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Chamber Banquet, January 15th - Tickets Available

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It's that time of year again, time for the Chamber's Annual Banquet, which will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at the Grande Hall at the Hofmann Ranch.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a get acquainted mixer where drinks and appetizers will be served. Appetizers will be provided by the Old Alsatian Steakhouse and drinks will be provided by Albros Casa y Garden and Bippert's Bottle Shop.

The banquet and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. with Castroville Café catering the meal. Desserts will be served which have been donated by Charles and Gladys Clark of 3 Cedars Ranch Bed & Breakfast, Kenneth & Arlene Smith of the Old Standby Saloon Bed and Breakfast, and Burl and Janie Brock of the Brock Haus Bed & Breakfast.

The use of the Grande Hall has been donated by owners Hans and Charlotte Hofmann.

Tickets to the event are just \$25 each and includes one

chance at the raffle, which is back again this year by popular demand. Extra raffle chances can be purchased ahead of time or at the door for just \$5. The top prize this year will be a gift basket filled with goodies and gift certificates from local merchants valued around \$1,000.

Each year, the chamber holds this banquet to recognize individuals in the community for their volunteerism and support they give to Castroville. We will present the Citizen of the Year Award and the Jr. Boy and Girl Citizen of the Year Awards as well.

We will recognize the new Directors for 2009-2012 and say goodbye to President Tot Albros who's term has ended. She will also give out the President's Award to someone she feels deserves honor.

Awards for Firefighter of the Year and Outstanding EMS will also be given again this year.

Frankie Kempf will be back again as our Master of Ceremonies and to present

the awards of Citizen of the Year and Jr. Citizen of the Year. Pastor JC Ballard of Calvary Chapel will lead the Invocation.

This year's speaker has not yet been revealed, but we are sure it will be someone you do not want to miss.

The banquet is open to the public, however seating is limited so please make your reservations now. You can stop by the Chamber Office at 100 Karm St., across from Sammy's, to pick up your tickets for just \$25 each. We are open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We hope you can all join us for this wonderful occasion. We appreciate all this community does for the Chamber and we look forward to working with you all for many years to come.

For more information on the banquet, please call the Chamber Office at (830) 538-3142 or email us at chamber@castroville.com.

Special points of interest:

- Chamber Luncheon— January 6, 2009, 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant.
- Chamber Banquet - January 15th at the Grande Hall at Hofmann Ranch. Get your tickets now!!!
- Want to put something in the Newsletter? Email us and let us know: chamber@castroville.com



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2009 Membership Dues now Due!

With 2009 upon us, it is time to pay your membership dues.

Last week, Finance Coordinator Pat Davila, mailed out invoices for the 2009 membership dues. Along with the invoice was a Member Profile Sheet. This profile is the information that we have for you and/or your company. This is what is seen on our website. Please look it over and make any

necessary changes. Please return it with your membership dues.

Please be sure to let us know if you have an email or website address that we do not have on file. If you are a business, please make sure to check your business category and add any additional ones you'd like listed.

Business memberships are just \$75, individuals are \$35

and 65 and older are \$25. Non-profit organizations are just \$35 for the year. If you think your membership amount has changed, please give us a call at the office to let us know.

If you did not receive an invoice from us, please call us as well and we can send one to you. We look forward to serving you in 2009. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you.

Check Your Information on Our Website

With the popularity of technology growing, it is important that we have the correct information for our members on the Castroville website, www.castroville.com.

In December alone, we have so far received over 2,500 hits to our website. Since January we have received over 39,000 hits. 20,000 of those hits were searches for a business in Castroville and 10,000 hits were to a member's website. That is an amazing amount of people searching our website for your information.

Each member is listed on the website with any information they would like listed. It is important that we have your correct information listed so someone searching for you or your business can find you.

Please go to the Member Businesses page from our website and search for your company's name. Make sure all information listed is correct and make sure we are not missing anything. If we are, please give us a call at 538-3142 or send us an

email to chamber@castroville.com.

Also, if there is information listed on the website which you do not wish to be public knowledge, let us know and we will remove it.

The internet is a great tool for individuals to find your business and we are happy to be able to provide this information for you. But as always, we do not know if something has changed unless you let us know, so please remember to keep us updated and we will keep the website updated as well.

New Members since December 1, 2008

Brock Haus Bed & Breakfast - Janie & Burl Brock
 Frenchy's Beverage Barn - Phyllis French

Newsletter Information
 Editor: Ashlee Tondre Bates
 Asst. Editor: Pat Davila

January Calendar of Events



Here's what's happening in Castroville in January. All details can be found on the calendar of events at www.castroville.com. If you have an event to add, please email all the information to the web mistress at ashlee@castroville.com.

Every Thursday: Live Music at Cora's by Greg Walden, 6 - 9pm
Every Wednesday: Rotary Club of Medina Valley Meeting, 11:45am, Old Alsatian Steakhouse

- 01: **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**
- 06: Chamber Luncheon, 12 noon, Sammy's Restaurant. **All Members invited!**
- 09: American Legion Scholarship Dinner, 5-7pm, American Legion Hall, 538-9182
- 09: Friday Night Fever, Houston Square, 6-10pm, evening of cars, trucks, bikes, food, music and shopping, (830) 931-2479
- 10: Regional Park Work Session, 8-11am, sign in at the pool, (830) 931-2692
- 11: Movies at Shooting Star Museum, 6pm. FREE!! (830) 931-3837
- 15: Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Grande Hall at Hoffman Ranch, 6pm
- 15-18: Velosissimo Racing Cycling Team in town, stop by the Hotel Alsace if you want to ride with them.
- 23: Cruisin' God's Country, Hondo TX, evening of cars, music and shopping, 830-426-3037
- 27: Chamber Director's Meeting, Castroville Café, 12 noon
- 30: Wine Tasting at the Hotel Alsace, 6pm, Food and Wine, 830-538-3200

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See your Ad in the Monthly Newsletter

The Chamber is selling ad spaces for the monthly newsletter. Space is limited and based on a first come first serve basis so if you are interested, call us quickly.

The ad size is 2 x 2 and the price of the ad is just \$15 per month for members and \$20 a month for non-members.

Purchase a monthly

reoccurring ad or choose certain months. Send us your logo and info and we'll create the ad for you or if you'd like to create your own, just send us a PDF or jpeg file.

But remember, space is limited Contact Ashlee at the Chamber Office today and get on the list for the February 2009 newsletter! Call us at (830) 538-3142 or send us an email at

ashlee@castroville.com.

Want a bigger ad? Let us know and we can work with you on getting a larger ad put in the newsletter. Bills will be sent out after the newsletter has been printed.

So take advantage of this great opportunity and have all 322 members see your ad in the next newsletter.

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We're on the web

www.castroville.com



Business of the Month: Albros Casa y Garden

Many people come to Castroville not only for our wonderful historic district, but for the cute shops we have. One of those is Albros Casa y Garden owned by Tot and Ward Albros.

Whether you are looking for something for yourself, your home or a gift, you are sure to find something at Albros that will satisfy your needs.

Opening in August of 2003, Tot got the idea to start the shop after years doing antique shows while she was in graduate school.

"I wanted something fun to do while I was in school and antiquing was easy money," said Tot.

While Ward was teaching at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, they decided to open a small gift shop and boy has it blossomed.

"We had so many friends in Castroville and I am a country girl so I just had to live in this cute town. We couldn't have asked for

a better location for our shop," says Tot.

Located in the historic blacksmith shop, they started out with a dirt floor and were only open Thursday - Sunday. They quickly realized they needed to make some improvements and additions. After a year they put in a concrete floor, next came sidewalks, then a fireplace and this year saw the addition of a new building with air conditioning and a bathroom.

"We feel very blessed because business has been wonderful," says Tot.

Wondering what you can find at Albros? Everything from antiques, candles, purses, home décor, books and stationary, garden ware and seasonal items, just to name a few. The list goes on and on.

Something Tot specializes in are the textile items she hand picks from the indigenous people in Mexico, where she travels to at least 4 times a year. She always has

something unique that you can't get anywhere else in Castroville.

The new building, which just had its grand opening December 18th, houses the candles, books, stationary and any other items that need to be climate controlled, while the outside shop features garden ware and seasonal items.

And don't miss Fiorella Friday on the first Friday of every month, February - December. Tot and other local merchants near her offer free wine tastings, live music and allow artisans to set up around their shops. It's just one way they give back to the community.

So if you are looking for a gift or just a way to treat yourself, head over to Albros and see the wonderful goodies Tot and Ward have to offer. You won't be disappointed.

**1102 Fiorella Street
(830) 538-2349**

Hours:

**Mon-Sat 10am-ish to 5pm-ish
Sun Noonish to 4pm-ish**

