

CITY OF VENTURA  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**2006 Summer Exhibits at the Olivas Adobe open  
with artist reception July 8 at 3 PM for Beatrice Benzien**

An exciting 2006 series of summer-long exhibits at the Olivas Adobe begins with an artist reception for Beatrice Benzien on Saturday, July 8, 3-5 PM, in the Exhibit Hall at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park located at 4200 Olivas Park Drive in Ventura. The center is regularly open to the public weekends from 11 am to 4 pm. Viewing the exhibit hall is free; adobe tours are \$5/adult, \$10/family of 4 or \$3/child or senior.

Meet the last remaining resident, now in her eighties, to call the Olivas Adobe home through her acrylic paintings and drawings, as well as stories captured on an oral history CD. Beatrice Benzien was the caretaker's daughter when the property was Max Fleishmann's Duck Club, where he and friends hunted migrating birds from the nearby ponds of the Santa Clara River. The Duck Club was originally the main house of the Olivas family and the Rancho San Miguel, an 1841 Mexican land grant.

During the informal reception media, historians and the public will have an opportunity to view the artist's extraordinary work and to ask questions of Mrs. Benzien herself relating to her life at the Olivas Adobe and her interaction as a little girl with Max and Sara Fleischmann.

Max C. Fleischmann was the Ventura and Santa Barbara area's leading social pillar since the 1930s and his legacy will be featured during the "Photo Fleischmann" exhibit of vintage images from local museums and gallery archives at the Olivas Adobe Exhibit Hall September 9-17. The Fleischmann Foundation gifted the parcel to the City of Ventura that is now the Olivas Golf Course and the Olivas Adobe Historical Park. Fleischmann was also the founder of the Santa Barbara Foundation, that county's seminal philanthropic entity, distributing millions for worthy causes.

In between these two art exhibits is the "Master Gardeners Celebration" August 5-20. Recent graduates of the Master Gardeners of Ventura County will celebrate the adobe's season of "green thoughts in the green shade" each weekend with tours, speakers and a display of community projects promoting home gardening today and Ranch flora from the past. Visit [www.olivasadobe.org](http://www.olivasadobe.org) for more information.

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Media or historical groups can contact Ross Goodman, event coordinator and Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreter, at 805.382.1752 or email [fredgood@verizon.net](mailto:fredgood@verizon.net) for additional information regarding the Benzien reception and other events.

This release is available at [www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net) under the "Press Room" link. ###