**A word from the President of Friends of Hart Park**

The nip of winter is just approaching, fall colors abound, and snap we’re into the holidays. Hart Park has had a fabulous year thanks to all our docents, volunteers, staff and board members. Everyone has worked hard to create magic and miracles at Hart Park. Tours, tours and more tours in the mansion led by our incredible docents and staff. Thousands joined us at the free summer family movies in the park on our gigantic 40 foot screen. Our Native American Pow Wow, Kids crafts, Christmas boutique, Polynesian festival, Cowboy festival, Silent Under the Stars and Cowboys and Carols all bring our public into a truly special place. I love you all for a job that gives so much to so many, thank you.

Did I mention our gorgeous gift shop and gem of a book store? Who are all these people who make Hart Park a museum so richly enjoyable for thousands of visitors? The answer is our fantastic volunteers! The volunteers, docent and board members bring Bill Hart to life, giving insight into an American icon. It’s not just a house and a man, but a legacy that keeps giving into the 21st century.

This year’s Silents Under the Stars was fun, exciting and a huge success. Many thanks to Sherron Blowers, Jeff Wheat, Bill West, Becki Basham, Carol Frost and Alexandra Gooch. This committee went above and beyond.

Our Native American Pow Wow was led by Cindy Reeves, Leon Worden and Cindy Beals, just to name a few. Thousands attend this completely authentic beautiful event, thank you.

Our gift store is charming, professionally stocked and always unique. Becki Basham is meticulous and keeps it near perfect. Go in and shop for the holidays. Members of Hart Park get 10% off. Then go see what Roger (the book store) Basham has in the book shop, my favorite place!

We recently acquired new talent to the board; Carol Frost, Janis Ashley and Alexandra Gooch, who are all gifted and hardworking ladies.

Bill (Newsletter) West and Jack Stewart were our 4th of July parade heroes. Bill Hart who raised tremendous funds doing bond drives to win World War I and World War II would be so proud to still be represented in the 4th of July parade.

The friends and volunteers will kick off the holiday season on Saturday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Hart Mansion. It’s the annual Cowboys & Carols celebration. Join us in the beautifully decorated mansion with music by the Valencia High School Choir and Concert Violinist, Jesse Brazil. We will have holiday treats of course, and this open house is free.

As we move through the holiday, let us be mindful of how blessed we are to share our lives and talents with others. The gift volunteers give is a true testament to higher values we put on ourselves when we share freely. Hart Park, which is over 200 acres,  was given to the public. We thank you all for keeping the legacy of this gift alive and accessible to the public. Many blessings to you all and thank you.

Laurene Weste