



News Release

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FANDANGO! Festive Historic Dance Event Celebrates the End of the Harvest Season and Welcomes Autumn at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park

-Petaluma, CA

Looking for the perfect way to celebrate the end of summer in Sonoma County? Join us on Saturday, September 22, 2018 at the Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park for a dance party! Welcome autumn's arrival by experiencing dances and music of the 1840's with a "*Fandango*."

"*Fandango* was not only a dance but also the name given to an informal dancing party. Holding a *fandango* during autumn was a tradition at General Mariano Vallejo's *Rancho de Petaluma*, now Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park," explains Jennifer Hanson, State Park Guide I. "It was held to honor the toil of the end of the harvest and the *matanza*, the slaughtering season. The cattle of the *rancho* were used to produce the mainstays of early California's economy, cattle hides and tallow. The *fandango* also celebrated the work of Native Americans, Mexicans, and *Californios* who operated Vallejo's successful enterprise."

Dances of the 1840's will be performed and taught by dancers from **Baile de California** of Santa Barbara and **Yesteryears Dancers** from California and Nevada. **Baile de California** was founded in May 2013 in Santa Barbara to preserve the unique cultural history of California through dance and music. **Yesteryears Dancers** is an authentically-costumed historical dance troupe that reenacts early California dances and more. These dance troupes will be accompanied by **Flor y Canto Duo** and **Los Californios**, traditional folk-instrument ensembles of guitar, accordeon, violin, and tambor. Both of these troupes encourage the audience to join in. Experience the spirit and fun of Mexican California's *rancho* era while learning dances on the grounds of the largest historic adobe structure in the United States.

The event is from noon to 4pm. Light refreshments will be served and visitors are welcome to bring a picnic. Admission for adults (18 and older) is \$3.00, children (6 to 17) is \$2.00, age 5 and under enter free. Visitors should dress appropriately for being out of doors. For the safety and comfort of all visitors, please do not bring dogs.

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is located at 3325 Adobe Road, Petaluma. The park entrance is located on Adobe Road between Casa Grande and Frates Roads.

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact: Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park at (707) 762-4871. 711, TTY relay service. Additional information is available at www.petalumaadobe.com and www.parks.ca.gov/petalumaadobeshp ###



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1