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### January - April 2025

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another page in the book of life. It's a moment to carry forward our cherished memories and, for many, to embrace the opportunity for change in the new year.

In this edition of Discover Rio Vista magazine, you'll notice some exciting updates. We';ve introduced two new story series. The first, "The History of Rio Vista" kicks off with "Rio Vista – The Beginnings" by Jan Vick. The second series explores the dining experiences upriver, starting with an article on the City of Isleton by Laurie Oleksiewicz.

You'll also discover fascinating articles on the history of dry farming by Aiden Mayhood and an insightful piece on the Lunar New Year by Tom Surh.

Explore the latest happenings in Rio Vista! Check out articles on the Rio Vista Foundation's events, including the return of the Soup Tasting for its second year. Discover new businesses in town, enjoy the excitement of the Sheepdog Trials, and meet the featured Artists of the Month from January through April.

As we celebrate our magazine's eleventh year, we're seeking writers, reviewers, and photographers to share their experiences and expertise in articles about Rio Vista and the surrounding delta areas. If you're interested, please reach out to us at drveditor@riovision.net for more information. While living in the Delta Area is a plus, we also welcome those who can research and write from afar.

Here's to an exciting 2025! We hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine.

— Interim Editor, Robie Williams

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*Discover Rio Vista* is a tri-annual magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista. This magazine is a volunteer effort. Call RioVision at 707-469-3080 to help! See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at *discoverriovista* .*com*. For additional information about RioVision see riovision.net and facebook.com/riovistavision. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: Foot of Main Strreet by The Sacramento River, Rio Vista. Photo by Robie Williams



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#### JANUARY

 January 26: Clothing Exchange St. Joseph Church Hall, Corner of California & Fourth Street. 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Bring your child's outgrown clothing to the semi-annual Children's Clothing Exchange sponsored by St. Bridgid's Episcopal Church, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph's, St. Ingrid's, and Walnut Grove Community Church to exchange for free, usable garments. Please, children's clothing only! For more info, contact Wendy Ross at (509) 961-3198 or daveandwendyross@gmail.com

#### **FEBRUARY**

• **February 8:** A Soup Tasting Rio Vista Foundation, 25 Main Street. Noon to 3:00 pm. Taste soup samples and pick your favorite bowl of soup, includes salad and dessert. Baked goods raffle. Tickets on sale at Pets 4 All, 167 Main St., Rio Vista for \$35.00. For questions contact Mark Stokes at 707-374-2011.

#### MARCH

• **March 21:** Daub'n for Donations Rio Vista Care. Doors open at 5:30 pm and Bingo starts at 6:30 pm. A fun day of Bingo benefits Rio Vista CARE. Win Bingo prizes or a 50/50 raffle! Purchase tickets at the Rio Vista CARE building at 628 Montezuma Street, Pets 4 All at 167 Main St. or call Cindy Bradford at (707) 374-5243 for more info, including date and location.

#### APRIL

• **April 1:** Mad Hatter's Tea Party Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front Street. 11:30 am Come on down the rabbit hole for the 3rd Annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Rio Vista Museum! Do not miss out on this fun event that includes raffle prizes, photo booth, games, and delicious food. Tickets are limited, so act fast! Contact Renee Tingey at (707) 374-2455 or buy tickets at Rio Vista Muffler. If you have any questions, please contact Nora Crane at (707) 334-6191.

#### **ONGOING EVENTS**

- Self-Guided Walking Tour Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front Street. Any time at your convenience This booklet is available at the Rio Vista Museum. Take a self-guided Street-by-street walking tour of a selection of Rio Vista's historic homes. This booklet contains an easy-to-follow guide showing the locations of the historic homes as well as a brief history of each one.
- RioVision Community Forum, Community Center, 45 Main Street on the 2nd Monday of each month, 6:00-8:30 pm. Join RioVision for varied topics of interest for Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta. Topics and information for each meeting are posted on social media and our website at riovision.net For more information email info@riovision.net or call (707) 469-3080.
- Self-Guided Art Walk There is art to see in Rio Vista! Grab your camera and the Art Walk pamphlet (available at the RioVision Gallery, 116 Main Street) to find art in unexpected places.











Sheepdog trials are not new to Rio Vista and the Montezuma Hills. In fact, the first trials were held as early as the 1930's at the Hoyt Ranch in Birds Landing. Then, a young widow, Mrs. Eva Hamilton, purchased the Hoyt Ranch in 1946. The Rio Vista Farm Bureau revived the sheepdog trials, with Mrs. Hamilton's blessing, to raise money to build a meeting place for Rio Vista and Birds Landing Farmers in 1947.

Just like today, those trials of yesteryear were put together with volunteers from the community. There was a man who contacted ranchers who had good dogs, helpers that placed long tables out to seat the spectators, Harvey McDougal, a famous cattle rancher and feedlot proprietor in Birds Landing, donated hamburger and steaks from Solano Meat in Dixon and Lyle Fraser of Fraser Food in Rio Vista donated the beans, bread and makings of a salad. Advertising was by word of mouth and all the locals came to watch the sheepdogs show off their herding skills for an admission of just a few dollars.

Over the years the sheepdog trials were tremendously successful. While most of the sheepdogs were well known Solano County herders, there were often nationally famous dogs featured. In the early years, Solano County was the second largest sheep producing county in California, which was itself the second largest sheep producing state in America. California is still the fourth largest producing state. The sheepdog trials continued into the late 1950's or early 1960's.

Sometime in the 1960's the sheepdog trials became so successful that attendance numbered close to 2,000. However, with large crowds came problems as the crowds got rowdy and incidents of drunkenness became more prevalent. A decision was made to discontinue the trials. Periodically, throughout the 1970's and 1980's a sheepdog trial would be organized. However, it



just never had the same attraction that those original trials had. Then in the 1990's and early 2000's the Solano County Wool Growers held periodic trials at Hoyt Ranch. Still, these attempts did not live up to the success that the original trials had either and the sheepdog trials once again went into hiatus. Fast forward to 2014 when Jeannie McCormack and Al Medvitz revived the tradition started by the Hamilton family at the Dan McCormack Ranch on Montezuma Hills Road.

Kelsey Nichols, Ranch Manager and Shepard at the McCormack Ranch is a talented handler and shepherd in her own right. She plays a key



ć

role in organizing the course and accepting applications for the dogs who attend the event. The course looks like Scotland, especially during the early spring, with huge rolling hills where dogs really get to work. It's very appealing to handlers to put that challenge before the dog and themselves to see if they can accomplish the task. However, it's not just the size, complexity or the terrain that makes this course challenging. It's the sheep! The McCormack Ranch sheep are not used for trialing other than at this trial. These sheep are not forgiving a dog that makes a mistake.

For judging purposes, the trial course is broken into phases with a time limit imposed. Each phase has points assigned based on the skills needed for competent stock work. Dog and handler teams begin with all possible points, and during each phase points are deducted for mistakes or forfeited for incomplete phases. Dogs are also judged for their effectiveness and on qualities of good stockmanship. This point system is believed to have been in use since at least 1979. Each dog and handler are putting his (or her) skills to work competing for points to qualify in the National Finals sponsored by the United States Border Collie Handlers Association and the American Border Collie Association. The National Finals will be held at Belle Grove in Middletown, Virginia September 30 thru October 6, 2024.

The Sheepdog Trials are currently scheduled for March 28, 29 and 30, 2025 at the McCormack Ranch. Ticketing and further information will be made available on the Discover Rio Vista website discoverriovista.com and the McCormack Ranch Sheepdog Trial Facebook page.





Lunar New Year commences January 29, 2025, as the year of the dragon gives way to the year of the snake. As the recognition of the many contributions of Chinese, Japanese and Filipino immigrants to the Delta area continues to spread and deepen, various celebrations highlight this growing recognition bringing color, interest and visitors to the Delta region.

Lunar New Year is observed in many countries including China, Vietnam, Korea, and Singapore. Unlike the Western New Year celebration where it all builds to midnight December 31 and a holiday on January 1, then back to work, Lunar New Year celebrations continue at least until the first full moon 14 days later and up to a month after New Years Day.

The amazing little town of Locke celebrates Chinese New Year on February 22. This Locke celebration has continued for several years and this year, in addition to the traditional colorful and exciting dances and music (see the poster), will feature talks by distinguished journalist William G. Wong and Maryellen Burns, President of the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society.

William Wong will be sharing stories from his recently published book, Sons of Chinatown: a Memoir Rooted in China and America. He describes his book as "an illegal immigration success story" and it includes a carefully documented full and fascinating history of the amazing machinations his family went through to deal with the many barriers set up to exclude Chinese from entering and surviving in the United States. He will also share his experiences growing up as a second generation Chinese American.

Maryellen Burns is a cultural and culinary historian with a passion for uncovering the hidden narratives behind historic events. The author/editor of books on food and regional history, she will be describing how waves of migration and settlement shaped the Delta region. These include Portuguese, Italian, German, Dutch, Filipino, Japanese and Sikh people, discussing their motivations, challenges, contributions and lasting legacies in the Delta.

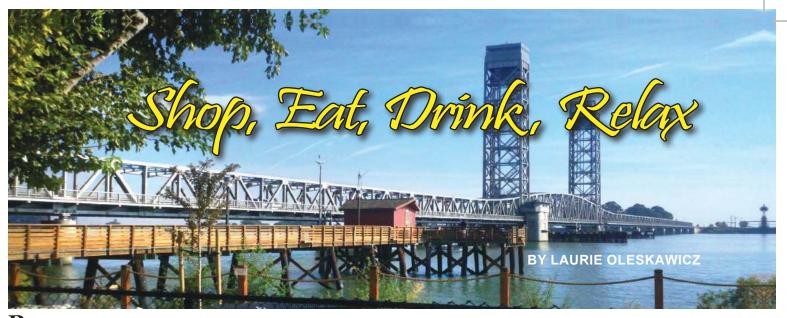
Isleton is another Delta town with historic structures marking what were distinct Chinese and Japanese commercial areas on Main Street, with the Japanese east of F Street and Chinese to the west. The Isleton Museum is very much worth a visit and includes an exhibit on the Japanese in the Delta. The current project of interest is the construction of the Asian American Heritage Park right next to the Museum that will be completed and opened with a celebration this Spring. This is a project of the Delta Education Cultural Society. See www.deltaecs.org for more information and updates.

Saturday May 10 will see the 15th celebration in Locke the Asian Pacific Spring Festival. This event features dancers and other performers from many Asian/Pacific communities. For updates on this event and for a deeper look at what to expect in this amazing little town, see www. locke-foundation.org. A great example of the ongoing work of historic preservation conducted by the Locke Foundation is the 5-year oral history project that concluded with the production of the documentary film "Voices: Chinese Women of the Delta." This film is scheduled for a premier showing on March 22, 2025, from 1 to 4pm at the California Museum in Sacramento. See the Foundation website for updates and tickets.









**R**io Vista continues to attract new businesses to its charming downtown areajuststepsfrom the Sacramento River. In the last quarter of 2024, Rio Vista welcomed a variety of businesses to the delight of local residents and visitors from near and far who enjoy the escape from the usual hustle and bustle.

The first stop is Hidden Treasurers Boutique. Located at 20 N. 2nd Street, near the corner of 2nd and Main Streets. Here you will find an eclectic mix of items for you and your home. A collection curated by its owners, Nita and Anna, there are so many pieces to admire and enjoy. You can easily find something for yourself or your family and friends to love. There are home goods including furniture as well as a wide assortment of jewelry and clothing that will fit whatever style you may have.

Anna has owned several businesses in Rio Vista and other cities. She started her first business in town called the Social Butterfly, which many people still remember. The business was sold, and later Natasha's Closet was opened and subsequently closed in order to retire. Anna and Nita became friends while living in the large retirement community, Trilogy, on the western edge of Rio Vista. Both Anna and Nita are widows and they felt it would be a good thing for the both of them to do and it would benefit the town with a fun place to shop.

After working up an appetite from shopping at Hidden Treasurers and strolling down Main Street towards the river, you can enjoy a relaxing meal and drink at the new Hap's Taps at the corner of Main and Front Streets. Hap's Taps is located in what used to be Hap's Bait. The old bait shop has been revamped and contains tables inside and out. Offering a nice selection of items to eat, a refreshing beer tops it off.

Now that you've found some treasures and had a bite to eat, its time to relax and maybe do a little pampering. This can be done at the new Zen Den located on 2nd Street just south of Main Street. The new Zen Den is a women owned business offering a premier beauty salon and wellness spa. Zen Den offers a comprehensive range of services designed to enhance your beauty and well-being. Here you will find a skilled



medical massage therapist providing tailored treatments that promote healing and relaxation. Their experienced nail technician and talented hairstylists will help you look and feel your best. Whether you are seeking a calming escape from your daily routine or a rejuvenating treatment to enhance your natural beauty, Zen Den is your go-to destination.

Rio Vista continues to offer so many unique and fun places to visit. Just walk around the quaint downtown and enjoy the shops, restaurants, and other business in a quiet friendly atmosphere. Rio Vista has a unique backdrop sitting on the scenic Sacramento River, be sure to enjoy a stroll along the Sacramento River on the beautiful Promenade while in town.





# Dining Discoveries Along The Sacramento River

#### **BY LAURIE OLESKWICZ**

From Peter's if you look across the street you will find two more places to

explore. The first is Java Jack's 160. Here you can grab a satisfying coffee or

other enjoyable beverage either inside or by using their convenient drive

thru. They have a legendary breakfast burrito and New York Bagels fresh

This is our first in a series of articles about discovering unique dining experiences driving north of Rio Vista along the Sacramento River. While Rio Vista is home to a wide array of eating establishments, it is fun to drive along the scenic Sacramento River and stop at some of the

interesting and almost hidden restaurants that can be found along the way.

We begin this journey by crossing the Helen Madere Memorial Bridge on Highway 12 to cross the beautiful Sacramento River. At the light turn left onto highway 160. The first stop heading north on highway 160 is the little town of Isleton. Isleton is just a quick five-minute drive from Rio Vista. Even before reaching Isleton, you will come to a big curve on the road with a left hand turn into Viera's Resort. Viera's Resort is home to not only a campground and boat launch but a restaurant, El Capitan. El Capitan opens at 8 am serving delicious breakfast items. If you don't make it for breakfast, then stop by for lunch or dinner. They excel in hearty Mexican dishes that will satisfy that south or the border craving.

Continue up the highway just a little further and you arrive in Isleton. The road dips down off the levee into town. If you turn right just after entering the town, you will find another Mexican restaurant, Taqueria Mi Rancho. Here too they are open in the morning for those searching for a







bite to eat for breakfast. Or stop by later for lunch or dinner and enjoy some Mexican classics.

Just back at the corner where you turned, you may have noticed a stately red building off to your left just as you dipped down off the levee road on your way into town. This grand red building houses Peter's Steak House. Enjoy their famous prime rib and other delectable offerings for lunch and dinner. Peter's also has an upstairs banquet room with a large deck that overlooks the Delta and Main Street.



from New York weekly. Java Jack's resides in an old time 1949 gas station which adds to the unique charm of Isleton. Java Jacks has recently expanded with a fully covered patio and will soon offer a new full menu. They open early of course for those of us in need of some morning Joe.

And just a few steps next door you will find Manny's Barzzeria.

Manny's offers a wide array of Italian dishes to please any pasta loving individual, along with several pizzas and calzones. In addition to

the lovely dining area, there is a charming patio area to enjoy during the many pleasant delta days found in Isleton.

As you continue driving north you will veer right into the heart of downtown Isleton. Isleton has almost 800 residents and was founded in 1874. Isleton had an early strong population of Asians who came to work the rich agricultural fields found in the Delta. Many of the buildings in town reflect this early



Asian influence and the town has been slowly restoring and bringing back the beauty of these early buildings and the history they contain.

Fittingly one of the first restaurants you come to on the right is the Pineapple Chinese Restaurant. Here you will find a huge menu of so many Chinese favorites, that you will definitely have to come back. Everything is homemade, the options are endless with something for everyone, including several vegetarian dishes. Almost across the street you will find The McBoodery. Featured here are



Mike Abood who live in town with family that have been there for generations. In addition to the fresh homemade items, the McBoodery likes to bring new flavors to the table by changing the special of the day every day.

Walking just a little further north on Main Steet you will arrive at Mei Wah Beer Room. The Mei Wah was an old gambling hall, brothel, and Opium den until 1957. Mei Wah Beer Room offers 24 curated taps, predominately local craft beers, kombucha, cider, seltzer and nitro coffee. Mei Wah attracts repeat visitors from Sacramento to San Francisco and beyond for its splendid selection of drinks to the friendly owner and staff, a great place to kick back.

Walk across the street to the Delta Queen Restaurant and Lodge. Here you will find breakfast, lunch, dinner and a bar. If you would like to stay and explore Isleton a little longer, the Delta Queen offers several comfortable rooms in their lodge.

In the next block north on Main Street you will find the



fine sandwiches and specialty snacks. You can build your own sandwich or choose one of their local favorites. There is something for everyone including gluten free, vegan, keto options as well as salads. In addition to baking fresh bread every day, they make their own desserts, beef jerky, vegan jerky, and homemade sides. Like many of the establishments in town, the McBoodery is lovingly run by locals, Sarah McGee and





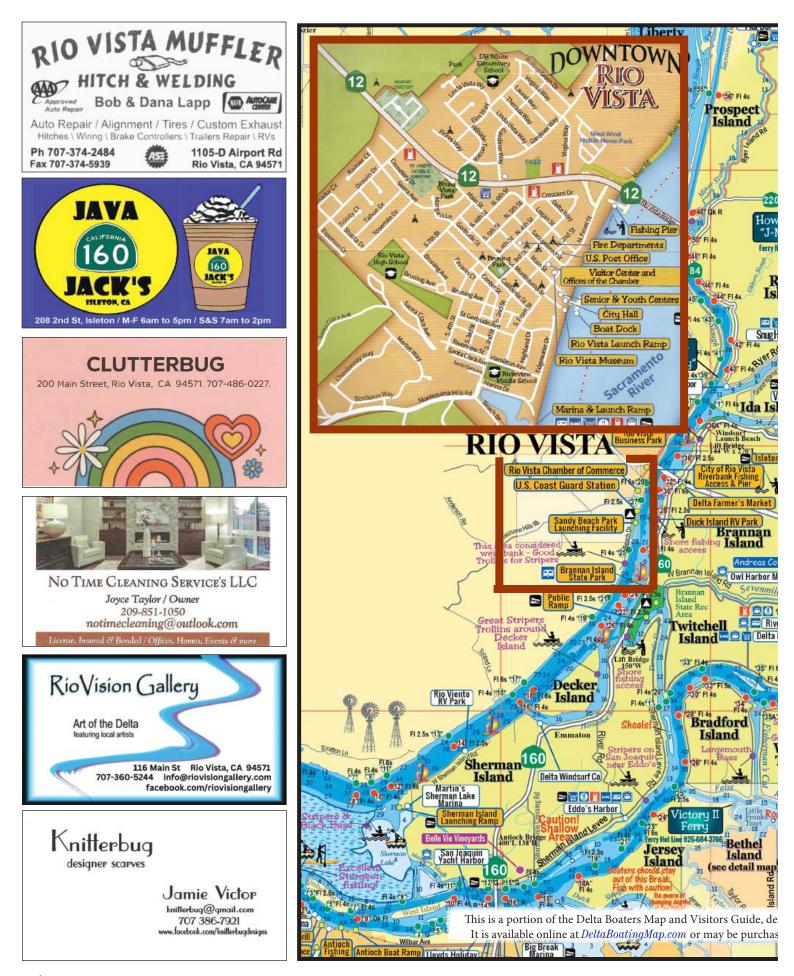
Isleton Coffee Company. Here you will find silky smooth coffee. To go with your coffee, the Isleton Coffee Company offers delicious biscuits made by the Isleton Biscuit Company. The Isleton Coffee Company is a women/veteran owned establishment. Ruby Fowler and Aleida Suarez moved from Seattle to Isleton in 2020 after falling in love with the Delta during one of their previous visits. After three years of renovating their 1926 building, they opened the Isleton Coffee Company. They offer traditional and non-traditional coffee drinks as well as light cafe menu items. The soft serve (lactose-free) crosses over from cones and cups into an extensive list of floats. They also have local history books, blank journals, Isleton t-shirts/hoodies, and coffee/tea accessories for sale. Everything from the decor to the food and drinks is done mindfully and



deliberately. "Welcome Stranger" is both the motto and the vibe. After gathering your drinks and treats, walk across the street to the Chinese Labor Memorial Pavilion Park to sit and enjoy the peaceful and relaxing surroundings.

Isleton is a sweet little town, tucked along the Sacramento River. It is full of history and contains a surprising number of places to stop for a wonderful meal or a relaxing drink. Be sure to check out Isleton, it's an escape from the usual hectic pace you find in most areas in California.







# RIO VISTA - THE BEGINNINGS

**BY JAN VICK** 



Ithough the city of Rio Vista was incorporated in 1893, it was established 38 years before that date when Col. Nathan Davis, an enterprising rancher, bought six lots of John Bidwell's Los Ulpinos land grant, which covered the eastern part of what is now Solano County. He planned to subdivide part of the land into a town on the Sacramento River, about 1 mile below the mouth of Cache Slough.

At that time, the land was in the southernmost part of the extensive Patwin tribal land, which covered all of what is now Solano and Yolo Counties and most of Colusa County. After many travails, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is a sovereign nation centered around Rumsey on Cache Creek. The Davis land was near a small Patwin village of Hale Che Muk which can be translated to "Nothing to Eat."

It wasn't until 1857 that Col. Davis was able to visit his property when he began to lay out a town plat. He called it Brazos Del Rio (Arms of the River) since it was near the confluence of Cache Creek, Steamboat Slough and the Sacramento River. In 1858 Col. Davis hired John Sidwell to build a wharf. The wharf was initially 24 feet wide and 75 feet long, and its construction created access to the Sacramento River.

Colonel Davis's house was the first to be built and was followed by a store moved from Sidwell's Landing. Businesses and residents began to move to the new town over the next 5 years, bringing a butcher shop, a hotel, a blacksmith, a tin-shop, 2 drugstores and a livery stable. Combined with new residences, a village was quickly formed.

Sidwell's wharf allowed steamers from San Francisco, Benicia and Sacramento to stop daily at the new town. A post office was established in 1858. In that same year the town was renamed Vista del Rio which quickly became Rio Vista.

The town prospered. Salmon were plentiful and fish were sent to Sacramento and San Francisco markets daily. The first salmon cannery was also established during this time.

The town was poised for rapid growth. However, nature had other plans. In December of 1861, fierce storms and strong winds caused rising waters which threatened the town just after Christmas and washed away several houses. As the water receded, the residents hurried to

the aged to survive until steamers could get in and rescue the population. 1gh. After the flood, many people left to live elsewhere, but four men were determined to rebuild the town in a safer location. Around March 1863, and they approached Joseph Bruning, who owned a large ranch downriver the from the town which extended into the Montezuma Hills. He agreed to sell

from the town which extended into the Montezuma Hills. He agreed to sell part of his land for the new Rio Vista. A second rancher, Mr. McWorthy, also owned an adjoining property and agreed to survey land adjoining the new town. The new Main Street became the dividing line between the two properties. Thus "new" Rio Vista began to grow and thrive. Although a devastating fire in July of 1892 destroyed at least 75 buildings, from businesses to residences, the residents showed their mettle and Rio Vista incorporated on December 30, 1893.

clean up, but the storms continued. On January 9, 1862 the rain and

wind swept into town causing a flood at least 10 feet deep at the foot

of Main Street and covered most of the town, destroying most of the

buildings. The residents fled to a nearby mound where they man-



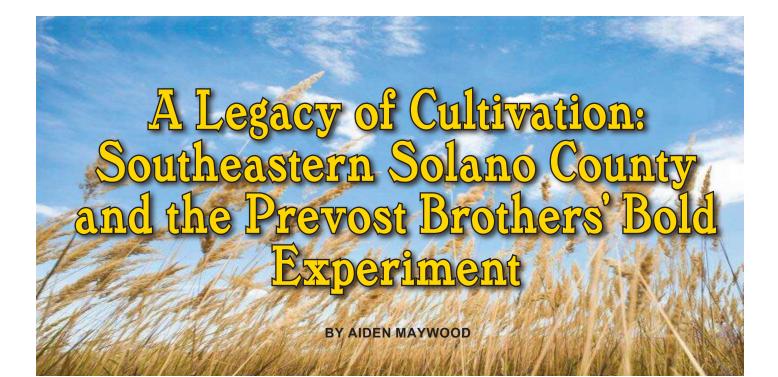


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y 1869, six years had passed since the founding of Rio Vista in its pres-Dent-day location. Not long before, the Montezuma Hills were "sneered as being good for nothing except to pasture cattle." It wasn't until Belgian immigrants Edward Prevost, Leopold Ament Joseph Prevost, and Henry Prevost shifted that perspective. In the dry season, two of the brothers decided to "summer-fallow a tract of forty or sixty acres west of the town, the result of which was a fair crop of grain." (1) Shortly after, "curious and impecunious followers of the plough" (2) came from all directions to witness the result of the experiment, and the lands in southeastern Solano County soon became fully occupied under cultivation. These farmlands were of great significance, both for their productivity and for their elevation, allowing farmers to avoid the catastrophic floods so common in the early farming period of the Delta. They adopted the system of rotation of crops brought from Europe, "allowing the grain fields of one year to bring volunteer crops of hay, plowing the ground immediately after the hay is cut and sowing grain in the soil." (3) Their large landholdings allowed them to rest one third of their land each year, preventing what they had described as extravagant demands made upon soils throughout the state. In the agricultural lands west of Rio Vista, this same practice of dryland or "rain-fed" farming continues to exist. Farmers in the area predominantly grow wheat, barley, triticale, and safflower, all without the use of irrigation and only relying on rainwater. After harvest, sheep and cattle graze on the land. Then, the fields are left to fallow, com-



pleting a three-year cycle. These lands are described as the breadbasket of Solano County, and the Montezuma Hills are one of the leading areas in the state of California for wheat production. (4) Solano



County is also among the nation's leading sheep grazing counties, contributing significantly to the economy and local food system. (5)

Building on the Prevost Brothers' legacy, generational farmers have followed in the footsteps of their predecessors, continuing to innovate and incorporate new practices and embracing that same sense of curiosity and ingenuity of the 1860s. Instead of plowing, farmers now just disk the fields, conserving moisture in the soil and creating an ideal bed for seeds. Others experiment with dryland alfalfa crop variants, blending tradition with modern science. (6) These new, sustainable practices not only protect the soil but also position these farmers as environmental stewards—sequestering more carbon, managing invasive species, conserving California's water resources, and safeguarding the endangered flora and fauna of the region's vernal pools. In the end, non-discretionary staple goods like bread, clothes, and meat reach the American dinner table in a more environmentally-friendly way.

The Prevost Brothers, like the farmers that followed, reaped the benefits of their experiment, soon possessing 1300 acres (7) and planting flax, hemp, canary seed, coriander seeds, vineyards, and orchards and making "the desert blossom as the rose." (8) Neighboring families like the Hagan's, Kroutch's, Drouin's, and Butler's, learned from the Prevost Brothers and adapted their practices. Leopold Prevost later married Marie Clementine Drouin, formerly married to Remy Girard, a business partner of Leopold who returned to France. A relative of Leopold, Leopold Henry Prevost, inherited his land and married Agnes Flannery of Flannery Road. Today, the Prevost farmlands can be found just north and south of Flannery Road on both sides of Highway 113.

The legacy of the Prevost Brothers is etched into the very soil of southeastern Solano County. Modern soil science proves the Prevost Brothers right, with the California Department of Conservation determining that much of the southeastern Solano County region contains prime soils or soils of statewide importance. (9) The other areas of the region with lesser soil qualities are host to rare and endangered flora and fauna that reside in vernal pools reliant on impermeable soils in both the protected and non-protected areas of Jepson Prairie.

Unfortunately, echoes of the past remain, with new and loud billionaire voices attempting to discredit the discoveries of the Prevost Brothers. Lands once deemed "good for nothing" face renewed sneers and disparagement, as hundreds of millions of dollars poured into Solano County and a proposal by Flannery Associates LLC (California Forever/East Solano Plan) emerged in September 2023 to develop a sprawling city of up to 400,000 residents just west of Rio Vista. The juxtaposition of fertile farmland and fragile ecosystems with demands for development underscores the ongoing tension between agricultural and environmental land conservation versus urban expansion. Were they alive today, one might imagine the Belgian Prevost Brothers watching these events unfold with dismay and experiencing déjà vu. The Flannery family would surely be appalled by the appropriation of their family name.

- 1. "A Letter from Rio Vista." The Solano-Napa News Chronicle. 22 October 1869. Page 1.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. Ibid.
- 4. CropScape Cropland Data Layer. Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems. George Mason University. https://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape/
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- 7. "A Letter from Rio Vista." The Solano-Napa News Chronicle. 06 Nov 1869. Page 1.
- 8. "A Letter from Rio Vista." The Solano-Napa News Chronicle. 22 October 1869. Page 1.
- 9. "Soil Candidate Listing for Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance Solano County." California Department of Conservation. 1977. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ fmmp/Documents/fmmp/pubs/soils/Solano\_gSSURGO.pdf Solano Land Use and Transportation Committee. Agenda Item 2.E - Attachment 1. https://www.solanocounty.com/civicax/filebank/ blobdload.aspx?BlobID=44001. Lands in orange are prime farmland soil types. Lands in purple are statewide importance soil types. Much of the land south of Highway 12 and southwest of Rio Vista would also be colored orange or purple, but their slopes prevent them from being included in the California Department of Conservation's Soil Candidate Listing.

### Ox Bow Marína

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The RioVision Gallery has approximately 20 artists of the Delta who share fascinating genres of art work at 116 Main St., Rio Vista. The Gallery highlights an artist and their work every month with a reception on the third Saturday of the month where the artist and the Gallery are showcased. It gives everyone a chance to meet the various artists, view the work and mingle with light refreshments.

#### STORIES BY ROBIE WILLIAMS & PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

#### Kathie Boissiere is the January artist of the month

Kathie Boissiere is a self-taught Watermedia Artist with many years of experience, starting in childhood. She was born and raised in the San Francisco area and art was something she always felt compelled to explore with her family. She became a professional artist in the 1970s, while raising her two sons. Local art shows were the way she started, and quickly was invited to show in local galleries. At one time she was in five galleries from Santa Clara County to St. Helena.

She has shown her work in numerous group shows and com-

petitions such as California Watercolor Association's International Exhibits, and has won a number of awards.

Kathie moved with her husband, Ed, to Rio Vista 6 years ago, upon retirement. She became active in the Trilogy Art Guild and chaired their annual show for several years. At this time, she is co-managing the Rio Vision Gallery. Kathie finds that "It has been amazing to discover how many talented artists live in Rio Vista. It has been a real pleasure getting to know so many people by being involved in the local art world."

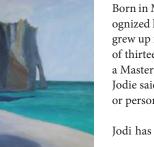
Her work has grown and changed over the years. Starting in Oils, moving on to Watercolor for many years, and then getting creative with acrylic, collage, ink, charcoal, pastel, and mixed media. Having painted in a loose representational style for a time, her work now is often semi-abstract or non-representation-



al. Color is her first love and her inspiration. Kathie and her husband travel often to Lake Tahoe and France, where he was born, so many of her paintings have reflected the beauty of both places.

Kathie is always available to contract a special commission piece, if you have a special need. Many of her works can be viewed on her website: www.kathieboissiere.com.

Please come to the reception on January 18th from 3 to 5pm at the RioVision Gallery, 116 Main St. Enjoy a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres while experiencing our local artist's work.



### *Jodi Lurie-Schulz* is the February artist of the month

Born in Montana, art has been Jodi's long-time passion. Her mother recognized her artistic ability at the age of four when she was drawing. Jodi grew up in Madagascar, Ecuador, moving to the United States at the age of thirteen. Jodi earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Education and a Master of Fine Art in figurative painting. Her art is abstract figurative. Jodie said that she "Likes to capture the essence, the spirit of the animal or person which lends itself to the abstract".

Jodi has been teaching art for the last 25 years in Florida, Nevada and



finally settling here in Rio Vista where she is the Rio Vista High School art teacher. She teaches students to develop their own artist styles and how to express themselves through art.

When Jodi isn't teaching, she enjoys hiking. Not just any hiking, she appreciates endurance hiking with 30 miles being a short hike! She is also an avid equestrian and loves horses. You will often find her art reflects her love of horses. You might find her walking the loves of her life in downtown Rio Vista. Her best buddies are a miniature pinscher and a chihuahua. She also docents in the Gallery when she has time off from school.

Jodi is looking forward to teaching art digitally in the future.

Meet Jodi at her reception on February 15th from 3 to 5pm at the Gallery.



#### Harvey Steinhaus is the March artist of the month

Harvey Steinhaus was born in Iowa and lived there until graduation from college. He had an interest in art from an early age and enjoyed creative projects. He minored in art at St Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. The small art department there focused on drawing, calligraphy and watercolor painting.

After college Harvey continued to do some drawing and watercolor painting in his spare time, but then demands of work and family took over and he stopped painting. Once digital photography was accessible, he started taking photos, and printing his own large format prints. Upon moving to Trilogy and retiring he had more time available, and in early 2017 he began to paint in watercolor again. He now takes local painting workshops to further his skills. Harvey is inspired to paint local scenes, especially the many alleys of Rio Vista, farms & ranches, and the marinas & boats. He generally adds more colorful accents in his interpretation of the structures and landscape.

Harvey was awarded first and second prize for watercolor at the 2019 Solano County Fair. In the summer of 2019, he designed and was the primary painter for the mural depicting an old blacksmith's shop at the Rio Vista Museum. Harvey also created the rendering for the Rio Vista Police Department mural that can be seen at the police sta-



tion. Harvey supervised the community volunteers who helped to paint the mural as well as painting parts himself.

Harvey is a member of the Trilogy Art Guild and displays his art at The Point Restaurant, the RioVision Gallery and various local weekend shows. Join Harvey on March 15th between 3 and 5pm at the RioVision Gallery.



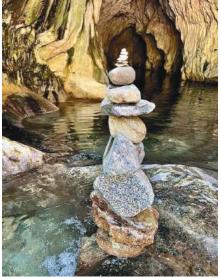
#### Eugenie Quan-Corral is the April artist of the month

April highlights Eugenie Quan-Corral who is a visional artist. Utilizing photography, acrylics and different forms of multi-media including conceptualizing programming, she uses her artistic creativity purposefully.

Eugenie is attracted to non-traditional concepts to improve health, mind, body and spirit. Eugenie strives to showcase balance and highlights in-

ner peace and remaining grounded in her artwork. These works of art remind her of the lessons, and she shares these lessons with others via her artwork.

She graduated from California College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Diploma with Distinction in graphic design. Eugenie has worked in advertising, owned a design firm and is currently the Executive Producer/Producer at the Greater Bay Area Talent Television.



Eugenie is creating programming regarding social growth and understanding. Stay tuned in the future to GBATTV.com for these shows are slated to come out in the future. One of the shows is about meeting others, seeing others. Another program slated for the future is a show highlighting artists of the Delta and beyond. She hopes to help produce a show about wellness including non-traditional modalities as well.

Stop by and meet Eugenie at the reception on April 19th from 3 to 5pm









The Rio Vista Foundation was founded to benefit the community. Over the years they have provided financing to construct a new community swimming pool and have worked closely with the Rio Vista Sharks to provide swimming lessons and a successful competition team. They have also provided scholarships to graduating high school students to assist them in furthering their education. They are spearheading a project to improve the High School softball field.

Last year they had two successful fund-raising projects:

At the first annual Soup Tasting, guests were served tastings of six kinds of soup. They picked their favorite and were served a bowl along with salad, dinner rolls, crackers and dessert. Guests were given a decorative jar of candy to take home. This year's event will happen on February 8, 2025 at the Senior Center from Noon to 3 pm and feature a valentine theme. The cost will be \$35 per person. They will be served 4-6 8 oz. servings and can again order a bowl of their favorite. This year, the event will be sponsored by Henry Giovannetti of Pine Creek Realty.

The Second Annual Tea Party will be held on May 17, from 1-3 pm at the Senior Center. This elegant tea party features teas from Fortnum and Mason in the UK. Participants were served a selection of classic tea sandwiches, followed by a variety of sweets, British tea biscuits



and fruit. The final serving includes scones with fresh Devonshire Cream and strawberry Jam. This is followed by a raffle. All the guests received their teacup and saucer to take home. This year will be sponsored by Ralene Nelson of Re/Max Grupe Gold, and will cost \$35.

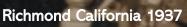
Watch for flyers so you do not miss out on these two delightful Foundation parties.





# Richard's Ice Cream Shop 210A Main St. Rio Vista CA 94571

richardsicecream.us



Featuring Gunther's Ice Cream:

- 36 ice cream flavors
- **1** seasonal flavor
- 4 sherbets
- **5** sorbets
- 9 fresh fruit freeze flavors
- **55 options!**





# About us

Located within Trilogy at Rio Vista, our spa combines cutting-edge therapies with a serene setting, offering red-light therapy, advanced esthetics, and luxurious massage options. We're dedicated to creating an experience that revitalizes both body and spirit.

## Our Services

- Microdermabrasion Red-Light Therapy Herbal Poultice Custom Facials
- Cupping Therapy Waxing Services Thai Massage ....and many more

Partnered with Eminence Organics to bring you the finest in organic skincare.



Book & Connect

Scan here to create your free account.



1200 Clubhouse Dr., Rio Vista, CA
 MyTRV.org - Click "Fitness+Spa"
 707-374-4208

### **SOLANO MOBILITY** Celebrating Its 10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary



Helping Commuters, Employers, Students, Older Adults, People with Disabilities, And Veterans Get Around Solano County & Beyond



