

eNews - Octotober 2025



Preserving the History of California!



October is Breast Cancer & Domestic Violence awareness month. Right click and copy the above NDGW images to add to your social media page and/or Parlor Newsletter.

Member education is an important part of our Mission. **Share your Pink & Purple Ribbon activities** with other Parlors by submitting an article to the Electronic Communication Committee, via email: webmistress@ndgw.org Follow-up and give feedback to the State Chair of Community Assistance at ajeangross@gmail.com

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Denise Delmatier Theisen

Program Manager, California Legislative Measures

We are pleased to take this opportunity to recognize Denise Delmatier Theisen for her exemplary contributions to our State and organization. A distinguished

member of Sutter No. 111, Denise has a rich background as a former lobbyist and legislative staffer at the California State Legislature. Her academic journey in English Literature at California State University, Chico, has equipped her with the skills that she applies so effectively today.

Currently residing in Sacramento, Denise has played a pivotal role in advocating for significant legislation. She was instrumental in carrying letters of support for AB 581 and SB 765 from the Native Daughters of the Golden West to Governor Newsom's office at the Capitol. Her commitment to our cause and her community is truly commendable. Thank You Denise!



N.D.G.W. Supports AB 581 & SB 765



Bigberry Manzanita

AB 581 established the Bigberry Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) as the **official state shrub**. Manzanitas are an important native plant species within California's extensive ecosystems.

Specifically, the Bigberry Manzanita dates its origins over 1 million years and has provided California with important and necessary watershed protective qualities and soil erosion properties. The species is especially adaptive to the increasing threats and damage from California wildfires.

The fruit of the species was utilized as a food source for California's indigenous Native American communities and



Giant Garter Snake

SB 765 established the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) as the **official state snake**.

The giant garter snake is the largest of all garter snake species. The giant garter snake is endemic to California, and its population is limited to the state of California and is not found anywhere else in the world. The species has been documented to grow in excess of five feet.

The giant garter snake is listed as a "threatened" species under both the California Endangered Species Act and the Federal Endangered Species Act. Habitat for this California-only

wildlife. The numerous positive attributes of this native historical plant species in California deserve continued protection and recognition.

magnificent creature deserves continued protection and recognition.

Historic Landmarks and Buildings Committee

Submitted by: Jenni King, State Chair

The Historic Landmarks and Buildings Committee is tasked with helping subordinate Parlors in marking historic sites or buildings, be alert to prevent destruction of buildings or sites and proposed changes in names of areas, towns, and streets having historical significance.

The Historic Landmarks and Buildings committee has been working on updating the location known markers and finding new ones. We need the help of our sisters in locating them!!! **Please send a picture of the marker/plaque with the location so we can update the books at Grand Parlor.** You can email your pictures to NDGWWoodland@gmail.com

The 2025-2026 committee has some funding available to help parlors with the cost of a plaque. The request must be made in writing. The committee will review all requests. The committee meets quarterly via zoom, or more as needed.



San Jose Parlor No. 81 Re-installs Historic Marker at the Trinity Episcopal Church

[Click Here to read the full story](#)

California Admission Day

Parlor Happenings...



Sisters of Mariposa Parlor No. 63. Esther Holm, Past President Maryetta Dulcich, and President Karen Maladad pictured with Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombehas, received a special proclamation from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors in recognition of Statehood Day.

Members have worked diligently to create an exhibit showcasing the history of their Parlor at the Mariposa Museum and History Center. This exhibit will be available for public viewing from September 9, 2025 until January 3, 2026, located at 5119 Jessie St., Mariposa, CA from 9 AM to 4 PM daily.



As part of Placer No. 138 Parlor's commitment to community engagement, they proudly showcased a historically significant 31-star flag, which was flown over the United States from 1851 to 1857. To further mark this momentous 175th Statehood occasion, the Parlor purchased 200 California State flags, which were distributed at both the City Council meeting and the citywide high school event.

Members actively participated in these events, helping to spread the proud history and spirit of California throughout their community. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with residents and foster a sense of unity.



Admission Day cards were sent by the Public Relations And Community Outreach Committee (PRACO). Grace Parlor No. 242 also reported sending Admission Day cards to the Governor along with their State and local representatives. Great Job Sisters!



Admission Day Celebration

*Submitted by Suzi Riley, Past Grand President
California Admission Day, Chair*

Thank you again for your AMAZING support and to everyone who attended our incredible **175th Grand California Admission Day Luncheon** held at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. It was a wonderful and historic success for both Orders and for the MANY proud Native Sons and Native Daughters in attendance. We were grateful to welcome the Grand Presidents of both Orders as our Honorary Chairmen of the afternoon as well as many Grand Officers, Past Grand Presidents, Members and guests.



A HUGE thank you to everyone for being a part of such an exciting day. I am truly grateful to my wonderful **California Admission Day Committee** (especially my Co-Chairs Donna and Bob Fletcher and Bob Teal!!) for everything and of course to all of our guests who attended and supported this wonderful opportunity to be a part of such a remarkable and important occasion in our glorious golden state's illustrious 175 year history!

The entire event was a wonderful success! We were so glad to present proceeds of over \$3,000 to charitable endeavors of the Native Sons and Native Daughters! Congratulations to all!

NDGW PGP Dawn Dunlap's keynote address on the impact of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge was informative and insightful and added to the day's learning. NSGW Grand Secretary Tom Perazzo's footnote contributed a personal touch to the talk and Member Dave McCann's reminder that his father was one of the very first toll collectors on the GGB reminded us all of the collective part we all play in our 31st state's history. Our Committee also gratefully acknowledges and appreciates NDGW Home Museum and Archives Program Manager Kathy Kelly-Breitler and assistant Vicki Allen and their support staff for their display and information shared on the many past years of joint Native Sons and Native Daughters Admission Day celebrations. The event began with NDGW Member Roberta Paul's moving Invocation and concluded with NSGW Grand Treasurer Tim Tullius, PGP's heartfelt benediction. The rousing singing of our state song "*I Love You, California*" led by GT Dennis and Kathleen Valerio was a perfect finish to a glorious day!

Thank you again for truly being proud Californians and thanks also to our dedicated VIP and exemplary Members of BOTH our of Orders as well. This annual event showcases that we truly benefit from our partnership starting many years ago and continuing for years to come! **What an AMAZING crowd!! Thank you ALL!!**

[Donor List -Click Here](#)



PRACO Attends California's 175th Birthday Block Party

Sacramento, CA

The Public Relations and Community Outreach Committee attended the Birthday Bash on the steps of the Capital in celebration of California's 175th anniversary as a State in the Union. Thank you to all Sisters who joined us. Be sure to follow us on FACEBOOK at

<https://www.facebook.com/NDGWGrandParlor>



ASK MINERVA

Question: Are there any funds from the NDGW organization to help Parlors with maintenance and/or restoration of historic markers?

Answer: At present, the committee does not allocate funds for maintenance and/or restoration purposes. It is the responsibility of the respective Parlors to ensure the preservation of the historic sites they mark.

However, if there is a need for assistance with restoration efforts, the Historic Buildings and Landmarks Committee may consider support on a case-by-case basis. I encourage you to reach out to the State Chair via [email](#) for further assistance.

Submit questions to "ASK MINERVA" by emailing webmistress@NDGW.org



New Members - Click Here & take the survey

Marguerite No 12: Marlen Gralicer, Suzanne O'Rourke, Lisa Smith
Santa Cruz No 26: Anna Raner
Mariposa No 63: Monica Ramirez
San Jose No 81: Brice Walker
Forrest No 86: Steven Pinotti, Amber Spinetta, Michael Spinetta
San Luisita No 108: Lisa Sutherland
Oakdale No 125: Violet Havard, Cathline Oliveira
Reina del Mar No 126: Jane Frederick
Junipero No 141: JoDiane Hansen, Nancy Soulé, Sharon Tucker
Nataqua No 152: Tricia Deutsch, Kelley Hinman
Annie K. Bidwell No 168: Anna Connaughton, Monita Garcia, Lesley Hess
San Juan Bautista No 179: Angela Firpo, Patricia Perez
Fresno No 187: Kelsey Flanagan, Sierra Shorey
Morada No 199: Lynnell Di Francia, Pamela Graves, Alejandra Gutierrez, Michael Leong, Linda Shafer, Annette Viha
Fort Bragg No 210: Karen Del Carlo, Janice Leflar
Petaluma No 222: Diana Cheda, Debbie Fletcher, Toni Luther, Julie Sullivan, Marianne Waterman, Sharon Zimmerman
Lugonia No 241: Josie Gonzalez
Lomitas No 255: Nicki Massasso
Jurupa No 296: Debbie Caudill
Sutter's Mill No 336: Thomas Parkhurst



In Memory of...

Joaquin No 5: Marie Smith, Sandra Wild (Dual Member with Oakdale No. 125)

Bonita No 10: Mary Wardlaw

San Jose No 81: Catherine Meltzer, Mary Ann Scadina

Vendome No 100: Marion Howard

Darina No 114: Bea Borelli

El Vespero No 118: Jonelle Moresco

Reina del Mar No 126: Gloria Dominguez

Junipero No 141: Dolores Robertson-Kaelin

Encinal No 156: Terrie Kurrasch

Annie K. Bidwell No 168: Laura Von Bargaen

Fort Bragg No 210: Marilyn Thorpe

Petaluma No 222: Helen Mendes

La Tijera No 282: Carolle Westcoat

Cotati No 299: Teresa Bettencourt

Parlors: Please email picture of deceased Member to webmistress@ndgw.org

Lists of Initiations and Deceased Members from 7/1/2025 to 10/8/2025.

www.NDGW.org



Native Daughters of the Golden West | 543 Baker Street | San Francisco, CA 94117-1405 US

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