

**Tour Tip:** Tour #1 will visit the Santa Clara Town Hall and meet mural artist Julie Rogers

# The Santa Clara Mural

The Santa Clara Town Hall was built in 2008. Shortly before its completion, it was decided that a mural at the top of the granite stairwell would be a great addition to the building. The mural art, depicting the Swiss immigration to Santa Clara in 1861, was contracted to Julie Rogers from Kanab, Utah. Completed in 2009, the mural



*Top: Black and white study. Above: Julie works on the mural. Left: Julie's pastel paintings of the handcart pioneers are in many LDS books and publications.*

vibrantly demonstrates the beauty of the homeland in Switzerland, the arduous voyage and journey across the plains they undertook, and their arrival in the barren Santa Clara River Valley.

Using descendants of the original Swiss settlers as models, the mural aptly represents these people. Symbolism, representative of their dreams and struggles, has been woven into the painting, and brings out the deep emotion they must have felt leaving their homes and all they knew to travel to a new world of many contrasts. 🍷

**Artist Julie Rogers will be on hand to discuss her deep feelings and stories behind the creation of the Santa Clara Mural to those on tour #1. She will also speak at the Saturday Women's Meeting.**

## MURAL SYMBOLISM

**Sacrifice:** The man with the bundles on his back is carrying all of the possessions he can take with him. Leaving home and extended family, children and women sit on cases containing all of the belongings they are able to take.

**Love:** The small children and a mother demonstrate the love that was felt for one another during this time of upheaval.

**Courage:** The two women walking together are helping each other. By supporting one another on the journey, they are able to sustain the courage necessary to keep positive thoughts to make it to their final destination.

**Charity:** The man carrying a young child is extending help to others. Whether a family member of someone else who is in need, reaching out to others in an act of charity is a vital component to success for such a journey.

**Faith:** The older man with the beard is a firm believer in what they are doing. His hands are outstretched in his faith of God and in his beliefs that they are doing what is needed, and that they will be rewarded.

**Hope:** The central woman figure is the symbol of hope. Always looking forward, she surmises the hope of a new life, new lands, and new opportunities. She looks forward. She embraces the future with no apprehension.

**Posterity:** The young girl in the center is the representation of posterity—not only the young they brought with them, but those who have descended since their arrival, and all others who have come here and enjoy this land. Her apron is spilling out the fruits of these generations.

**Prayer:** The farmer in his field with head bent in prayer demonstrates the strong commitment to God practiced by these settlers. They were dependant upon His blessings and they actively sought guidance and strength from Him.

**Work:** Through hard work and diligence they shaped their lives into productivity and built an industry that provided food, not only for themselves, but for much of the outlying area and into neighboring states as well.

**Joy:** Music was a favorite part of their lives, providing entertainment, opportunity for dance, and for worship. Instruments carried on that very journey are depicted here with descendants of several original band members.