



## A Note from Our New Executive Director

*Dear Friends of the Dana Adobe,*

I am thrilled to introduce myself as a new member of the Dana Adobe team. My name is Suzey Sligh Van Ness and I am honored to join this California treasure as we embark on an exciting journey together.

With more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit management and a strong background in cultural heritage tourism and programming, I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise to the preservation and promotion of the Historic Dana Adobe and Rancho Nipomo. I firmly believe that this organization has incredible potential for growth and community engagement, and I am committed to harnessing that potential.

Throughout my career, I have worked with various nonprofit organizations, each driven by a unique mission and dedicated to creating positive change. However, few organizations have

captivated me as deeply as DANA. The rich history and cultural significance of this site are truly remarkable. I am passionate about the preservation of its heritage and committed to ensuring that future generations learn from and appreciate its historic legacy.

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eager to hear your ideas and suggestions. In the coming weeks, I will be reaching out to many of you personally to learn more about your connection to the Dana Adobe and to gather insights on how we can best preserve and promote this site. Let's work together to build upon the



foundation laid, to create both new innovative programming and engaging experiences to inspire and educate visitors from near and far.

I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, let's embark on a

I believe community involvement and collaboration are integral to any nonprofit's success. With this in mind I warmly invite each of you to actively contribute to the continued growth and success of the Dana Adobe. Your knowledge, expertise, and personal connections to the history of this site are invaluable, and I am

journey of growth, community engagement, and the preservation of history. Our work at the Dana Adobe holds tremendous potential, and with our collective dedication, passion, and collaboration we have the power to create a lasting impact.

Thank you for entrusting me with this role, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Warm regards,

**Suzey Sligh Van Ness**  
Executive Director

### IN THIS ISSUE

*Mission Vineyard Is Complete*

*Coming Soon:  
Dana Family Orchard*

*Dana Expands Hiking Trails*

*Return of the Horno*

*New Look for Website*

*Sunday Speaker Series*

*Heritage Day Roundup*

# Dana Mission Vineyard Is Complete

Many decades have passed since Alonzo Dana, the Captain's grandson, first envisioned a vineyard and orchard planted close to the Adobe, his home until 1899. Flash forward over a century and once again the grounds boast a vineyard—this one brought to life in fewer than 18 months.

More than 50 Mission grapevines are now planted within the plaster and stone walls of the Dana Mission Vineyard. The vines directly descend from California's oldest vine, the *Vina Madre* (mother vine), which was located at Mission San Gabriel and planted in the 1700s.

It's expected to take two more years before the vines will produce enough fruit for DANA to have a public harvest day followed by a grape crushing event. In the meantime, though, we hope you take the opportunity to visit the vineyard and attend a function within its walls.

DANA would like to thank all who contributed time, talent, and treasure to this wonderful new historic feature, especially the Wine History Project of San Luis Obispo County and Libbie Agran.



*(Above) Franciscan Padre Masseo Gonzales blesses the Dana Mission Vineyard. (Below) The Adobe can be glimpsed beyond the vineyard's walls.*



# Coming Soon: The Dana Heritage Orchard

The other half of Alonzo Dana's vision—a lush orchard ripe with fruit trees—will soon be reprised near its original site close to the Dana Adobe. The Oceano-Nipomo Tourism Board has provided a grant to plant the Dana Heritage Orchard, which is expected to include six Mission pears and four Mission figs, apples, peaches, nectarines, and apricots. Two pomegranates, lemons, and oranges will also be included in the orchard. Research conducted by the DANA staff and volunteers from family and visitor records has verified that all the fruit trees listed above were grown on the Rancho in the 1800s.

The orchard should be planted by July of 2024, close to its original spot northwest of the Adobe. It will be a few years before the trees reach maturity, but we look forward to recreating the Captain's pear brandy and Mrs. Dana's fruit recipes.

If you'd like to join the DANA Volunteers and help replant the Dana Heritage Orchard, contact the office at (805) 929-5679 or email [executive@danaadobe.org](mailto:executive@danaadobe.org). We expect to get started at the beginning of 2024.



# New Look for Website

Our organization is getting a fresh look in November with a newly designed website. When you get the chance, look at the easier-to-navigate and beautifully laid-out site—we think you will be impressed. Kudos to the ad hoc website committee and Sujana Creative for their efforts. Our web address will remain the same:

[www.danaadobe.org](http://www.danaadobe.org).



# DANA Expands Hiking Trails

Just over a year ago, San Luis Obispo County removed the irrigation lines stretching through DANA's 100 acres. The water lines were used for oak trees planted as mitigation for the expansion of Willow Street. With the water pipes re-

*Two new trails are completed, and one will open soon.*

moved, discussions began about building a trail system to incorporate the 100 acres

east of Nipomo Creek.

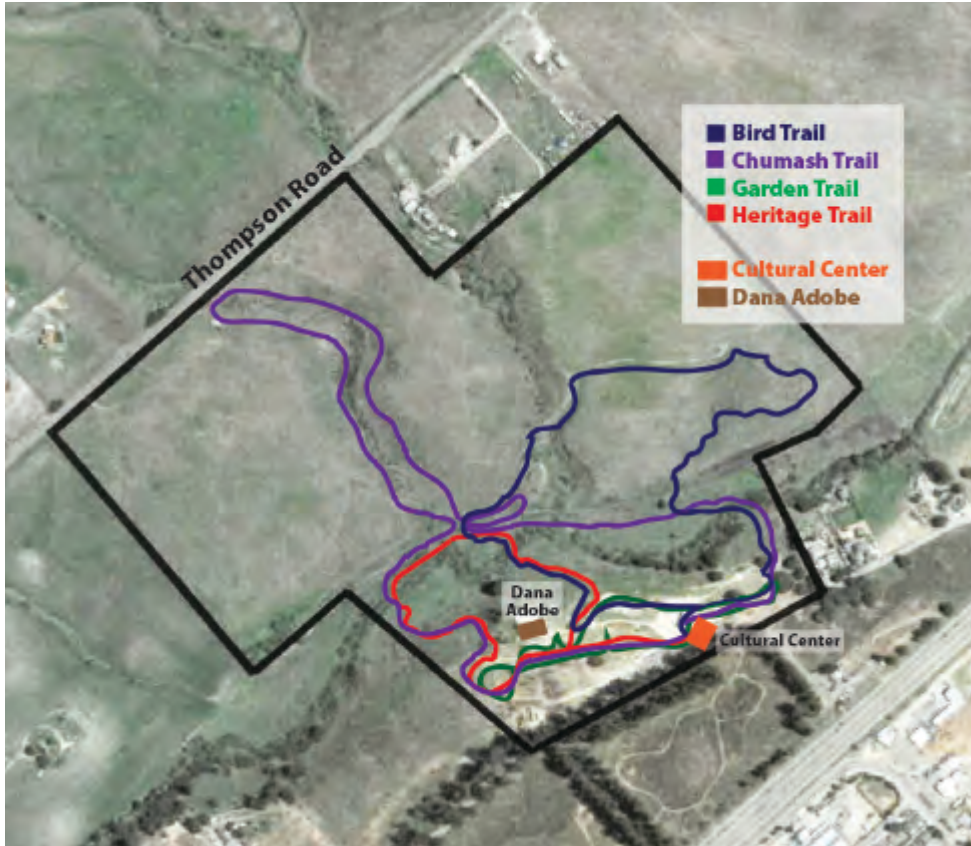
The two new trails are now completed, and one will open soon.

DANA's newest trail honors the first people located in the region, the Chumash. The **Chumash Trail** is the longest across the Rancho. It passes two quarries located on the property and then follows the southern side of Adobe Creek to Thompson Road and back down the creek on the northern side.

The **Bird Trail** has been expanded to reach an outlook near the southwest corner of the 100 acres. Unfortunately, parts of the Bird Trail will be closed until the spring of 2024 because the former Bird Trail Nipomo Creek crossing was burned in a fire and then the floods of early 2023 washed the stairwell away.

Thankfully, four Cal Poly mechanical engineering students have selected the creek crossing as their senior project and are working to design a durable and retractable/moveable crossing that will hopefully survive flooding. It's anticipated the Bird Trail will be completely open by the spring of 2024.

For your safety, DANA requires all members and visitors to check in at the DANA Cultural Center before exploring the trail system or visiting the Adobe and Rancho.



*The proposed new Trail Map expands hiking into the 100 acres of Rancho Nipomo.*

## Return of the Horno

During the restoration of the Dana Adobe, an *horno* (outdoor oven) was constructed nearby but washed away over the years. Before the end of 2024, and if lucky, the end of 2023, the horno will once again grace the Rancho.

Hornos often are associated with baking bread but can be used to roast meats and cook stews. It's thought that the vaqueros would have had an outdoor kitchen with an horno at Rancho Nipomo as early as the mid-1830s. The horno will be utilized for cooking demonstrations, cooking classes, and special events.

*The DANA horno will look similar to this oven located at Mission La Purisima Concepcion.*



## SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

The Sunday Speaker Series is offered monthly as an hour-long presentation generally related to regional history. This past quarter, DANA offered three great Sunday Speaker programs.

In August, **Colleen Beck** discussed what constituted family and focused on three young ladies who lived with the Danas and were godchildren of family friends. Her presentation provided interesting insights into the significance of being godparents during early California.

**Jim Corridan** led the conversation about Captain William Dana's voyages in September. Dana left Boston at the age of 19 and during his first voyage circumnavigated the globe, returning to Boston 43 months later. Beginning in 1816 and for more than a decade, William Dana sailed the seas, and for about 10 years made Honolulu his home. If you visit the Cultural Center, the new Permanent Exhibit displays the Captain's voyages.

October brought a sweet treat. **Helen Daurio** spoke on the



Attendees showed off their decorated sugar skulls at the Oct. 21 Day of the Dead presentation by Helen Daurio.

Day of the Dead (*El Día de Los Muertos*) and shared how the tradition began in the Spanish-speaking Americas. The attendees enjoyed a special activity, decorating *calaveras* (sugar skulls). The program was a great way to prepare for All Saints Day and was a prelude to Halloween.

Up next, on November 19, **Jaime Avila** will lead a discussion on *Joaquin Murrieta: Myth or Legend*. Joaquin Murrieta Carillo (1829–1853), sometimes called the “Robin Hood of the West,” was the subject of popular tales about him as a notorious outlaw that arose during the California Gold Rush but details of his life are shrouded in mystery. It should be another great addition to the Sunday Speaker Series.

The program is free to members and \$8 for guests. All programs start at 1pm, are held in the Cultural Center, and include tasty refreshments.

### DANA Adobe's Sunday Speaker Series

Jaime Avila Presenting:



#### Joaquin Murrieta: Myth or Legend a Discussion

Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023 at 1:00 PM  
At the DANA Cultural Center  
671 S Oakglen Ave. Nipomo

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual DANA GALA Rescheduled for Feb. 10, 2024

With so much happening, we wanted to share the latest news with all of you and thought it best to push the Gala back to February. We hope you can join us for this great evening, filled with incredible food, camaraderie and updates on DANA's accomplishments and upcoming plans. Oh, and did we mention the auctions, and opportunities to support the Dana Adobe organization?

Save the date, Saturday, February 10th and meet new Executive Director Suzey Sligh Van Ness, while you learn about the incredible things happening at DANA. Watch for your invitation coming soon!



# Thank you

...to all who have renewed their memberships and/or joined since the last newsletter

Trevor & Kayleigh Ashlock  
Dyland & Patricia Rede  
Kristi Abrams & David Rubcic  
John & Karen Anderson  
Corrine Ardoin  
Christina Bird-Holenda & Eric Holenda  
Cindy Blankenburg & Gene Garcia  
Mick Bondello  
Charter Brokerage and Investment Co.  
Wanda Cook  
Dominic Dal Bello  
Michael Damer & Jamie Hartshorn  
Patricia L. Dana  
Tom & Beverly Dana  
Patricia Deiro-Bright  
Kathleen Deragon  
Susan & David Duran  
Cheryl Eastman  
Mike & Bonnie Eisner  
Kelly & Byron Fairbrother  
Michael Farris  
Mark & Stephanie Fugate  
Susan & Richard Gillespie  
Lynne Grijalva  
Katherine Gulley & Wayne Musgrave  
R.J. Hansen  
Patricia Hawes

Philip Henderson  
Jeri Hillery  
Shirley & Bob Horacek  
Marie Jaeger  
Donald Johnson  
Nancy Kavanaugh  
Connie & Tom Kelly  
Tom Knight  
Bob & Marguerite Kump  
Nancy & Mike Lee  
Beverly Lloyd  
Tara Machin  
Marian Manari  
Bob & Janet Marsalek  
Guenther & Claudia Mayer-Harnisch  
Ronnie McCarthy  
Jan & Louie Mello  
James Mueller  
Marty Musselman  
Alicia Nowicki  
Takako Okubo  
Lee Osterloh  
Art Pamplona  
Paul Paulsen  
Anastasia Paulsey  
Betty Ramos  
Floyd Redmon

Marie & Jack Robasciotti  
Aracelis Rodriguez  
Eileen Ruiz  
Cyndi Runstrom  
Colleen Sarkisian Dana  
Merril Schalla  
Tom & Deb Sherry  
Roni Smith  
Kathy Sorrells  
Dave Stamey  
Ron Myers & Barbara Stanley  
Anne Stephens  
Wave Stonerock  
Jan Tabarez  
Deanna Teixeira  
Judith Thompson  
James Toomey  
Ronald Trayner  
Samantha Trejo  
Nancy & Chuck Trudeau  
Gary Van Winkle  
Bob Wachsmuth  
Marina & Scott Washburn

## HERITAGE DAY ROUNDUP



*Raindrops failed to dampen the mood of those attending DANA's annual Heritage Day in Sept. 30. Captain Dana (left) welcomed visitors while re-enactors and volunteers demonstrated everything from making tortillas to women's bonnets. A group of local educators (top) entertained with Nipomo's official song.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jim Corridan**  
*President*

**Garett Dana**  
*Vice President*

**Bob Weiger**  
*Treasurer*

**Shirley Horacek**  
*Secretary*

**Rudy Stowell**  
*Past President*

**Brian Craig Kreowski**  
*Member*

## DANA STAFF

**Suzey Sligh Van Ness**  
*Executive Director*

**Sarah Allen**  
*Administrative Coordinator*

**Bryon Leekins**  
**Brendan McCafferty**  
*Maintenance/Landscaping*



**DANA Adobe & Cultural Center**  
671 S. Oakglen Ave.  
Nipomo, CA 93444  
  
(805) 929-5679  
[www.danaadobe.org](http://www.danaadobe.org)

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## ISO Volunteers

DANA is looking for help to build picnic tables & fix benches around the property. For more information, please call (805) 929-5679.

**ADOBE TOURS AVAILABLE WEEKENDS FROM 11AM TO 3PM**  
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWS OR UPDATES AT [DANAADOBE.ORG](http://DANAADOBE.ORG)

## Support Our Programs & Projects

*...by joining, renewing, and donating to DANA today!*

Please fill out the enclosed form and return to:  
**DANA Adobe & Cultural Center**  
671 S. Oakglen Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444

As a reminder, memberships must be renewed before the expiration date listed on your membership card in order to continue receiving membership benefits. The DANA membership levels are:

<b>Amigo*</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Familia*</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>Vaquero*</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Mayordomo**</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Capitán**</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Don/Doña**</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Compadre**</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

\* For 1 person   \* For up to 6 people   \* Includes guest passes

Thank you for your support! Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos, Inc., Is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; your donations are tax deductible.

For more information regarding membership benefits, please visit our website at [www.danaadobe.org](http://www.danaadobe.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday Speaker Series**  
Joaquin Murietta:  
Myth or Legend  
Sunday, Nov. 19, 1pm



**Tamale Make & Take**  
Saturday, Dec. 2, 10am-1pm  
(Class is full)



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual GALA**  
Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024  
Doors open at 5pm

