



The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Summer 2026



Santa Cruz County LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

Saturday, May 16 • 12:00PM-4:00PM

London Nelson Community Center

301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA

- Celebrate Santa Cruz County's diverse history
- Connect with over 30 local history organizations throughout the county
- Discover stories of neighborhoods and residents
- Artifacts, publications and more
- Local history presentations; 5M's Music Group; Saucey'z Food Truck



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San Lorenzo Valley
MUSEUM



Pat Paramoure and Kevin Hildreth at the History Fair. (Below) The 5Ms. Photos by Mary Gerbic



On May 16th, SCAS participated in the Santa Cruz County History Fair. Cathy Phipps, Pat Paramoure, Kevin Hildreth and Mary Gerbic set up our tables and settled down to a noisy afternoon, speaking with many people who came by. From time to time, one of us wandered off to look at the other exhibits and talk to people from other organizations. As is usual, groups from all over the county were represented (29 organizations) and there were talks held in a separate room. *Saucey's* food truck was out back. Attendees could grab a taco or sandwich, sit on the steps in the sunshine and listen to the 5Ms, musicians and singers organized by State Parks. 5Ms also participated last year at the Buddhist Temple event. Speakers included: Jay Topping (1:00pm) discussing Mountain Charley, Hiram Scott, and the Toll Roads of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Rob Darrow (2:00pm) discussing LGBTQ+ History, and Luna HighJohn Bey (3:00pm) discussing London Nelson and the other Black Americans from the Gold Rush Era in Santa Cruz, including Black Americans interred in Evergreen Cemetery. I attended the last of these

talks, and found myself fascinated and realized how little I knew about Black History in Santa Cruz County.

Luna Bey's talk started with her arrival here in Santa Cruz County and how she found London Nelson's grave stone in Evergreen Cemetery. She had suspicions about the information on the marker – Loudon (London) Nelson was a literate slave who came to California during the Gold Rush, settled in Santa Cruz and willed his money and property to the City of Santa Cruz to be used for the education of all children. As a result of his generosity, we have many places in Santa Cruz named for him.

But was that the whole story? History is a collection and interpretation of facts by people, who have

biases and blind spots. Our interpretation of events is colored by who we are, our culture, experiences, and the environment we live in. It is vitally important to consider the context in which a history is written. What are the facts?

Luna Bey describes herself as “professionally nosy”, or “a research historian”, probably one and the same. She had a “hunch” that there was more to the story and started digging in the archives and found that there were at least 17 other black people from the Gold Rush era interred at Evergreen Cemetery and London Nelson was the only one with a grave marker. This was the beginnings of the London Nelson Legacy Initiative, to research and document the history of Black pioneers in 19th Century Santa Cruz County, and the renaming of “Louden” Nelson Community Center to London Nelson Community Center.

I suggest that anyone who wants more information check out several sources:

<https://www.santacruzmah.org/lnli> , and Luna’s TEDxSanta Cruz talk from 2024 titled, *How to Follow a Historical Hunch*. On the MAH site, you will find photos of Black Pioneers, plus some information about fourteen newly identified individuals buried at Evergreen Cemetery. Additionally, the History room upstairs at the MAH has new information about Black Pioneers of the Goldrush Era.

Our colleagues from the UCSC Archaeology Club were also present. I spoke with Leo and Katie, both UCSC students, and Kimiko Marr, who is with the local non-profit Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (JAMP), which is producing a documentary film about the Redman-Hirahara House, outside Watsonville. They are looking for anyone who has a connection to the house or who has knowledge about it. They are organizing meetings with the community, date and time TBD. The Archaeology Club has been working with JAMP to gather documentation about the house, and they want to conduct oral history sessions. If you or someone you know has information, please contact kimiko@jampilgrimages.org. They would like to record the house itself, inside and out through some digital means before it is gone. The house is in very poor condition. For more information about SCAS member’s involvement with the Redman-Hirahara House, see the Fall 2025 issue of SCAN, and the

September 2024 speaker meeting:

<https://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/speaker-event-jacob-stone-phd-the-past-present-and-future-of-the-historic-20th-century-redman-hirahara-farmstead>

Leo, Kimiko and Katie at the UCSC Archaeology Club Table



The Redman-Hirahara House

Built 1897 · Watsonville, CA · A community documentary project



Hirahara House, 1946



Hirahara House, 2025

Do you have memories of this house — or stories about the land it sits on?

Local non-profit, Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (JAMP), is making a documentary film about the Redman-Hirahara House, and we want it to be a community project! That means hearing from everyone whose family has a connection to this property — not just Japanese American families, but anyone with roots in this valley.

We'd love to hear from you if you . . .

- Have personal memories of the house or its residents
- Know stories about the land the house sits on
- Have family history in Pajaro Valley farming or community life
- Have old photos, letters, or documents about the property
- Want to help preserve this history for future generations
- Just have a feeling you know something — reach out!

JAMP will be organizing four community meetings to be held throughout the summer, three in-person and one virtual. Dates and times are TBD.

Have a story? Want meeting updates?

kimiko@jampilgrimages.org

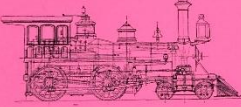


Soquel Pioneer Picnic
Saturday July 25 • Picnic @ High Noon



88th Annual

Pringle Grove • Take North Main Street .6 miles to Pringle Lane
Watch for Soquel Pioneers Signs



FOUR TRAINS & A TROLLEY
History Talk by Frank Perry

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the local railroad line, local historian Frank Perry will share some little-known stories from Soquel's early railroad history. Frank served on the Pioneers board for 12 years and retired in 2021 after 8 years as curator of the Capitola Historical Museum. He has been writing a book on Soquel history.

Arrive Early! Music Starts @ 11:30!

- Music by Girls & Company
- Browse historical photos
- Greet longtime friends
- Meet new friends

- Raffle featuring items donated by local merchants
- Free Coffee
- Bring your family picnic lunch!

Suggested Donation \$5.00

Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association

Information: 831.818.8109 www.soquelpioneers.com



Elf Boots from Santa's Village, Scotts Valley



SCAS at the Cabrillo Farmers Market

April 26, 2026

At least it wasn't raining this
weekend!

(Left) Kevin Hildreth and Amanda Trujillo

(Below) Kevin, Cathy Phipps and Pat
Paramoure



Report: SCAS Board Meeting Minutes Summary

April-May 2026

By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary

April 2026

Financial Reports: Cathy Phipps

- Kevin has been working on the renewal of our Liability Insurance and the numbers weren't promising. He contacted a couple on-line insurance groups, including Thimble, which wanted to set us up with Hartford Insurance. Our long-time local broker had suggested the same company-- Hartford. We decided to work with the people who know us instead of someone new. The cost was reasonable, although it was a bit higher than it would have been if we were still at the RCNV, because the Elks Lodge room is larger. We were relieved that our insurance cost is half as much as it was the previous year.
- After all the frustration of working with PayPal for our online payment service, we looked for someone else who was reliable and responsive. We settled on Zelle, a company that Cathy had used in other contexts. Cathy did all the necessary work to set up our accounts to work with Zelle so people can donate and renew their membership again. We will still use Square at outreach events, but Zelle will be an option there as well. We may consider Venmo in the future. Thank you to Cathy for all her hard work getting this going.

Membership Report: Branden Melendez

- We had one new member this month. She wrote a check. Membership stands at 84.

Professional Advisor: Ben Curry

- Ben said he had an email from ECORP Consulting which is working on the Seacliff Resilience and Recovery Project.

SCAN: Mary Gerbic

- Mary said that on a recent visit to the Warehouse, she and Pat found two more boxes of old SCANS. We think this was Rob's collection. Mary was able to find a few issues she had not digitized yet.
- Mary will soon finish the Spring SCAN. She is waiting on one submission.

Website Committee: Branden and Robbie

- Branden still hasn't heard from Saill, our developer. He will continue to try contacting her. In the meantime, we are searching for a new webhosting and domain service.

Outreach:

- April 11 is the date selected for our next outreach event at the Cabrillo Farmers Market. It was rescheduled to April 25 because more than ½" of rain was expected. Even with Easy Ups, the minor rain we experienced at the November market caused low turnout at the market and a lot of damp paper.
- We will be setting up tables at the Santa Cruz County History Fair, May 16. We have encouraged the UCSC Archaeology Club to request a table as well.

Scotts Valley Display Project Committee: Mary, Pat and Kevin and Julie Edwards

- Our March 24 meeting of the Committee was very positive and we have several action items. We are going ahead with the project, slowly but making progress.
- Mary has been digitizing documents about SCR-177 (The Scotts Valley Site) from the 1980s primarily, and had forgotten until now how people worked on projects before the internet and cell phones, when the environmental laws we know and count on today were new and few people had email. She expressed her respect for Rob, Charr, Charlene, Kate Harper, Bob Cartier and all the others who worked tirelessly to manage a huge project and a lawsuit communicating with typed letters and land lines.

May 2026

Financial Reports: Cathy Phipps

- Cathy submitted our balance and income statement for the past fiscal year, ending March 31, 2026.
- Cathy will look into the renewal of our Post Office Box. The cost has gone up \$8.00.
- We will be submitting our Statement of Information to California with a \$25 fee including a returned certified copy. We need to do this every two years and our filing includes the names of our officers.

Membership Report: Branden Melendez

- There was no membership activity this month and we have 84 members.
- After extensive testing, we have activated Zeffy on our website so members can now renew.

SCAN: Mary Gerbic

- Mary has digitized all the known old SCANS. They are now on SCAS's backup device.
- She will be preparing the summer SCAN, which should be published in early June.

UCSC Archaeology Club update: Phoenix Rumbaugh

- The UCSC Archaeology Club is having a Barbeque next month. They will combine the party with the butchering of a goat (which will be cooked) using stone tools. The tools will be turned over to UCSC's archaeology lab so students can learn about use-wear of stone tools.

- The Club is engaged in documentation work with the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages non-profit. In June-July the JAMP will be collecting oral histories and creating a documentary on the Redman-Hirahara House.
- The Club's next project is to digitize documents for Friends of Santa Cruz County State Parks – specifically Pigeon Point Lighthouse.
- Sometime after the end of the spring quarter, the Club will also start collecting oral histories of the Scotts Valley Site in the 1980s and beyond. SCAS members have been notifying people who were or might know someone who was involved in the legal action against Scotts Valley, or the 1980s digs.

Outreach: Everyone

- We are pleased at the outcome of our past two outreach events at the Cabrillo Farmers market, despite poor weather. We are planning another, possibly the last weekend in August 2026.
- We discussed our plans for the Santa Cruz County History Fair to be held on May 16. Branden will send out an email blast to members to invite them to the Fair.

Scotts Valley Display Project: Mary, Pat, Kevin, Julie Edwards

- Julie Edwards joined the SCAS Board meeting at 7:30 pm, to discuss the latest news about the Project. She feels “a real urgency” to make progress on the Project, as it has been almost a year since the project was derailed just a little over a month before it would have been finished. The SCAS Board agreed that we wanted to finish the project.
- Amanda Boesen is very busy but will do some more work for us to finish out the main display. She gave Julie some names of people who might be able to create some “fake replica” groundstone we can use in the display. It will be designed to sit in the current display unit which had already been completed and paid for.
- According to the newly amended NAGPA as of 2024 and published in the Federal Register, replica items are not considered cultural items, and are not subject to NAGPRA regulations. This statement and the go-ahead from the Amah Mutsun will allow us to finish.
- Julie and Pat are working on a “three sentence” statement for Ed Ketchum’s signature, getting his approval in writing what we have orally and in email.
- Several of us have had important or serious personal issues since January, and these events have taken priority over the Project. We will do what we can to make sure the project continues.
- Julie has agreed to speak with Mali LaGoe at Scotts Valley to make sure Scotts Valley is still agreeable to finishing the project. There was some doubt in our minds about this, and whether or not we would need to find a new home for the exhibit. However, we plan to share the current display as it existed last August with them and to elicit an opinion. If the matter must go before the City Council, we intend to contact Scotts Valley residents who would be willing to speak to their councilmembers about the importance of this project. Stay tuned.

What Do SCAS Board Members Do?

Membership Director Job Description

The Membership Director keeps track of the status of members. Such as emailing members when it is time for them to pay their dues. The director also keeps the membership list up to date. The membership director also emails the Santa Cruz Archaeological Newsletter to members. The director also provides updated membership email lists to board members so they can email members about events such as speaker events and other events of interest to members.

The Duties of the Newsletter Editor

When I first took over the position of Newsletter Editor in the winter of 2014, I didn't know anything about producing a newsletter. I was assured that I would do fine. After all, I had been writing articles for the SCAN for several years.

The first thing I did was try to figure out how the SCAN was produced, and so I developed a rather detailed flowchart, and it was a doozy. Oh, boy, I am in for it.

We simplified the process considerably, and over the years, there have been more changes. I realized there were items that we no longer included in the SCAN, such as a summarized copy of the SCAS Board Meeting Minutes. It seemed important to me to make sure the SCAS members knew what the Board was thinking about.

I was given an archive of old SCANS, dating back to the original issue in 1972 – yes, we have been producing it that long! The SCAN morphed from something that looked like it was run off on a mimeograph machine, to a much more professional looking product and became somewhat standardized. It went through numerous able editors and printers, to today's version, that has the same page count, but evolving content. In 2009, we started creating .pdfs of the newsletter and posting them to our website. We have also gone from sending every member a paper copy and a digital copy of the newsletter, to sending most people a digital copy and reserving the paper copies for those without computer access or email, and for outreach purposes. It has saved money, and frankly, I think everything looks better in color.

Since I became editor, my intent has been to find or produce original and/or local content for the SCAN, rarely relying on articles I read online. Sometimes we have had the good fortune to have content from students at Cabrillo and UCSC. Frankly, I would like to see more of this content, and I am trying to encourage it. Another goal was to make sure that current members knew the history of SCAS and so I have mined early SCAN issues for items I thought would be of interest today. I was assisted in this effort for several years by Rob Edwards, who wrote articles about the Scotts Valley Site, The Lost Adobe and the history of SCAS, as we reached our 50th anniversary.

So that's it. I have had to change publishing tools a couple times, and I sometimes fight with the formatting, but somehow, I have content to share. These days, we print only a few copies, and that is ably handled by our Newsletter Coordinator, who takes charge of printing, folding and mailing. Our Membership Director supplies labels and emails the digital issue. Our Webmaster updates the archive of SCANS on our website, always one issue behind. Most recently, I have located what I think are all the issues of the SCAN every produced and made digital copies. I don't plan to throw away the paper copies. They have archival value. At least we have everything in multiple formats.

Happy reading

2026 Speaker Lineup

We meet on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month, at 7:30, “hybrid”, with in-person and Zoom attendance possible. For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/calendar>

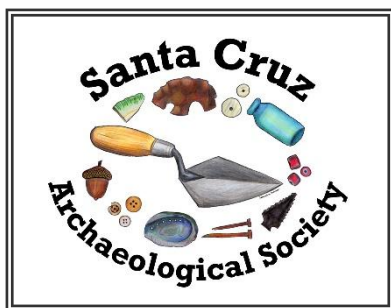
- June 4, 2026 – Reuben Mendoza – CAUMB, retired. Teotihuacan, Mexico
- Sept 3, 2026 – TBD
- Oct 1, 2026 – Emily Smith, UCSC Lab Operations Manger
- Nov 5, 2026 – Ryan Brady, Dudek

Archaeological Society Business

SCAS Officers and Contact Info

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
President	Vacant Position		
Vice President	Pat Paramoure	patsunicorn@sbcglobal.net	831-465-9809
Treasurer	Cathy Phipps	scastrasurer2026@gmail.com	
Outreach Coordinator	Kären Johansson	johansson.outreach@gmail.com	831-247-3063
Secretary	Mary Gerbic	mgerbic@yahoo.com	831-331-7173
Membership Coordinator	Branden Melendez	brandenmelendez1@gmail.com	
Professional Advisor	Ben Curry	SCASproadvisor@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Mary Gerbic	editorscan@gmail.com	831-331-7173
Webmaster	Robert Gleaton		

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Please share any archaeological interests or experience:

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Mail completed application with dues to: SCAS Membership, P.O. Box 85, Soquel, CA 95073, or visit our website:
<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/join>