

## Chamber News

### Castroville Area Chamber of Commerce

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By Ashlee Tondre Bates

Although it was a small crowd, nothing else was small about the Chamber's Third Annual Wine Fest which took place this past Friday, April 17 at the Hotel Alsace. It turned out to be a pleasant evening with the rain letting up just in time for the 125 guests in attendance to enjoy their wine and food out on the patio of the hotel. We want to give a huge thank you to everyone who donated an item for the live auction and raffle and to those who attended. With your help we raised approximately \$9,000 after expenses are paid. That is \$3,000 more than we made at last year's event. This year was the first to include a live auction with Terry Dickerson impressing the crowd with his amazing auctioneer skills. He really got the crowd going and helped us to raise \$6,850 on the live auction alone. Thanks Terry!! We would also like to thank Joseph and Jana Winkler of the Hotel Alsace for providing the venue at no charge. Food was catered by the Alsatian Restaurant and wine was provided by Charlie Suehs with Serendipity Wine Imports. The cigar bar was provided courtesy of Tim & Teri Barrow and the beer was donated by Monte Bippert of Bippert's Bottle Shop. Thanks to Tot and Ward Albro and Frank and Carmen Danna for hiring Sid Fly to provide us with live music. Everyone had a wonderful evening enjoying good wine, good food and great entertainment. We are so thankful to everyone in our community who are always willing to pitch in and help the Chamber out. Without all of you, we would not be where we are today.

Thanks to those that donated a live auction item: Sallie Harborth with Farmers Insurance, Tim and Teri Barrow, Dr. Deborah Queen, Tot and Ward Albro with Albros Casa y Garden, William Burns with Chateau Lafayette, Terry Dickerson with Dickerson Machinery, Frank & Carmen Danna, Stephanie Zinsmeyer with Stephanie's on the Plaza Salon and Spa, Kenneth and Arlene Smith with the Old Alsatian Steakhouse, Gary Carter with the Castroville Cafe, Joseph and Jana Winkler with the Hotel Alsace & Spa, Paula Solis with Margie's Restaurant, and Sarah Naegelin with Alsace Hair Nails and Tanning Salon. And thanks to those that donated a Raffle item: Sula Combs with the Castroville Anvil, Robert and Myra Schneider of Bourquin Automotive, and Gregg and Carol Zinsmeyer of A/C Technical Services.

Today we had some visitor's to the Steinbach House that had a very interesting story to tell. Pierre Catala, a retired teacher at Texas A&M University, brought his cousin Anne Schuhler of Selestat Alsace, France to visit Castroville. Pierre is originally from Alsace, but currently lives in College Station, Texas. His cousin Anne had read a book titled "et parmi les pionniers du Far West il y avait des Alsaciens," which roughly translates to "Alsations were among some of the Pioneers to the Far West." This book was written in 1999 by a woman named Janine Erny who traveled to Texas and the Castroville area three different times to gather information for the book, which contains history of the Alsatian's trip to Texas. Anne was very fascinated with this book and decided she wanted to visit Castroville so she and Pierre decided to make the trip. They were so excited to be in Castroville and were just amazed with the Steinbach House. Anne even bought 20 postcards and an Old Favorites Cookbook to take back to Alsace. It's wonderful that so many people in Alsace know about our quaint little town!

This weekend is sure to be a busy one in Castroville. If you were afraid you'd have nothing to do, think again. Thursday starts us off with the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Fiesta on London Street" Spring Mixer sponsored by Hardt Realty, Chris Schuchart and Alsace Builders. Starting at 5pm enjoy plenty of food, beer and margaritas plus door prizes and much more. Saturday morning, head on over to Rio Medina for their Annual Yard Sale starting at 8am. There is no fee to set up, just bring your own tables. Contact Bonnie Jaks at (830) 538-2441 to get signed up. Afterwards, check out the Renaissance Faire

sponsored by the Medina Valley United Methodist Church on Country Lane. The fun begins at 10am with re-enactors, a petting zoo, games, a quilt raffle, catapult, vendors, live entertainment and more. Lastly, don't miss the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hondo-D'hanis and Medina Valley Rotary Club Golf Tournament to be held at the Alsatian Golf Course on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Registration and lunch start at noon with a shotgun start at 1pm. They are still looking for golf teams and hole sponsors. Contact Michele Dziadik-Willingham at (830) 931-7485 for all the details. Have a great one!