

award for Best Presentation.

A Night of Giving: The Fabulous Women of Petaluma are hoping to ignite the spirit of giving in town this Christmas with a holiday party with a charitable twist. A Night of Giving will be held on Dec. 13 at the Elks Lodge, 2105 S. McDowell Blvd. The party will feature music by The Dirty Red Barn. Guests are invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Donations will be collected during the night for a charitable fund that will be gifted at the end of the evening. When guests make a donation, they are given golden raffle tickets (the larger the donation, the more raffle tickets they will receive). The winner will then have the opportunity to donate the funds to a local nonprofit of their choice. This nonprofit may support people in our immediate community or it may address a charitable project that provides hope, service or aid to a global cause. Reservations to attend A Night of Giving are required. For information, to save a spot or to help sponsor the event, email thefabulouswomen@gmail.com or contact **Krista Gawronski** at 799-2153.

Kudos to the Boys & Girls Club: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin & Southern Sonoma Counties was awarded the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Gateway to Impact Silver Award during the organization's professional leadership conference held in Portland, Ore. on Oct. 9. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America honors clubs with outstanding attendance — those that are making or maintaining important strides in average daily attendance and capacity utilization. The BGCMSSC increased daily average attendance 17 percent in 2013, going from 742 youth served per day to 867. Club membership increased 14 percent in 2013, going from 3,332 to 3,808. In 2014, the club opened new after school programs in Novato, Corte Madera and at Cinnabar Elementary School in Petaluma.

— when the PAC advertised for a new executive director last spring, Richman applied.

"Arts have always been a huge part of my world," said the 63-year-old Richman. "But

several annual exhibits.

Recently, however, following outreach to their 600 members and others, they learned that many wanted to see more than just "two-dimensional art on

a few people," said Richman, a 27-year Petaluma resident. "It been fun and easy putting it together." One example is the Petaluma Readers Theater, which in previous years has performed Truman Capote's "A Christmas

TOOLIN' AROUND TOWN

Holy Ghost Society set down roots

I recently met Liona Spring, who lives in Roseville, but was in town to chicken-sit Thor and Mable, my vacationing neighbors' two privileged



HARLAN OSBORNE

hens that live a life of pampered poultry. Spring was here not only to scatter grain and freshen the birds' water bowl but also to

offer socializing and entertainment by opening their backyard pen and allowing them to strut and cluck around the yard for a while before luring them back into their coop with a trail of corn.

Spring piqued my interest by mentioning that her great-great-grandparents, John and Maria Dabner, were prominent in establishing the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society of Petaluma and on whose donated land the Portuguese Hall, located at the corner of Bodega and Eucalyptus avenues, was constructed in 1891.

This information became available through diligent research by Spring, who traced through four generations of her maternal family tree. It all began when John Pimentel Divina, who later Anglicized his name to Dabner, was born



SCOTT MANCHESTER/ARGUS-COURIER STAFF

Liona Spring in front of the Petaluma Holy Ghost Society (Portuguese Hall) in Petaluma, which her family donated the land for more than 100 years ago.

in the Azores Islands, situated about 800 miles west of Portugal, in 1830. The Azoreans were excellent agricultural people, fishermen and whale hunters. Many of them migrated to the United States and California. Around 1850, Portuguese whalers arrived at Monterey Bay and in the ensuing years many dairymen settled in Marin and Sonoma counties. By the 1880s, about half of the Portuguese immigrants were involved in dairy ranching.

About 1848, Dabner, working as a cook on a whaling ship, sailed for New Bedford, Mass.

While there, he met and became engaged to Maria de Jesus Machado. When gold was discovered in California, Dabner was persuaded by a cousin to leave the whaling ships and journey to California to search for gold nuggets. When he found mining for gold too arduous, he returned to New Bedford and married his sweetheart. In 1859, the Dabners, moved to California and settled on a farm in San Leandro.

A charitable woman and devout Catholic, Maria Dabner longed for the same kind of religious celebration she had

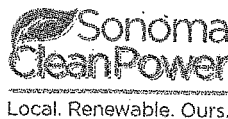
Renewable Electricity. Local ReInvestment.

Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) is your new local electricity provider, helping the environment and saving you money.

As a locally operated not-for-profit public agency, SCP supports Sonoma County renewable power and boosts the local economy.

Choice, competitive prices,
cleaner electricity.

You can have it all Sonoma County.



sonomacleanpower.org | 1 (855) 202-2139

