

San Joaquin Valley Colony of  
Mayflower Descendants in  
California Newsletter

## Message from Governor, *Dianna Saario*

### San Joaquin Valley Colony Board of Directors 2024-2025

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Newsletter ~ Diane Brueggemann

This newsletter is also available on our  
website: <https://sanjoaquinvalleycolony.org>

I can't believe how quickly the time passes. I have been so busy, and I know that you have too. It is important to reflect on what we are thankful for over the year(s). I wish to welcome you all to attend our Compact Meeting to be held this November 2, in Fresno. We have decided to serve a classic Thanksgiving Day meal to value the Pilgrims' sacrifices and struggles which led them to revel in their successful harvest. Their success was aided by the Wampanoag natives for whom they had formed an alliance. Their rejoicing together led to the 3-day feast now linked to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

Also, we have been celebrating our 50 years as the San Joaquin Valley Colony of Mayflower Descendants in California. Our April luncheon focused on the founding members. *If you haven't done so, please take the time to view the presentation which is on our colony website.* For our November luncheon, we will bring our attention to the first 50 years of Plymouth Colony. **Join us for a great meal and a great time!**

## Compact Meeting: November 2, 2024

**It** is only  
is just around the  
only a month  
history of



colony's founding, we invite you, your family, friends of the colony, and former members, to the 2024 Compact meeting. This luncheon meeting will be a tribute to the Signing of the Mayflower Compact (1620), the festival of the harvest (Thanksgiving), and to the first 50 years at Plymouth. Join us **Saturday, November 2**, at **Marie Callender's Restaurant** in Fresno. Marie Callender's will serve a classic Thanksgiving meal including a complimentary drink and slice of Pumpkin PIE! See RSVP on page 3 for more details. The meeting will include a presentation by Eric Ball highlighting *Plymouth and the trail of the Pilgrims.*

October, but Thanksgiving  
corner or should I say  
away. To honor the  
Plymouth colony and our

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## Getting to Know You...

by Diane Brueggemann – SJVC Historian

I think we can all agree that discovering our links to Mayflower passengers has been an enlightening process. We have felt a connection to our ancestors and history, and finding links to even more ‘why’s, where’s and who’s’, that we uncovered in that journey. As I spent my springtime getting to know the founding members of the San Joaquin Valley Colony, I fell in love with their life stories. These were amazing people with active lives and some with accomplishments beyond compare. But discovering their stories was quite challenging.

### ◆ *Let’s get to know each other*

As colony Historian I would like to preserve our current members’ life stories. I would like to reach out to you to find out:

*‘Why you joined the Mayflower Society?’*

*‘How you discovered your ancestry?’*

*‘What are your interests, hobbies, or career?’*

*& more*

I will send you a google form, by email, or mail for you to complete. In doing so, you need to help me by having your contact information up to date.

You will have the option of being featured in our Pilgrim Legacy Newsletter, or if you prefer to only have your biography preserved in the colony’s historical documents. I am looking forward to sharing your life stories.

### ***Did you know?***

Our colony hosted the Annual State Meeting in Fresno for all California Members of the Society of the Mayflower Descendants. The meeting was held at the downtown Fresno Hilton on May 18, 1991. Valerite Howland and Robert Soule were presented with *Governor’s Commendation Awards in Grateful Recognition of Outstanding Service to our Society.*

**DID YOU KNOW THAT** THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, KAREN HUMPHREY, SIGNED A PROCLAMATION TO PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18TH – 24TH, 1990 TO BE “MAYFLOWER COMPACT WEEK” THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF FRESNO IN RECOGNITION OF OUR PILGRIM ANCESTORS, THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT AND OUR COLONY?

### Get to Know Our Guest Speaker:

#### • Eric Ball •



Eric Ball is a member of our San Joaquin Valley

Colony. He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Californian with 4

ancestors who sailed on the Mayflower. In the 19th century later generations traversed the Great Plains by covered wagon & railroad to reach the Pioneer West.

Eric is an avid traveler. His love for travel and history began in childhood. His family spent each summer visiting parts of the Western US and Canada. He has been on 80 cruises since 1988 to such places as South America, Alaska, Antarctica, Tahiti, the British Isles, Pitcairn Island, Easter Island, Scandinavia, and more! You will often find Eric as a lecturer on a cruise line, presenting guests a captivating presentation full of pictures and stories of the people and world events that shaped that region. This passion for historical events led him to earn his undergraduate degree in History from UC Berkeley.

For those of you who are familiar with the Annual Buck Shaffer Spectacular, in Porterville, you may have seen Eric as the Master of Ceremonies. As an active member in his community, he has held presidential positions for the Porterville Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, & Tulare-Kings Life Underwriters Association.

Eric also continued his education and earned a master’s in financial services from the American College, Bryn Mawr in Pennsylvania. Yes, Eric is also a Certified Financial Planner and owns the firm, Ball Wealth Management. He authored the book, “Thank God I Paid Cash for the Rolls: Stories of Financial Struggles, Survival and Success.” This book brings a light-hearted approach to financial planning, but it is also a window into how creative and entertaining Mr. Eric Ball is. We are honored to have Eric as a member of our colony and are looking forward to him presenting, *Plymouth and the Trails of the Pilgrims.*

# RSVP:

Meeting Saturday **November 2, 2024**

Time:

Social: 10:30 – 11:30

Meeting/Lunch/Speaker: 11:30 – 2:00

Location:

**Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery**  
**1781 E Shaw Avenue, Fresno**

by Fresno State – S/W corner Shaw & Cedar Ave.

Speaker: Eric Ball ~*Plymouth and the Trail of the Pilgrims*

Menu:

**Roasted Turkey Meal** includes hand-carved roasted turkey served over apple-sage stuffing, topped with house made giblet gravy, served over mashed potatoes, tangy cranberry sauce & fresh seasonal vegetables. The meal will include a drink and, of course, Pumpkin PIE!

Optional Meals:

**Open-Faced Hot Turkey Sandwich** over sourdough bread and apple-sage stuffing with gravy & mashed potato; or

**Roasted Turkey Croissant Sandwich.**

Please make your request of an optional meal at the time of reservation.



Cost: **\$30 per person** ~~~ Payments at the door will be accepted.

To make a reservation, Contact *Mark Storch* at 760.793.3725 or email him at [kh2jx@earthlink.net](mailto:kh2jx@earthlink.net)

**Reservations should be made by October 15**

Donations to the **San Joaquin Valley Colony** are vital to fund scholarships and other sponsored programs and presenters. Please consider a donation of \$50 for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. However, any donation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to those who have contributed!



More about the Peppermint Stick Tulip in our next newsletter.

## Memberships

Welcome our newest members of 2024!

**Timothy (Tim) Murray ~ William Bradford**

**Kathleen Brooks ~ Priscilla Mullins**

**Mr. John Sloan & \*(Children) ~ John Howland**

**\* Katherine, Benjamin, & Abigail Sloan**