

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Morro Bay Museum of Natural History Throws "Retirement" Party

The Central Coast Natural History Association is throwing a "Retirement" Party to retire the debt for the renovation of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, Thursday, July 24 from 5-7 pm at the museum. Many years in the planning and execution, the renovation cost 2.7 million dollars. The debt is now down to \$20,000. "This is a blatant fundraiser to retire the debt and celebrate all the hard work of staff, board members, volunteers and donors," says Mary Golden, Executive Director of CCNHA. "This significant community effort was led by an extraordinary team of dedicated volunteers," says Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee who the Board Chair of CCNHA at the time of the renovation. "The museum went from a dated 1950's era natural history museum to a state of the art teaching tool to help people understand the significance and value of our local natural resources and history. Staff, volunteers, donors and everyone involved in this effort should feel immensely proud."

The Retirement Party will include toasts to the retiree as well as live music by Critical Mass. The band is rumored to be planning a theme song for the evening, "Hit the Road, Jack." Everyone is invited to attend this celebration with a suggested minimum donation or "retirement gift" of \$25.

Nature education is provided at no cost to school groups who come from local schools and as far away as Bakersfield. Susan Fong and Linda Winters are long time volunteer docents who chair the school groups program. "This year, school group docents taught 7,000 middle school children," says Linda Winters. "Children are increasingly urbanized and disconnected from the natural world." Winters goes on to say. Fong adds, "We try to teach them the

importance of nature for their own development and to teach the next generation of natural resource conservation stewards.”

“Nearly 50,000 people attend the Museum each year,” says Rouvaishyana, Museum Manager. “We feel our mission is to educate, so we keep our cost to the public minimal -- \$2 for adults and no cost to children. We are a community gem hidden behind the big white rock.”

If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute to the debt's retirement, you can send donations to Central Coast Natural History Association, 1320 Van Beurden Drive, Suite 202, Los Osos, CA 93402. For more information contact Mary Golden, 528.1397 ext. 23.