



Newsletter

WORKING FOR A FUTURE
THAT CELEBRATES THE
PAST

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THE SALINAN INDIAN CULTURE OF MONTEREY

The San Antonio Valley Historical Association will hold its annual Fall Dinner and Lecture on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the San Antonio Valley Community Center in Lockwood, CA for a compelling evening as Michael Woody shares the story of the Salinan Nation—from their ancestral lifeways and mission-era experiences to the devastating experiences of early California history, into modern-day efforts for federal acknowledgment. Discover with SAVHA cultural insights that illuminate a legacy of resilience.

Michael Woody serves as a council member for the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties and is a descendant of the Toro Creek Band of Salinan Indians, a group formerly located between

Atascadero and Morro Bay. He leads the tribe's Federal Acknowledgement Application and has collaborated with academic institutions, researchers, and the United States Department of the Interior over the last three years in preparing this application.

Professionally, Woody is a civil engineer and owner of Struct One Engineering and Construction in San Luis Obispo County, and he is a candidate for SLO District 2 County Supervisor. He earned his undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Fresno State and a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The dinner will be prepared by Shaunie Briggs and cost for the event is \$35 per person for SAVHA members or \$40 for non-members. Payment in advance is required, and reservations can be made before October 30th by calling 831-385-0323 or 805-472-2780 or emailing savha4@gmail.com and sending a check to SAVHA P.O. Box 145, Lockwood, CA 93932.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY PAUL GETZELMAN

Dear Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe that autumn is already here. With the leaves starting to turn, it feels like the perfect time to reflect on all we've accomplished this year. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated members of the Board of Directors and volunteers. Your hard work and commitment are the very foundation of our organization.

Our spring event was a wonderful success; the presentation and road tour of Stage Stops and Saloons Along Old Jolon Road given by John and Karen Jernigan was truly great! The event brought in many new faces and I was particularly inspired by the turnout. It was a great reminder that our shared history is not just about grand events or famous people, but also about the everyday lives and traditions that have shaped our community history.

As we move into the cooler months, we have an exciting event planned for you. We'll be hosting our annual lecture presentation and general membership meeting on the 8th of November (more details included in this newsletter). We are currently developing new project plans to enrich and expand our archives. Your support will be essential in bringing these efforts to life. Stay tuned for upcoming volunteer opportunities—we'd love to have you involved!

Your continued support, whether through membership, donations, or volunteering, is what allows us to keep our history alive. Thank you for being such an important part of bringing local history to everyone. I hope to see you all at our upcoming event as we continue to explore and our past together.

Warmly,

Paul Getzelman, President

ARE YOU READY FOR A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER LIFE?

GIVE YOUR SPARE TIME A PURPOSE: ***VOLUNTEER!***

The San Antonio Valley Historical Association is a 100% volunteer organization. We are always on the lookout for more members to help in the process. If you have a little bit of time, volunteer for a specific project. If you have a lot of time, become a member of the board of directors.

We are currently seeking a membership chairperson, a social media coordinator and a photo archivist—as well as board members.

The membership chair mails out the annual renewals, collects and records the current memberships and forwards the funds to the treasurer. Simple! Once per year!

The social media coordinator keeps our www.savha.org website and Facebook pages up to date. Primarily adding upcoming events, Also, if you find an interesting historical article, that can be posted. Pretty easy!

The photo archivist manages SAVHA's Filemaker Pro database of historical photos. You will receive the training needed to maintain the database,

To volunteer for any of these positions, please contact: SAVHA PO Box 145 Lockwood, CA 93932 or email us at savha4@gmail.com

SAVHA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNING ARTICLE

BY

JOCELYN PICAZO-HERRERA

Blanco, once a lively town with its annual community festivities, is now forgotten by most, having once sat west of what is now known as Salinas, CA. Blanco was a town known for its potato growing, but aside from its success in the potato business, Blanco was a town with a strong community. This strong community was thanks to the annual Turkey Shoots in the town. These Turkey Shoots would happen around Thanksgiving time from 1911 to 1925; the shoots were an old Switzerland tradition in which men were expected to maintain their marksmen abilities if there was ever a threat from foreign conflict. The shoots involved shooting live birds and the winners would win turkeys. At the height of its popularity, it was reported that there would be 5000 people in attendance at the shoots. The Turkey Shoots wasn't the only activity at the event; there was also raffles, dice games, bets, and drinking. The goal of the shoots was to bring the community of Blanco together and with the help of the Breschini family the community was able to bond, ultimately growing stronger, as the shoots allowed residents the opportunity to see their friends and family all in one place, especially before the holiday season.



Additionally, the Turkey Shoots came to Blanco thanks to the Monterey County Swiss Rifle club which was first established in Blanco in 1900 by fourteen Swiss immigrants. The club is still active to this day. While first being brought by these men to maintain their culture and defense abilities, the shoots flourished in success which ultimately cemented the legacy of the influential Breschini family in the town, as it was thanks to the fourteen founding members of the Monterey County Swiss Rifle Club three of whom were members of the Breschini family; John, Steve, and Bernardo Breschini farmers in the Blanco area. The Breschini family's influence in Blanco extended past the Turkey Shoots as they had also managed the

post office and built the Breschini Emporium which would be known as the home of the shoots that would happen after its construction.

it is important to remember that all hope should not be lost as even those with cold hearts want to help

HOW TO REACH US

Do you have a comment or contribution? Would you like to express an opinion to the board? Would you like to become a board member? SAVHA is always looking for fresh and old ideas, so if you would like to recommend a Spring Tour site or guest speaker for our Fall dinner and lecture, or an article for our newsletter, please let us know about it. We can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 145, Lockwood, CA 93932, or by email through the following board members:

SAVHA email: savha4@gmail.com

Paul Getzelman: pcgetzelman@gmail.com

Patricia Woodfill (Newsletter articles): patran2@gmail.com

SAVHA UPDATES

KING CITY VISITOR AND HISTORY CENTER

The King City Visitor and History Center was officially dedicated Saturday, May 31, 2025 along with the Downtown Plaza after more than five years in planning. Shown here are SAVHA members John and Karen Jernigan who have supported the project located at 110 North Vanderhurst Avenue. The King City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture occupies the building as a visitor center with one room dedicated to telling the story of the history of King City and the surrounding Southern Monterey County area. The building was originally The Rustler newspaper, built in 1931. Later it was Benadom Meat Locker and Jo's Flower Shoppe. The building is now owned by the City of King and features an original wind sculpture outside to celebrate our famous Salinas Valley Wind. Visitors are encouraged to stop by during office hours on Monday through Friday from 10-5 p.m. The history center can be open at other times by calling 831-594-3740. A video of the history of the building can be found on YouTube by searching for King City History Center.



John and Karen Jernigan—
supported the project from the very
beginning

SAVHA ONLINE: YOUR WINDOW INTO VALLEY HERITAGE

Follow us on Facebook

Join the conversation and explore fascinating historical stories, community memories, and updates on the latest happenings.

Visit our YouTube Channel

Experience the voices of the Valley through oral histories, event recordings, and storytelling that honors and celebrates our shared past.

[San Antonio Valley Historical Association on YouTube](#)

Explore our Website

At www.savha.org, we're *Preserving the Past and Inspiring the Present* with archival photographs, newsletters, and resources that bring our history to life.

CALIFORNIA DIGITAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

A PLACE TO LEARN ABOUT THE SAN ANTONIO VALLEY

Historic issues of the King City Rustler newspaper continue to teach and reveal facts about the San Antonio Valley. More and more people are discovering the California Digital Newspaper Collection at cdnc.ucr.edu

By searching by county (Monterey) and then by newspaper (Rustler as well as the Herald), anyone with a computer can read about the past.

In these uncertain financial times, CDNC has faced some struggles but those interested in history can still access the years 1901-1955 in The Rustler as well as some years of the King City Herald and The Land and Its People.

There is an interesting story about Jolon in the August 24, 1928 issue of The Rustler. Check it out at <https://cdnc.ucr.edu>



Californian (Salinas), Volume 101, Number 252, 21 October 1972

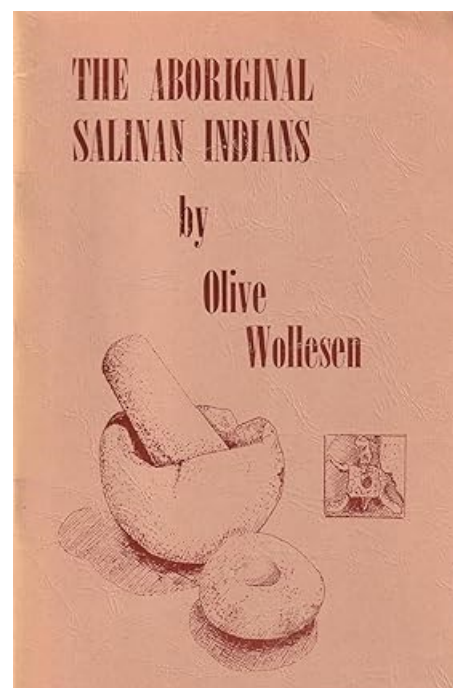
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HISTORY BUFFS, ESPECIALLY those interested in local Indian lore, will want to peruse Olive Wollesen's just-published booklet entitled, "The Aboriginal Salinan Indians."

Her interest in the history of the Salinans began as a child. Born at Bryson, she grew up on property that had belonged to her great-grandfather, Ezekial Ray. And she found many relics in the cave on their property. Which in recent years, she has given to the Museum of Natural History at Pacific Grove.

She has walked over every foot of the Wollesen ranch near Lockwood, looking for campsites. Knowing her interest, neighbors have given her permission to search out sites on their properties and she has examined much of the area around Lockwood, Bradley, Bryson, Plato, Jolon and Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, where some of the finest of the old Indian villages and campsites are to be found.

Her booklet, dedicated "to every person having a Salinan Indian heritage," contains information from many sources and includes information on the language, customs, tools and weapons of the Indians, before and during their Mission training.



Olive Wollesen's book is not available online, but the Nacitome Museum has the book available at the museum in Lockwood, CA, open the 1st Saturday of the Month - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

BAD INDIANS – A BOOK REVIEW

BY SUSAN RAYCRAFT

FORMER SAVHA BOARD MEMBER AND CO-AUTHOR OF SAN ANTONIO VALLEY IMAGES OF AMERICA

B*ad Indians*, by Deborah Miranda is a must-read to understand the history of California's native people. Not just their history, but their STORY! Sharing her personal story, Dr. Miranda shapeshifts from clear-eyed analysis to stream-of-consciousness poetry and in so doing, mirrors the stories of perhaps the majority of California natives.



Shaunie Briggs, left, with author Deborah Miranda shown holding her book *Bad Indians*.

Called by the stories her ancestors told, gathered from the written words of survivors recorded by ethnologists, and every imaginable unearthed source, Deborah Miranda weaves the truth of today's native Californians. Called also by the command of ancestor Isabel Meadows, to "make story again in the world," she gifts us all with *Bad Indians*!

Reading Dr. Miranda's *Bad Indians* feels to me like digging up the graves of the Salinan peoples of Jolon planted in St. Luke's cemetery next to Civil War

veterans and pioneer families. Without markers naming them. Without their stories. This book literally digs up the stories buried in those graves and offers them to the world with grace and dignity. I read it with profound humility and gratitude.

I recommend it to all who care about the history of this place and its people, all of them, as well as Native California's true history, on which SAVHA's Fall Dinner Lecture focuses. READ THIS BOOK! It is a miracle of storytelling and history.

Bads Indians closes with the theme of transformation, what its author lived in its writing, and I experienced in its reading. In one of the many indigenous languages to whose relearning Dr. Miranda contributes:

Nimasianexelpasaleki—My heart feels good.

More than
a memoir,
it's a
living
record of
California's
Native
peoples..

She is an enrolled member of the **Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation** (OCEN) of the Greater Monterey Bay Area, currently teaching at the University of Oregon in Eugene. *Bad Indians* was published by Malcolm Margolin's Heyday Press in 2013, with a tenth anniversary expanded edition out in 2023-24.

Surviving the losses of conquest and colonialism, forced conversion within the mission system and the sheer horror that followed its demise is an epic journey that the book chronicles, mourns and celebrates.

When the Spanish padres arrived in California and began building missions c 1770, the native population numbered about one million. 100 years later when Dr. Miranda's grandfather was born in Monterey in 1877, it was down to around 30,000. Few owned land, and those who did would eventually lose it to American squatters, outright theft, taxes.

San Antonio Valley Historical Association Newsletter

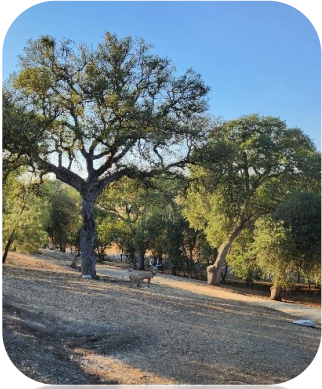
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NATIVE WISDOM FOR WILDFIRE DEFENSE

BY PATRICIA WOODFILL



Nestled between oak woodlands and chaparral-covered hills, the San Antonio Valley in Southern Monterey County is no stranger to wildfire risk. With dry summers, gusty winds, and increasing fuel loads, landowners are

turning to fire-resilient landscaping and practices to protect their properties—and preserve the valley's natural beauty.

In *Tending the Wild*, ethnobotanist M. Kat Anderson reveals how the Native Peoples of California lived in a deep relationship with the land. Through generations of observation and stewardship, they developed intricate knowledge of seasonal rhythms in plants and animals. Their approach was not passive; they actively tended and shaped the landscape—creating ecosystems that supported both human life and biodiversity. Their legacy offers valuable lessons for today's fire-conscious land management.

Defensible Space: Your First Line of Defense

CAL FIRE and the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County recommend a three-zone strategy to reduce wildfire risk, which we have implemented on our property:

- **Zone 0 (0–5 feet from structures):** Keep this area ember-resistant. Use non-flammable materials like gravel or pavers. Avoid wood mulch, flammable furniture, and overhanging branches.
- **Zone 1 (5–30 feet):** Minimize fire intensity with low-growing, well-spaced plants. Mow grasses to under 4 inches and prune tree limbs up to 6 feet from the ground.
- **Zone 2 (30–100 feet):** Thin vegetation to slow fire spread. Remove dead leaves and branches, but retain a light layer of leaf litter to protect soil health.

Native Plants That Help Protect Your Home

These species thrive in the San Antonio Valley and offer natural fire resistance when properly maintained:

- *Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia)* and *Valley Oak (Quercus lobata)* – Dominant in valley woodlands
- *Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)* – Red berries and low flammability
- *California Buckeye (Aesculus californica)* – Deciduous and fire-wise
- *California Lilac (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus)* – Coastal scrub favorite
- *Coffeeferry (Frangula californica)* – Hardy and drought-tolerant
- *California Fuchsia (Epilobium canum)* – Hummingbird magnet and low-growing
- *Monkeyflower (Diplacus spp.)* Colorful and drought-tolerant

Even fire-resistant plants can become hazardous if neglected. Here's how to keep your landscape safe:

- Remove dead vegetation annually
- Prune tree limbs 6 feet above ground
- Eliminate invasive grasses like foxtail
- Use drip irrigation to keep plants hydrated
- Avoid wood mulch near structures—use gravel or stone

Let's work together to make the San Antonio valley safer and more resilient—one property at a time.

Local Resources

[Fire Safe Council for Monterey County](#) – Plant lists and defensible space guides
[Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District](#) – Wildfire safety evaluations
[UC Master Gardeners of Monterey County](#) – Expert advice

2026 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

New _____ Households (\$25) \$ _____

Renewal _____

I wish to enclose a donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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