



DANA PRESS

JULY 2025

History • Nature • Community

ISSUE 62

A Note from Jim

The DANA Adobe at Historic Rancho Nipomo owes so many of you a debt of gratitude for your support. Without you, we might be looking at a pile of rubble and melting adobe blocks along Oak Glen Avenue.

It's been just over 25 years since the DANA organization was formed and efforts were made to restore the Dana Adobe. The decade-long restoration process provided the Central Coast with a cultural and historic gem. There are now nearly 7,500 visitors a year to the property and the initial 10,000-square-foot lot has grown to 130 acres. The property now highlights the original tallow vat, an *horno* (Spanish outdoor oven), an orchard, beautiful vineyard, rose garden, 4+ miles of hiking trails, Chumash components, the Cultural Center, and much more. From a programming standpoint, there are field trips, guided hikes, educational speakers, docent-led and self-guided tours of the property, permanent and rotating museum exhibits, and additional opportunities.

It shows what can be done with drive and determination. Nipomo and the Central Coast should be justifiably proud of what has been accomplished. Of course, there is much more to do, and we hope you will join us along the way! We are looking to connect the DANA Adobe to Olde Towne Nipomo along the old Pacific Coast Railroad track that once ran through the Rancho. We are also working on developing an environmental and nature-based set of field trips to explore, educate, and foster appreciation of the natural wonders of our region. We hope to make additional strides to highlight the Chumash and their predecessors who lived on the Rancho more than 9,000 years ago. And watch, because we may have a few big surprises to announce too!

Thanks again!

— Jim Corridan
President

IN THIS ISSUE

Dave Stamey Returns

*Recent Artifact and Collection
Donations*

Roses Bloom on the Rancho

*Future Engineers to Restore
Windmill*

Chumash Qnipu' Takes Shape

Heritage Day is Sept. 13

Migrant Mother Plaque

Welcome New Members

DANA by the Numbers



The DANA Adobe hosted 1,782 students on field trips in 2024–25, setting a new record for participation in the program. The field trips are presented by volunteers who teach the students using both activities and information for DANA's Chumash or Rancho programs.

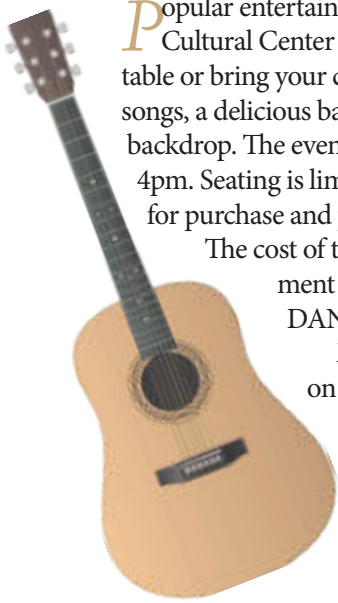


Did you know the DANA Adobe at Historic Rancho Nipomo and the Nipomo Community Park are about the same size—130 acres?



DANA's staff members have identified more than 89 plants across the Rancho and are happy to report there are at least 51 native species still thriving among the 38 or more invasive species.

Dave's Back!



Popular entertainer Dave Stamey is returning to the Cultural Center Patio at DANA Adobe this July! Buy a table or bring your chairs for a great time with Dave's songs, a delicious barbecue dinner, and a spectacular backdrop. The event starts at 5pm, with gates opening at 4pm. Seating is limited Adult beverages will be available for purchase and parking is free.

The cost of this unforgettable evening of entertainment and food is just \$60 for members of DANA and \$70 for nonmembers.

More details and tickets are available on the DANA website at www.danaadobe.org/events-2

Get your tickets today!



A vibrant yellow poster for a live concert. At the top, it says 'JULY 12 2025' in green. To the right, 'TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW ONLINE (INCLUDES BBQ DINNER)' is written in green. The name 'DAVE STAMEY' is in large white letters, with 'LIVE CONCERT' below it. A photo of Dave Stamey playing a guitar is framed by a wooden structure. At the bottom, it says 'LIVE AT DANA ADOBE & CULTURAL CENTER 671 S OAKGLEN AVE, NIPOMO, CA 93444' and 'WWW.DANAADOBE.ORG/EVENTS-2'. The poster is decorated with geometric patterns and a large flower.

Get Ready for Heritage Day at the Adobe



September 13 marks DANA's 2025 rendition of life on the historic Rancho—our annual Heritage Day! This year we will be commemorating California's 175th anniversary of statehood with dance, music, food, presentations, and re-enactment of California's first U.S. Mail route, with a delivery of a letter from Henry Tefft to William Dana reporting on California's Constitutional Convention.

Be sure to set that Saturday aside so you can join the festivities—it's a great time for the entire family! Tickets bought in advance are \$10 for ages 16 and up and \$7.50 for youth ages 4–15; children under 4 are free. (At the door they'll be \$12.50 and \$10.)

Get your tickets today!



celebrating 175 years of california statehood



Roses Bloom on the Rancho

The DANA Adobe is pleased to have planted a rose garden consisting of 27 rose bushes representing four varieties, all dating back to the 1800s or older. There are no known records of the types of roses the Dana family planted around the Adobe, but we know they did exist. The varieties planted now include Apothecary Rose, Duchesse de Montebello, Russeliana, and Autumn Damask.

The new rose garden is located between the vineyard and drive that leads to the Adobe. Two of the four varieties have bloomed, with the third looking to blossom soon. We are looking forward to next spring, when the roses will have matured a bit and the garden starts to fill in. Special thanks to the Mark & Dorothy Smith Foundation of Santa Maria for funding the heritage rose garden.

Future Engineers to Restore Windmill

Nearly 30 engineering students from Cal Poly have been working on the Rancho this school year to restore the old windmill located on the eastern side of Nipomo Creek. The Cal Poly Student Chapter of Engineers without Borders has replaced the windmill head and has worked to make the historic windmill an additional educational component on the Rancho. Visitors will be able to see how a windmill looks and learn about how it functions. The project should be completed in the fall semester.



Chumash *Qnipu'* Takes Shape

A few months back, the team at DANA cut about a dozen willow branches to create a *Qnipu'*, or *Ap*—both words are used to describe a Chumash home. About a week later they were placed upright and set 18 inches in the ground to form the backbone of the Chumash hut. We then wove additional willow branches to create ribs for the placement of tule reeds. We had not expected to have the willow backbone sprout new leaves, and the hut continues to grow. When DANA has sourced enough tule reeds, we will complete the structure and incorporate it into the Chumash field trip program.

Recent Artifact and Collection Donations

- ☀ **Adelina Dana late Victorian dress** (donated by Anna Rubcic and the Rubcic family)
- ☀ **Mata Ortiz pottery, Mexican folk art masks, and Seri native baskets** (donated by Suzanne Schwake)
- ☀ **Adobe blocks** removed in the 1970 restoration of the Dana Adobe (donated by Kelly Fairbanks and Dana Dowell)
- ☀ **David Amos Dana family postcards**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Upcoming Events & Commemorations:

July 2	4:30–7pm — Wine Down Wednesday: Featuring Laetitia Winery at the DANA Vineyard. \$20/members, \$25/nonmembers includes two glasses of wine and light snacks (proceeds support DANA).
July 12	Dave Stamey Concert & BBQ — Members: \$60; nonmembers: \$70
July 20	1–2pm — Sunday Speaker Series: <i>The 250th Anniversary of the De Anza Expedition, presented by Jaime Avila</i> ; \$10 for nonmembers, members are free. Located at the Cultural Center, light refreshments.
August 6	4:30–7pm — Wine Down Wednesday: Featuring Saucelito Canyon Winery at the DANA Vineyard. \$20/members, \$25/nonmembers includes two glasses of wine and light snacks (proceeds support DANA).
August 17	1–2pm — Sunday Speaker Series: <i>John Price and Rancho Pismo</i> ; \$10 for nonmembers, members are free. Located at the Cultural Center, light refreshments.
September 3	4:30–7pm — Wine Down Wednesday: Featuring Miller Family Wine, Bien Nacido at the DANA Vineyard. \$20/members, \$25/nonmembers includes two glasses of wine and light snacks (proceeds support DANA).
September 13	9:30am–4pm — Heritage Day on the Rancho—California's 175th Anniversary . Music, food, reenactors, tours, hikes, and more! History, culture, and fun for the whole family.
September 21	1–2pm — Sunday Speaker Series . \$10 for nonmembers, members are free. Located at the Cultural Center, light refreshments.
October 1	4:30–7pm — Wine Down Wednesday: Featuring Sinor LaVallee Winery at the DANA Vineyard. \$20/members, \$25/nonmembers includes two glasses of wine and light snacks (proceeds support DANA).
October 19	1–2pm — Sunday Speaker Series . \$10 for nonmembers, members are free. Located at the Cultural Center, light refreshments.
October 25	Hauntings on the Rancho — Stay tuned for details
November 16	1–2pm — Sunday Speaker Series . \$10 for nonmembers, members are free. Located at the Cultural Center, light refreshments.
November 22	DANA Annual Gala — Stay tuned for details
December 6	Tamale Class — Stay tuned for details
December 21	1–2pm — Sunday Speaker Series: <i>Rancho Christmas Party</i> . \$10 for nonmembers, members are free. Located at the Cultural Center, light refreshments.

Haven't experienced a Wine Down Wednesday at the Rancho yet? For the uninitiated, it's a monthly affair at the Rancho's Vineyard, where local wineries showcase their finest. Experience the essence of our region's terroir through curated wine tastings guided by regional vintners, set amidst the picturesque backdrop of our historic vineyard. Join us for delightful afternoons of discovery and pleasure, as we celebrate the artistry and flavors of local winemakers in each carefully crafted sip. First Wednesdays through October.





Migrant Mother Memorial Planned

DANA Docent Terry Handy has taken action to commemorate the iconic Migrant Mother photograph taken by Dorothea Lange with a plaque and memorial. He presented a Sunday Speaker program in May on the Depression-era photo, likely taken on Oak Glen Avenue in Nipomo in 1936. A plaque and memorial are being designed and funds will be raised to permanently commemorate this nationally significant photo. The DANA Adobe Nipomo Amigos is serving as the fiscal agent for the campaign with a goal of raising \$5,000. The memorial will be located at Jim Miller Park on Tefft Street. If you would want to be part of honoring this iconic piece of history, you can donate by going to www.danaadobe.org/give/#donate and select Migrant Mother Memorial from the drop-down box labeled "This Gift Is For The Following Purpose." You can also call DANA at 805-929-5679, or send a check to 671 S Oak Glen Ave, Nipomo, CA 93444.



Thank you ...to our new members listed below. We also appreciate our renewing members. Not a member? Please join!

August 15, 2024 – June 18, 2025

Ace Tree Service	Leslie Lechner
Sharon Alldredge	Rita Matthews
Steve Black	Teree Minney
Cheryl Blair	Ardis Neilsen
Kathleen Bonner	Judy Newton
Chris Brayton	Keri Rodriguez
Catherine Brown	Anna Rubcic
Christina Buckner	David Rubcic & Kristi Abrams
Kate Dana	Mark Ruiz
Jessica Gash	Dan Sheehy
Ginger Hahn	Robby and Tom Spittler
Michele Harney	Marilee and Kevin Statom
Lucinda Lai	Ann & John Stephens
Paul LePlante	Phil Tillman

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

Emily Jauregui, *Intern*

Matt Bozone, *Intern*

Jennifer Ciccione, *Bookkeeper*

Javier Pinon, *Maintenance/
Landscaping*

Victor Gonzales, *Reception*

Jamie Hartshorn
Newsletter Design & Production

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are the backbone—the lifeblood—of DANA. It's largely because of their efforts that we are here today. Make a difference in your community and leave a legacy to future generations. Make new friends and share lifelong experiences. Enjoy the great outdoors in a spectacular setting—volunteer with us today!



Can you help?

Contact us at 805-929-5679 or executive@danaadobe.org.
Or visit our website at www.danaadobe.org/volunteer/.

Mission Statement
The DANA Adobe at Historic Rancho Nipomo engages visitors with the stories of early California, its people and cultures, and the region's natural environment.



DANA Adobe at Historic Rancho Nipomo

671 S. Oakglen Ave.
Nipomo, CA 93444
(805) 929-5679
www.danaadobe.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Nipomo, CA
Permit No. 11

ISO Volunteers

DANA is looking for
help to mow, weed,
and help maintain
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

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:

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

* 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY - AUGUST 2025

Wine Down Wednesday
Featuring Laetitia
Wednesday, July 2, 4:30-7pm

Dave Stamey Concert & BBQ
Saturday, July 12, 5pm

Sunday Speaker Series
250th Anniversary of the
De Anza Expedition
Sunday, July 20, 1-2pm

Wine Down Wednesday
Featuring Saucelito Canyon
Wednesday, Aug. 3, 4:30-7pm

Sunday Speaker Series
John Price and Rancho Pismo
Sunday, Aug. 17, 1-2pm

