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Placentia Founders Society

The Green Shingle

News from the Bradford House

Summer 2023

Heartfelt Tributes Paid to PFS President Tina Maraj



Placentia Founders Society has lost a vital community link with the unexpected passing of President Tina Maraj.

Secretary Stephanie Dolan said, "Tina was the person who brought people together. No matter what walk of life you came from, what industry you worked in or interests you identified with, Tina had a gift for finding common ground amongst diverse people and building upon that."

Curator Beth Woodard hung black wreaths on the external doors of the house in Tina's memory. This was to recreate the Victorian custom practiced when Bradford House was built. For the Annual Meeting in June, Beth and John Walcek developed a digital photo collage of Tina's many activities with the Society and shared it with members who attended.

Tina became involved with PFS in 2000 at the invitation of Alice Husovsky to assist in presenting the Haunted House. Eight years later she joined the board as the social media consultant, then treasurer, next VP of activities and finally president.

Stephanie added, "In many ways Tina was a visionary. She was always able to envision future projects, implement plans, and facilitate ideas. Nothing was too far out of her reach." Tina was fifty-three years old. ❀

2023-2024 Executive Board Looks to the Future, Will Build on the Past

As directed in our by-laws, the Placentia Founders Society hosted the annual membership meeting at the Bradford House on June 9th and held the election of officers for the coming year. We thank those who attended.

The evening commenced with a tribute to our outgoing president, Tina Maraj, who passed away suddenly in May.

The official meeting began with a summary of our accomplishments over the last year. Some highlights were the acquisition of several new items to the general collection, especially A. S. Bradford's great-grandfather's wedding china; the development of a new brochure to promote the House; the use of the Placentia Buzz to publicize events like speakers, exhibits, and monthly tours; and successful fundraising through an e-waste collection.

The meeting proceeded to the election of officers as presented by our election committee. Then incoming President, Eric Holmgren, shared some of the Bradford House videos which he filmed over the last year and now has posted on YouTube. (@placentia history 6046). We continue to thank the Placentia Community Foundation for funding this videotaping program.

Due to the loss of one nominee, the new president made substitute appointments after the meeting. The incoming board now is: President Eric Holmgren, VP Activities Wendy Elliott, VP Curation Beth Woodard, VP Education Nancy Murray, Treasurer Carolyn Davis, Secretary Stephanie Dolan, and Parliamentarian Alice Husovsky. Appointed to other non-elected positions by President Holmgren were Membership Judie Dee, Newsletter Kathy Frazee, Maintenance John Walcek, Historian Natalie Ter-Nedden, and Members-at-Large Chris Maule, Bob Robinson, and Kim Dewese. ❀



The annual membership meeting concluded with cupcakes and Rich Farm ice cream. (l-r) Alice Husovsky, Chris Maule, Beth Woodard, John Stahler, Eric Holmgren and Diane Gantt.

From
The President's Desk

By Eric Holmgren



Hello PFS members! My name is Eric Holmgren and I am honored to be your president. My spouse, Laura, and I have lived in Placentia since 1991. We raised two sons here who both graduated from Valencia High School. Our oldest, James, just graduated from UC Irvine and our youngest, Finn, is a sophomore at CSU Long Beach.

I became involved with the PFS through Tina Maraj. We were friends from the Placentia Chamber of Commerce. I have a small business offering instruction in the Olympic sports of archery and fencing (I was the head fencing coach at UC Irvine for 30 years). When the pandemic hit and the 3rd grade students were unable to tour the house, Tina suggested I help with a virtual video tour. During the spring of 2021, I worked with Nancy Murray to interview docents and film the various rooms of the house. These videos are available for viewing on the "Placentia History" YouTube channel. In the summer of 2021, Tina invited me to join the board of directors of the PFS.

My goals for the coming year are to return our operations to that before the pandemic: elementary schools tours, cultural events and raising the profile of the Bradford House in the community! There will be many fun ways that you can help either as a volunteer or a booster! Stay tuned! ✂



♥ **Placentia**

Loving hands make
light work!

Thank you!



Love Placentia Crew 4-22-2023



Kim Deweese shares stories of the Bradford family

April school tour

Two third-grade classes from Topaz Elementary School came to explore local history in April. The students and teachers braved the warm morning sun and walked to Bradford House. Docents Kim Deweese, Janet Hayes, Karen Mahoney, Chris Maule and Kathy Frazee welcomed them. It was great to see their enthusiastic interest even after the challenging hike. We look forward to re-establishing third grade tours in early 2024 ☼



Docent Karen Mahoney takes questions from eager students.

Bradford House Docents Work with OC Docent League

Three of our Bradford House docents attended the Orange County Docent League Conference on May 22nd at the Moulton Museum in Laguna Hills. The museum was founded by members of the Moulton family and focuses on their pioneering ranching efforts begun by Lewis Moulton who came to California in 1874. The current exhibit, *1874: Into the West*, details his immigration, ranch formation, and struggles.

It was a pleasure to learn about the founding of a new museum, established in 2022, about the Moulton family's development through its current exhibition, and about its upcoming exhibit, *Women on the Ranch*, scheduled to open in September 2024

We deeply appreciate the Orange County Docent League and its on-going efforts to assist docent organizations in the County to share information in a way that benefits them all. ☼



Pauline Rogers, Natalie Ter-Nedden and Nancy Murray interact with docents from other organizations at the OC Docent League Conference.

Curator's Corner

Textiles in acid-free boxes stored in the bedrooms were identified. Here Nancy Murray prepares to refold the black lace dress that Chris Maule checks off on the artifact inventory.



On Wednesday afternoons in July and August, critical behind-the-scenes work was carried out at Bradford House. Under the direction of curator Beth Woodard, the museum holdings were verified against a master list, missing and damaged items were noted, textiles were refolded to reduce stress, and newly acquired artifacts were added to the log. Though presently listed, there were several forgotten treasures brought to light during the process. Plans to share them in some way with the public are being considered. ☼



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*The Placentia Founders Society formed in 1974 to preserve and maintain the **Bradford House**, which was built in 1902. Now it is a living museum, providing a glimpse into the lives of a pioneering family who made their fortune in the citrus industry. The House will open to the public for docent-led tours from 2-4 p.m. the second Sunday of each month. To request a private group tour, leave a phone message at 714-993-2420.*

Membership Support

Placentia Founders Society tax-deductible membership dues support cultural and educational activities for the public at the Bradford House. Everyone is invited to join.

Please mail this information with your dues to the address shown above.

Include me/us on your membership list! My choice is circled below.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Individual, \$30
Senior (65+), \$20
Student (full-time), \$10
Family/Dual, \$50

Lifetime individual, \$500
Benefactor, \$75
Patron, \$125

For online visits:

Webpage:

www.thebradfordhouse.org



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placentiafounders



Placentia Founders Society
and Placentia Buzz

Placentia Founders Society 2023-24 Board

Officers

President— Eric Holmgren
VP-Activities—Wendy Elliott
VP-Curator—Beth Woodard
VP-Education—Nancy Murray
Secretary—Stephanie Dolan
Treasurer—Carolyn Davis
Parliamentarian—Alice Husovsky

Directors

Art Gallery—John Walcek
E-media—*Vacant*
Historian—Natalie Ter-Nedden
Maintenance—John Walcek
At-large—Chris Maule, Bob
Robinson, Kim Deweese
Membership—Judie Dee
Newsletter—Kathy Frazee