereby is an inspiration to us all.

The Trustees have selected this year's recipient, who will be announced at the General Membership Meeting on July 5th. In the future, FMA members will be invited to submit names of "worthy heroes" before the June Trustees' meeting, and the winner will be selected from that list.

A New Supervisor From Across the Water

If we believe that the Fitch Mountain community doesn't stop at the River's edge, but continues on to the far eastern bank—on to Bailhache Avenue, still "in the shadow of the Mountain," as it were—then we are truly happy to welcome James Gore as one of our own. James is our new 4th District Supervisor (succeeding now-State Senator Mike McGuire, who is presumably watching over us from the wilds of Sacramento). We're sure everyone read James's voluminous campaign literature (now *that* was a campaign!), so we'll only note his solid Sonoco roots; his fluency in Spanish and Italian — helpful in conversing with the mountain natives?; and his terrific wife Elizabeth and children, Opal and Jacob.

James has already been of great help in our concerns and projects, for which we thank him. He will be the keynote speaker at our general membership meeting on July 5, so come on up to the Villa and introduce yourself!

—Dave Henderson

2015 Election

Kathryn Henderson's term as vice-president of the Association is up, and the position will be voted on at the annual meeting on July 5th. Kathryn is willing to stand for another term. Nominations will also be taken at the meeting if another FMA member wants to run for the position.

Mid-May Roadside Clearing

Kudos for the energetic "vegetation push-back" accomplished on the weekend of May 16-17 on sections of North and South Fitch Mountain roads. Driving and walking are now a bit safer!

The biggest thank-you goes to Supervisor James Gore, who suggested the job and authorized it. Daniel Hunt, Gore's District Aide, did a great job of marshalling the necessary paperwork and authorizations.

Ron in the Sonoma County Probation Department sent out a Supervised Adult Crew (SAC) that did the actual hands-on-the-vegetation trimming, ably supervised by David. Thanks, Ron, David, and all the SACers.

Road Safety Committee chair Al Pucci spent many hours gathering paperwork, supervising our FM volunteers, and generally keeping everything on track. Thank you so much, Al! (Al would welcome anyone else on the Mountain who would like to be on the important Road Safety Committee, tasked with keeping our roadways attractive and safe. Contact him at apuccie@gmail.com or flag him down on the road.)

That's the only big roadwork project for this year, but the committee will continue to monitor Mountain residents' road concerns and act as an informal advisory committee to the County.

Road Committee Report

There were five tasks determined to be addressed this Spring and Summer: (1) cut back the foliage encroaching on North and South Fitch Mountain roads; (2) paint the fire hydrants on the mountain; (3) engage the County in repairing the pot holes on North and South Fitch Mountain roads; (4) engage the County in providing appropriate striping at the intersection of North Fitch Mountain Road and Redwood Drive; and (5) engage the County in rectifying the problem of long trucks "hanging up" on the steep, tight turn at the intersection of Hilltop and Riverview. As of this writing (on June 15), the progress that has been made on the above -mentioned tasks is as follows.

(1): Supervisor Gore was generous in assigning his two-day allotment of a crew from the Probation Department to cut back the foliage. We are thankful for this, and, by and large, they did a good job. There are only three or four spots that were missed. If one of these spots is in front of your property or adjacent to it, it would be greatly appreciated if these areas would be cut back so as not to force cars into the other lane. It's all about safety, which is a concern for all of us.



**Troop 21
Boy Scouts
at Work**

(2): Cooper Gore, a prospective Eagle Scout and nephew of James Gore, took on this task as the major project for his Eagle Scout rank. Thus far, he and his fellow scouts have repainted more than half of the hydrants, and they look outstanding.

(3) and (4): A committee member who was assigned to communicate with the County was told that the pot hole repair is on a work list. The re-striping will be considered after further investigation.

(5): A member of the committee has an appointment with a County engineer in mid-June to visually look at the Hilltop/Riverview situation and, if possible, resolve the issue.

—Al Pucci

Where Is Del Rio Woods Beach Heading?

In a manner of speaking, a lot of water has passed over the Del Rio Woods beach dam since its removal last year. This synopsis is simply a status report, since everything about the future of our historic beach is still very much an open question as of this writing (June 15).

All five of the Directors from the Del Rio Woods Recreation District (DRWRD) resigned at the end of 2014, stating that with the dam removed and no discernible interest by new persons in running the District, they felt that the most appropriate course of action was dissolution of the District and incorporation of the beach into the Sonoma County Regional Park (SCRP) system. Newly elected Supervisor James Gore started the process of conversion.

The Board of Supervisors (BOS), therefore, on April 25 appointed itself as interim Board of Directors of the District and directed SCRCP to operate the District and its beach for at least the 2015 season, to keep it open to serve its traditional public until a final legal solution was clear. The BOS was about to start a formal process to (perhaps) dissolve the District, until FMA suggested that there might be some community interest in reconstituting the Board, and that a community meeting on the subject should be held.

An informal meeting at Del Rio Beach on April 23 had featured a vigorous exchange of opinions among about two dozen nearby residents, with most very critical of SCRCP's willingness and ability to "keep the beach as it always had been"; many, in fact, expressed a desire to close the beach to the public and "take it private," since traffic/parking pressure and large, unruly crowds were such perennial problems. Lively e-mail exchanges followed, with individuals proposing various new Del Rio scenarios for discussion.

On June 3, Supervisor Gore and SCRCP hosted a public meeting at Villa Chanticleer, to which all residents (parcel owners and registered voters) within the Del Rio District as well as current FMA members were invited. About 60 people came to the meeting, which covered a wide variety of topics, including: SCRCP's current management budget for the beach; obligation to bring the beach up to ADA standards (cost: ~\$110,000); liability with lifeguard present; revenues of ~\$70,000 from County allocation plus \$7 parking fees; requirement by the State to maintain public access for 20 years (6/30/2031), a condition of the \$165,463 grant to remove the dam; limited SCRCP Ranger staff (5 Rangers covering 18 parks, with only 3 on duty at any one time); and much, much more. Very lively discussion took place throughout the presentation.

Five options for Del Rio's future were presented. Extensive information was provided on the responsibilities of Board members and on the application process. At the conclusion of the two hours, participants filled out a feedback form to register their approval/disapproval of the options and to provide reasons, comments, data about their "presence" on Fitch Mountain, etc. As of this writing, the comments (which are important) have not been tabulated by SCRCP staff. However, they have given FMA the options ranking "votes" of the 44 respondents who expressed a preference. The number of votes and the percentage are shown in brackets after the options, below.

- Option A: Recruit new Board members from within the District to continue to operate the DRWRD. [10 votes; 23%]
- Option B: Dissolve the District and have SCRCP operate the beach within the Regional Parks system. [24 votes; 55%]
- Option C: Approach other potential entities (governmental and non-profit) to operate it. [Had been deemed unfeasible and was not included in the discussion.]
- Option D: Dissolve the District and sell all or a portion of the property. [4 votes; 9%]
- Option E: Eliminate the parking lot and allow only pedestrian access. [5 votes; 11%]
- Option F: Recruit new Board members and contract with SCRCP to operate the park. [1 vote; 2%]

Discussions will take place over the next few weeks with Supervisor Gore and SCRCP about the next steps, and we will share the results with FMA members via e-blast and at the July 5 membership meeting. Stay tuned!

—Dave Henderson

Fitch Mountain Water Service: CSA-41

Donita Proctor, Ombudsman

In May the State Water Board directed local water agencies to design drought response programs and gave small water suppliers the choice of reducing water use by 25% or limiting outdoor irrigation to 2 days a week. In June the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) chose the latter option for the four small water districts within its jurisdiction, including Fitch Mountain, citing differences in implementation and cost between mandatory reductions and outdoor watering restrictions for small districts as the reason for their decision.

On June 10th the City of Healdsburg, from whom we buy water, notified Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works (TPW) of its own regulations, which specify hours and methods of watering with potable water. At the request of TPW, we have posted this notice to our email list and also to our web site. It is in the dropdown menu under ISSUES at fma.wildapricot.org. The County's rationale for choosing the 2-days-for-watering restriction for small districts is available at www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/TPW/Water-Districts. (That web site also gives water-saving tips and info about the Russian River Drought Relief program, which includes a limited number of free high-efficiency toilets and fixtures, installation included, to replace pre-1992 fixtures.)

All Fitch Mountain Water Service CSA-41 customers will receive a notice from TPW about a requirement to restrict outside irrigation to two days a week, probably Tuesday and Saturday. We were notified of this recommended watering schedule June 18th and were asked to conduct a member survey on the preferred days for watering as well as distributing a copy of the water emergency conservation resolution to the membership. This information was sent to you who are on the FMA eblast list. The eblast survey tally was sent to the Director of Small Districts, Steve Urbanek. A stiff penalty applies for failure to comply with these regulations: \$500.00 a day, which would be borne by the ratepayers.

For homes that are rental units with rent including water and other utilities, it is imperative that the message sent to the property owner/manager be passed to the renters. If the water bill is in the name of the tenants, they will have received the notice.

Those who operate bed and breakfasts or vacation rental units need to notify their guests of the drought situation, and request water conservation. Water-saving measures recommended are in the link www.scwa.ca.gov/drought.

Advisory Meetings: Your Fitch Mountain Water Service Advisory Committee (Dennis Byrne, Dave Henderson, and Donita Proctor) has not met with County officials for 9 months due to a change of Supervisor and scheduling errors. We have sent a written request for water usage figures for the years 2013 (25% reduction is based on this year) and 2014. The 2013 figures may be hard to acquire as that was the year we transitioned the billing to Russian River Utility (RRU). At this point we have the 2014 total system usage figures from RRU, which we expect to discuss at the next meeting, scheduled for June 30th. Traditionally there are some heavy water users on the southwestern slopes of the mountain.

Dave Henderson represented the Advisory Committee at the June 9, 2015, BOS meeting to discuss the conservation ordinance adopted by the Supervisors, which mandates reduced irrigation (only). We observed that this approach did not seem appropriate or enforceable for FM, and asked for some way to reduce high usage. We criticized the lack of information on usage provided us, as well as the leakage report—16.81% overall for the first 5 months of the year. Tackling that problem will go a long way toward a 25% reduction. Susan Klassen, Director of TPW, said at the BOS meeting that the Fitch Mountain Water System had cut back 13%.

Budget: We do have the 2015-2017 budgets and will discuss this with the staff when we meet. The county has invested in a \$22,000,000 Financial Accounting System, which now distributes charges to all departments using modules of the system. FMA member Suzy Macaluso alerted us to new annual charges that were to be included in future small water district budgets for 10 years. (The proposed charges of \$14,245 for 2015-2016 and

[continued on next page]

[Fitch Mt. Water Service *continued*]

\$16,790 for 2016-2017 for our FM district alone appear only in the budget narrative, rather than line item expenditures.) Her sharp catch resulted in all four small districts contacting their Supervisor and some of them submitting a petition asking for relief of these charges. Supervisor Gore recently notified us that these charges have been waived. The proposed charges for the small districts are to be charged to the county water fund and are supported by the general fund until further notice.

The good news is that there are no Consumer Price Index increases this year. Your monthly charges will be:

Meter Rates:

5/8" \$47.47; 1" \$49.84; 1 1/2" \$52.16

Water charges per 1000 gals:

Per 1000 gal for 1st 15,000 gal, \$7.99

Per 1000 gal for 15,001-20,000 gal, esd* \$10.72

Per 1000 gal for over 20,000 gal, esd* \$17.84

* = equivalent single dwelling

Mountain Arts Stars

We have a celebrity in our midst! **Bill Bacigalupi**, our neighbor (right across from us on North Fitch Mountain Rd.), has published a beautiful pictorial book entitled *Hidden Healdsburg*. Bill spent the past 11 years taking photographs at all hours of the day and night. They are lovely, especially the ones of the river. I know all of you who love the mountain and the river and the surrounding areas will love the book as much as we do. Levin & Co. is carrying it—it sells for \$50. Check it out. Maybe we could fete the author at a book-signing party in the Mountain 'hood!

—*Maryanne Murray*

Another shining star is Redwood Drive's **Elden McFarland**, who is enjoying his first-ever theatrical experience. He is trading the boards in the Raven's production of *Hello Dolly!* Elden sings and dances and has one spoken line and four costume changes. There are five performances remaining, on 7/3, 7/5, 7/10, 7/11, and 7/12. Go applaud him while you can!

If It's Summer, It Must Be *HELE* Time...

... *Holidays Enhanced Law Enforcement*," that is. As we all know only too well, we have "too little road for too many beach-seekers," and scenes such as these creatively parked cars are not uncommon! For the last three years, FMA has met with our Supervisor and representatives of the CHP, Sheriff's Department, and the fire departments to coordinate enhanced enforcement of traffic and parking regulations during the summer holiday periods. And a big **Thank You** to those folk, because illegal parking is noticeably less now.

Creative (illegal) parking on South Fitch Mountain Rd



A contributing reason is certainly the two sets of signs FMA has created. You've all seen the two big banners, but we also place the sandwich-board signs at three strategic locations along North and South Fitch Mountain roads. Drivers can take fliers that are headed: "Yes, we know, it's tough to park legally around here to enjoy the river. So here are some suggestions!" The flier gives advice on parking legally, what not to do, and where to go—upriver and downriver—if the parking places are full.



We think it's had a salutary effect. Just another service to the Mountain by your FMA!

A Walk in the Wild

“And here are two rare numbers, Napa False Indigo—that’s *Amorpha californica subspecies napensis*—and down there is a diminutive ground cover, Redwood Ivy, or *Vancouveria planipetala*. And up the trail here is something that isn’t very common on Fitch Mountain, *Holodiscus discolor*, or Ocean Spray or Cream Bush.”

At first glance, April 4th may have seemed a tad late in a generally dry spring for a wildflower walk on Fitch Mountain, but FMA Trustee and professional biologist Kate Symonds rose to the challenge and effortlessly presented a cornucopia of beautiful “finds” to the 30-or-so delighted community members who joined the hike, sponsored by FMA and LandPaths. She pointed out that not only does the north side of Fitch Mountain offer its own particular environment, but so does practically every turn in the jeep trail that leads up the slope from Villa Chanticleer. After a couple of hours of leisurely but rich discovery, everyone enjoyed the view from the top of what is becoming Fitch Mountain Summit Park. We are all anticipating the next outing offering!



Kate Symonds (right) delights the group with her expertise.

We Are Stewards of the Park

Broom removal and chain saws seem to be the markers for the initial stages of the establishment of our Fitch Mountain Summit Park!

LandPaths, the non-profit entrusted by the City of Healdsburg to draw up the development plan for the future park (a 3-year process), launched a series of Stewardship Work Days for volunteers to “prep the mountain.” The first days saw FMA volunteers such as Rick Kolb, Becky Goodsell, Kathryn and Dave Henderson, and people from other places in the County continuing the broom pulling that I have been doing for several years now, with the result that long-lost trails and panoramic vistas are now re-appearing! Those efforts will continue with the next “Second Saturday Stewardship Day” on July 11. Please be an FMA steward and pitch in! [Details below.]

For most of June through early in July, the mountain trails are closed so that crews can chain-saw and remove some of the dense fuels that have built up over the years. The closure on weekdays through July 3rd is a small price to pay for decreased fire danger! Those chain saws are music to our ears. Thank you, LandPaths!

FMA VP Kathryn Henderson handed leadership of the Fitch Mountain Park Standing Committee over to me a few weeks ago, and I look forward to actively collaborating with LandPaths on what we are confident will be a real community jewel. We have a good committee, but we welcome any FMA member who wants to join us. Just contact me! (318-3183 or Kate@terraserve.net)

-- Kate Symonds

Stewardship Work Day

Lend a hand to steward the newest LandPaths preserve, Fitch Mountain! Volunteer stewards maintain the trails, preserve natural resources, meet new people, learn new things, and feel good about the work they accomplish. **The next work day will be Saturday July 11 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Villa Chanticleer.** Go to www.landpaths.org/eventdetails to register and find out where to meet, what to bring, and what to expect.

Fitch Mountain Everlasting

No, that's not the official FMA chant, but the title of a fascinating exhibit that the Healdsburg Museum dedicated this spring to the history of our beloved Mountain. FMA's utterly invaluable archivist and secretary, Donita Proctor, coordinated with the Museum, and the show was great.

Readers who missed the event should order a copy of the terrific 31-page issue of the Museum's quarterly publication, *Russian River Recorder* (Spring 2015, Issue 128). It contains 14 pieces such as "The Big Tree of FM," "It's the Palomar," "The History Mystery of Villa Chanticleer," "FM: My Magnificent Obsession" (by Zelma Ratchford), "Remembering FM Summers of the 1930s," "The Big 'H': A FM Tradition for Thirty Years," and much more, all with historical photos. If you love Fitch Mountain, it's a must for your library.

Pictures [of Fitch] at an Exhibition (music not included)



**Downtown Healdsburg in 1880s,
painted in 1975 by Harmon Cranston
Heald, descendant of Healdsburg
founder Harmon G. Heald**



**Display pictured at left had to do
with the Camp Rose Players.
For more about them,
see the next page!**



The Camp Rose Players – My Memories

By Tracy Logan

[This article is reprinted with permission from Issue 128 of the Russian River Recorder, a publication of the Healdsburg Museum & Historical Society.]

In the early 1900s, Camp Rose was a recreational camp on South Fitch Mountain complete with an inn surrounded by small cabins. In fact, some of the area's existing homes were originally summer cottages available for rent through the Camp Rose Inn. Over the years, the inn evolved to a restaurant and later, in the 1970s, a dinner theater. With a seating capacity of 30, attendance at one of their productions brings new meaning to an intimate theatrical experience.

Here in the Historic Camp Rose Theater District (the neighborhood nickname coined by our founder, Jane E. Moore) out on Fitch Mountain just two miles east of the historic Healdsburg Plaza, a magical theater exists. A true creative Shangri-La, our theater is enchanting, bewitching and filled with tradition.

The Camp Rose Players are eternal in my life, taking center stage in my heart since 1983 when I first appeared in plays, right up to today when I anticipate the announcement of our next show on the horizon. I have performed on stage since I was about 16 years old and appeared in more plays with the Camp Rose Players than with any other theater company. Fittingly, I am also the non-family member Player who lives closest to the theater.

I met my former husband on stage with the Players and both our children have trod the boards right along with us. It is truly a family affair. It is not only the intimacy of this small, perfect theater space that makes it so, but the personality and love of our late resident director and leader, Jane E. Moore. As Jane always said, "The show must go on!" It goes on today with her daughter, Suzanne Salvon Webb, in charge.

Jane will always be Miss Kitty to me or like a character out of *Show Boat* (a show Jane always dreamed of doing), a warm, captivating hostess. She had a clear theatrical vision, dedicated to tradition and stagecraft protocols; with high standards of production, direction and performance; and a wicked sense of fun and high spirits. This is not just a theater; it is also Jane's family home, and she opened her doors graciously.

My first Camp Rose Players show was the Ruby Keeler/Dick Powell campy spoof *Dames at Sea*, in the fall of 1983, directed by local actor/director favorite Lyle E. Fisher. Lyle commuted from San Francisco to direct. He even borrowed costumes from The Bohemian Club for some of his other four subsequent shows to augment our wardrobe.

At the time, Camp Rose was being relaunched as a dining establishment and its new owners, Donita Proctor and Patsy Nees, helped produce.

I remember that Jane Moore and her sweet husband, Bill Moore, were newlyweds then. In the play we had a miniature prop piano by George Baker that John Ballachey (as Dick) would "play" and I (as Mona Kent) would jump gracefully atop. In honor of their recent nuptials, this mini prop piano was christened "MOORE & MOORE."

At that time, the stage was upstairs near the bar. (Now the theater is downstairs.) We also offered not only the show, but dinner beforehand.

Backstage was actually outside on the deck, exiting and entering via open windows, as well as appropriated family bedrooms and bathrooms.

Lyle Fisher also accompanied the show. He and his piano were tucked away behind the set. Close quarters successfully created "Broadway on the River!" (Nowadays, this is the area that theatergoers are invited to visit following every show to meet and greet the cast and crew and enjoy refreshments.)

[Continued on next page]

[Tracy Logan's *Memories of the Camp Rose Players* continued]

I remember *Hello Dolly* (1999; Jane E. Moore, director) as a show when the Harmonia Gardens, New York City, took a turn for the wild on our stage. I played the widow/milliner, Irene Malloy. While hiding in a curtained-off area with Karen Wallace (as Minnie Fay), John Guilfooy (as Barnaby Tucker) and Darryl Webb (as Cornelius Hackl), trying to keep from being seen by Peter Immordino (as Horace Vandergelder), who was having dinner with Cheryl Ricci-Kopczynski (as Dolly Levi), we noticed from our tight space that the dialogue was not going as usual. Although we had no good view of the stage, we knew that something was going sideways. It turned out that an opossum had wandered into the theater. Proceeding on its nocturnal perambulations, the opossum had climbed up into the rafters, first above the accompanist, who moved quickly off the piano bench and signaled "Horace" and "Dolly." "Horace" saved the day by embracing "Dolly" to get her out of the way as the opossum casually dropped onto the stage and ambled off, a wee bit annoyed by the stage lighting. Nothing like performing your heart out to find you have been upstaged by a critter!

Brigadoon (1999; Jane E. Moore, director) brought home very personally the stage motto: "The Show Must Go On!" My husband, daughter, son and I were all in the show. It is a great musical – romantic, haunting, entertaining. It is an audience pleaser. My dad, Dick Logan, in excellent health when our rehearsals started, died unexpectedly just before the last weekend of the show. We four all had to go on; my father would have wanted it that way. Although I was devastated, I was focused, not wanting to make my "Meg Brockie" anything less than sparkling, because I did not want any audience member to be able to detect anything less than perfection in my performance.

That was my tribute to my dad. That is how theater folk are – rather crazy I suppose. The show, and life, goes on.

The Sound of Music (2000; Jane E. Moore, director) was dedicated to my father. This show had my whole family playing principals: Georg von Trapp was my husband, Peter Immordino; Friedrich von Trapp was my son, Tony Logan Immordino; Gretl von Trapp was my daughter, Annie Logan Immordino; and I was Maria Ranier von Trapp. This show was a dream come true for me. In high school I had always been compared to Julia Andrews for my then innocence of attitude, look and voice, so playing her famous film role was tops with me. Camp Rose has a structural post (stage right) that you cannot get around. I remember it became an imaginary birch tree for me when I sang "The Hills Are Alive" at the top of the show.

This is one of the first shows that I remember the cast/crew actually outnumbering our 30 seat capacity audience! We had such a large group that we had to have a schedule on a clipboard to direct the bathroom breaks at intermission, followed up by a careful "Places!" to make sure all were accounted for.

Jane was always at every performance, a gift of support that not all directors give their players. Once the show opens, it belongs to the actors, but having Jane present at every performance is yet another example of her love of theater. Having her always there was calming. We performed *Heaven Can Wait* in the fall of 2014, directed by Jane's daughter, Suzanne Webb, who is carrying on the traditions.

I am excitedly awaiting the announcement of the next Camp Rose Players show.

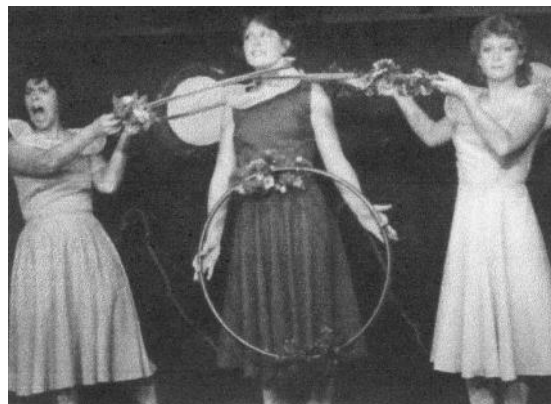
Information on current or future productions can be found on www.camproseplayers.com, on Facebook www.facebook.com/CampRosePlayers or by calling (707) 473-0616.

[See the following page for Tracy's pictures of special people and productions from the Camp Rose Players.]

Pictures from the Camp Rose Players, Courtesy of Tracy Logan



**Suzanne Salvon Webb and Jane E. Moore
backstage at *Hello Dolly!* in 1999**



**From left: Stephanie Rice Ballachey, Tracy
Logan and Jennifer Salvon Tremont in
Dames at Sea, 1983**



**From left: Peter Immordino, Cheryl Ricci
Kopczynski, Tracy Logan and Karen
Wallace in *Hello Dolly!* in 1999**



**Back row, from left: Tony Logan Immor-
dino, Chelsea Ridgeway, Linnea Hill,
Jessica Brock and Nicolette Connor; front
row, from left: Annie Logan Immordino,
Tracy Logan and Ben Brock
in *The Sound of Music*, 2000**



**From left: Tony Logan Immordino, Annie
Logan Immordino, Peter Immordino and
Tracy Logan, *Brigadoon*, 1999**



**Tracy Logan
and Cheryl
Ricci Kopczyn-
ski, *Heaven
Can Wait*
(Suzanne
Webb, direc-
tor), 2014**

Fitch Mountain Fun Evening

On the Sunday before Memorial Day, over 40 people, from kids to grandparents, gathered at the Villa Annex for a “Fitch Mountain Fun Evening” that included a pasta dinner and the roll-out of “Fitch Mountain Bingo.” The purpose was for current or prospective members of FMA to enjoy eating and socializing with their neighbors and meeting new people. It was a community-wide event open to any friends of Fitch Mountain, “flatlanders” included. More than a few folks said afterward that they had fun and met new neighbors—mission accomplished!

The pasta dinner included a “Sauce Cook-off.” Diners received a “Best!” tag to drop into the vote bag of their favorite of the four competing pasta sauces. Phyllis Pucci’s was the winning crowd favorite. And my, how her grandsons enjoyed being able to cast their tag for Grandma!

It was a little difficult at first for long-time bingo players to get used to the format of Fitch Mountain Bingo, but all were soon adeptly using pennies to cover Mountain street names, organizations, and animals squares on their cards. Letter bingos (F, M, or A) gave a prize choice of white elephant items, and “blackout” winners chose from a fine collection of books. Thanks for the prizes go to Levin & Co., Brian and Kitty Wells, the Silges, and that wonderful source of low-cost treasures, “Sallie’s at Lytton Springs.” The Riverview/Hilltop contingent won the pizza certificate prize (thank you, Mountain Mike’s) for the most participants.

Other local merchants who donated to the evening were Shelton Natural Foods and the Healdsburg Safeway. Many volunteers helped with preparations, publicity, set-up, and clean-up to make the evening a success. Ellen Silge, who brain-stormed and directed the event, has said she’s noting what went right and what needs tweaking for next time. Yes, there will be a next time, but not on a holiday weekend! Maybe in 2016 we’ll bring some Mountain fun to an otherwise somber evening in February or March....



Fitch Mountain Association Leadership and Contact Info

Trustees	Phone	Email	Terms
Rheyna Laney	433-7170	rlaney1@gmail.com	2011-2017
Al Pucci	650-345-0484	apuccie@gmail.com	2014-2020
Sylvia Seventy	433-2946	None	2011-2017
Kate Symonds	318-3183	Kate@terraserve.net	2014-2020

Officers	Phone	Email	Terms
Dave Henderson, President	433-1930	davehen@sonic.net	2014-2016
Kathryn Henderson, VP	433-1930	kathrynkeg@gmail.com	2013-2015
Martin Silge, Treasurer	431-0814	martinsilge@yahoo.com	2014-2016
Donita Proctor, Secretary	433-8789	donitaproctor@gmail.com	2014-2016
Ellen Silge, Newsletter Editor	431-0814	ellensilge@yahoo.com	None
FMA	any above	fitchmntnassociation@gmail.com	
P.O. Box 1233			
Healdsburg, CA 95448		fma.wildapricot.org	

Fires on the Beach? No Way!

After extensive consultation with local fire departments, FMA developed a detailed information sheet on whether fires are permitted on our Russian River beach. The entire document is on our web site, but the short answer is:

- In the area of the **Del Rio Woods Beach** (including picnic tables) a new sign reads: **“NO FIRES – Fitch Mountain is an Extreme Fire Danger Area.”** (Thank you, Regional Parks!) So, **NO FIRES, NONE. PERIOD.**
- On other areas of the beach, the County does allow a **cooking or warming fire**. It must be less than 3 feet in diameter and the flames must not exceed 2 feet in height. The County regulations also state that **users must have a fire extinguisher at hand.**

And, Healdsburg Fire Chief Steve Adams very strongly recommends that **NO FIRES WHATSOEVER** be allowed on the Russian River beach in the vicinity of Fitch Mountain, since the beach is the “toe area” of a heavily wooded, very flammable, and extremely dangerous mountain slope. He recommends signs that say something to the effect of: **FITCH MOUNTAIN IS AN EXTREME FIRE-DANGER AREA! NO FIRES, PLEASE.**



The Mission of the Fitch Mountain Association is to:

- Disseminate relevant information to the membership;
- Encourage community;
- Maintain the unique nature of our locale; and
- Establish a positive identity with the public sector.

FMA Money and Membership

The FMA has a total of \$2,841 in its accounts (\$1712 in checking, \$1,093 in savings, and \$36 in petty cash), as of 6/22/15. The previous all-accounts total was \$3,501 as of 1/31/15.

As of 6/20/15, the FMA had 62 paid members, representing 49 households, an increase of 4 members and a decrease of 2 households from the previous year. We have 189 people on the e-blast list, an increase of 17.

The FMA membership year goes from July through June. Renewals/signups for voting memberships will be solicited for the annual meeting on July 5, 2015. The membership form is below. You can bring it with you to the meeting on the 5th or mail it ahead of time (the address is on the form).

FMA Membership Registration Form

Dues July 2015-June 2016	Become a new member or renew	Dues \$20.00 per member
Name(s)		
Address		
Phone		
E-mail		
Fitch Mountain Association P.O. Box 1233 Healdsburg, CA 95448		Amount enclosed: \$ _____
Donations are tax-deductible California 501c #C093278		