

# The STAR

## THE NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

### Our Mission...

To rehabilitate the Julia Morgan-designed North Star House and its immediate grounds, reconnecting it to the greater Grass Valley area and to restoring its place as an active hub of the community.

### NSHC Board Members

Joe Heckel - President  
 Alex Szabo - Vice President  
 Cheryl Belcher - Treasurer  
 John Taylor - Secretary  
 Peggy Levine - Executive Director  
 Jim Bair  
 Carole Miller  
 Barbara Tanner  
 David Wright

Newsletter Editor:  
 Cindy Lazzareschi

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

*The North Star Historic Conservancy is Moving Forward!*

*Master Plan Approved by County Board of Supervisors!  
 September 2014*

The North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC) received a big "thumbs- up" on our Master Plan from all five of our Nevada County Board of Supervisors on September 9, 2014. The Master Plan unanimously approved by the Board not only proposes to restore and rehabilitate the North Star House and grounds, but also allows it to evolve into a "cultural event center" in a phased approach. The preparation of our application package took over two years to complete and involved many volunteers and experts who either donated their time or significantly discounted their cost. On January 16, we filed a series of applications and our filing fees with Nevada County and hoped for the best.

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## JULIA MORGAN AWARDED U.S. ARCHITECTURE'S HIGHEST HONOR

In June 2014, Julia Morgan became the first woman to receive the annual Gold Medal presented by the American Institute of Architects. She is only the eighth posthumous recipient of the Gold Medal. Morgan, who was trained as an engineer at U.C. Berkeley, became the first woman to graduate from L'Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris in 1901. She then became the first woman to receive a California architectural license.

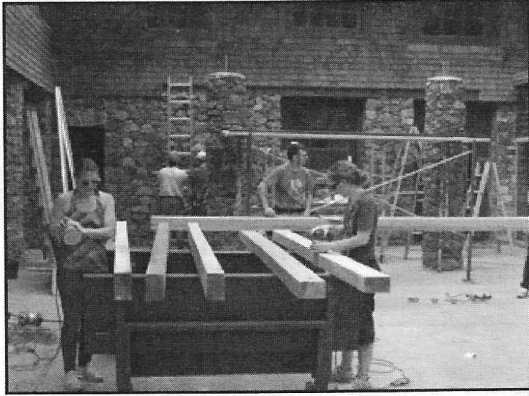
Julia Morgan designed more than 700 buildings, 21 of which are either National Historic Landmarks or are on the National Register of Historic Places, one of which is the North Star House. Her designs included neighborhood churches, women's social buildings, as well as private homes.

The Gold Medal awarded to Morgan is for a variety of reasons, including her influence on the profession and the environment. Her work has inspired generations of men and women.



# THE NORTH STAR HOUSE PERGOLA

By David Wright, Site Architect



From left to right our August President, Joe Heckle, the new husband Chris Matthews, and Blake Evans.

There is a new look in The North Star House courtyard. More than thirty years after being demolished during previous remodeling in the 1960's, the new pergola as designed by architect Julia Morgan, is now resting above the original rock columns. We used historic photographs to replicate the design that graced the courtyard during the original construction in 1905.

The two round rock columns supporting the pergola were constructed of rock taken from the North Star Mine tailings pile. During construction, we discovered that steel rod reinforcing was used to strengthen the columns; reinforced concrete and masonry was well known to the miners, unlike much of the earlier unreinforced masonry used in California.

The three layers of western red cedar beams used to create the pergola cast an intricate pattern of shadows enlivening and shading the courtyard. My daughter, Megan, was married just recently beneath this beautiful improvement to The North Star House.

Several volunteers: Joe Heckel, Steven Smith, Vance Goss, Dan McMaster, Larry Dulmage, Tom Van Wagner, Blake Evans and my entire family including the groom, Chris Mathews, spent several weekends pre-finishing and installing the beams. The beams will be treated with a wood preservative after drying for a few weeks.

The Wright family is proud to donate this addition to the North Star House; we expect that the new pergola will be enjoyed by many visitors, and be a beautiful backdrop to many weddings and cultural events to come.



From left to right: Heather Wright, Joe Heckle, Steven Smith, Chris Matthews, and on the right is the bride, Megan Wright.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... CONTINUED

The NSHC was blessed to have substantial support from the community as numerous letters in support of our Master Plan were filed with the County. A strong cross-section of businesses, non-profits, governmental leaders and local community members submitted letters in support of our proposal. It was gratifying to view this broad level of support and commitment to our cause. This level of community support certainly helped demonstrate to our local decision makers the importance of restoring this historic property. The end result was the unanimous approval of our Master Plan by both the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Now, with your continued support, we can take the next step in transitioning this historic property into a cultural event center open to all. We still have the challenge of completing a number of improvements to the House and property so it can be fully used for public or private events including weddings, conferences, educational classes, theatrical or musical performances and the display of arts.

If you wish to view a copy of the Master Plan or the steps to transition this property into a cultural event center, we would be pleased to share this information with you. If you wish to help our volunteer groups or committees in realizing our vision, please let us know.

*Joe Heckel*



# *“Julia Morgan and the California Arts and Crafts Movement” Part 1*

By Johanna Kahn, M.Arch.H.

Several influences guided the designs of the versatile architect Julia Morgan (1872-1957) over the course of her prolific career. A strong background in civil and structural engineering made her, in the words of friend and colleague Walter Steilberg, “far more accomplished in the area of building technology than any of the men I have known.” She also studied architecture at the prestigious École des Beaux-Arts in Paris—the first woman to be admitted—and was awarded her diploma in 1902 before returning to California.

A third influence frequently at play in the conception of her designs was the fact that Julia Morgan was a native Californian and was therefore knowledgeable about regional architecture and materials. She understood types and styles of buildings and crafts beyond typically ornamental Beaux-Arts design. Morgan’s skill in designing steel and concrete structural systems could also be applied to local redwood lumber and fieldstone construction. She could place distinguished pediments on urban façades as well as adobe tile roofs and rustic wood siding on country retreats.

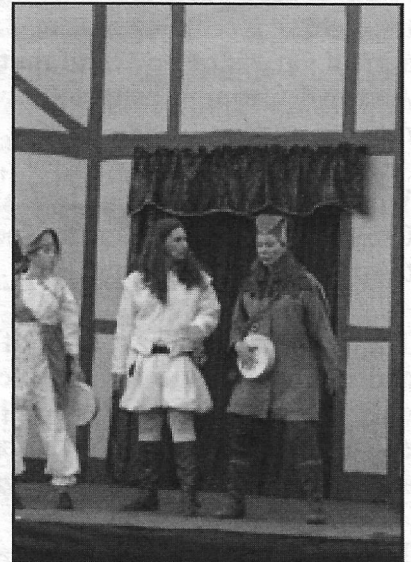
The California Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was a regional approach to architecture inspired by the British Arts and Crafts movement. The abundant natural and architectural heritage of northern California induced Julia Morgan (along with her mentor Bernard Maybeck, Ernest Coxhead, A.C. Schweinfurth, Louis C. Mullgardt, Willis Polk, and many others) to design buildings that incorporated locally manufactured materials, emphasized the natural qualities of materials, left structural elements exposed, integrated the site and landscape, and employed skilled artists and craftspeople to execute work of superb quality.

For more information, contact the author at [johanna.kahn@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.kahn@gmail.com).

## CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Peggy Levine has been volunteering at The North Star House for close to eight years, and throughout that time she has reached out to, partnered with and made contact with countless numbers of community members, including businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals. Many of these contacts have gone on to help the North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC) as it moves toward fulfilling its master plan of becoming a cultural events center for our area.

With limited financial resources to fund work and activities at the North Star House, but with a great deal of creative energy, Peggy has connected with other community partners to create win-win situations that end up benefiting us all. One example is the evolution of the current modular stage. These pieces have helped several organizations present staged events at the North Star House. In 2009, Peggy and her husband Howard got a call from Cathy Whittlesey at the Nevada City Chamber that the Banner Grange had some stage pieces that they didn’t need anymore. Scott Gilbert and a few others from the Foothill Theater Company helped Peggy and Howard move the pieces to the Hague House on the North Star property. The pieces were subsequently used by Center Stage for their children’s performances, by the Bear Yuba Land Trust and Center for the Arts for an auxiliary stage at one of their fundraisers, and by SYRCL for their musicians at a fundraising event.



Center Stage's Performance of Twelfth Night on the new North Star House stage.

Originally, there were four 4'x11' platforms about 18" high, not quite enough for a large group. So this year, the Bear Yuba Land Trust, with donations from Caseywood, David Yonendka's Fine Line Joinery and Randy Young's Carpet, made six new pieces and carpeted them all to match. The ten pieces can be put together in different ways to facilitate the configurations musicians or a theater group could use. The new adaptable modular stage was used at the August House Party with Lorraine Gervais. This will continue to be very useful for future community groups as they discover and use the North Star House for their events.

The North Star Historic Conservancy is very thankful for the support we have received and continue to enjoy. We are also thankful for Peggy Levine and her on-going efforts to reach out and successfully engage supporters for the good of the North Star House and our community.

# EASEMENT OBTAINED FOR VEHICULAR ACCESS

By John Taylor

When the North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC) started work on our applications for a Master Plan (and zone change) for the North Star House property, it was discovered that a short portion of our perimeter, a one-way road extended onto the adjoining property owned by Newmont Mining Corporation. It was unfortunate, but not uncommon in Nevada County, as roadways, fences and utilities often wander over a property boundary. In any case, the NSHC needed this easement to demonstrate to the County that we had the authority to use and improve this roadway.

The area of the roadway extending onto Newmont's property was only a short section, probably less than 100' in length. I contacted Bill Lyle of Newmont Mining about the possibility of obtaining an easement so we could legally confirm our use of the road. Mr. Lyle was agreeable to this request and had his surveyor, Ron Dundas, work with Andy Cassano of Nevada City Engineering, on developing the proper documents. Though it took some efforts from all parties, the easement was signed, recorded and delivered to the County. Thanks to the cooperation of Lyle, Dundas and Cassano, we were able to have the easement recorded prior to our hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Mission accomplished!

## THE "HOUSE PARTY" ROCKED!

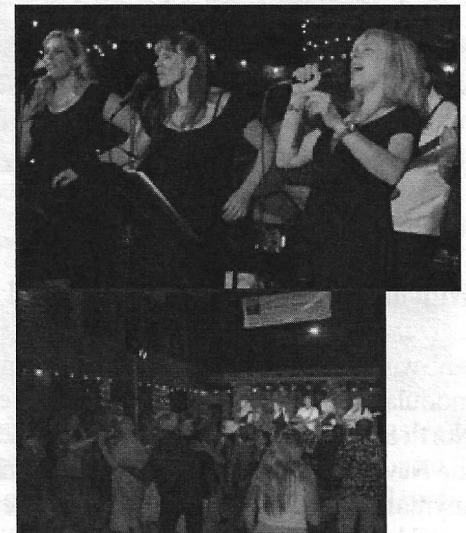
By David Wright

A happy group of around 250 attendees enjoyed the first annual "House Party" at the historic North Star House. Lorraine Gervais and The Love Bombs belted out a great variety of powerful rhythm and blues tunes and got the crowd dancing! A crowd warming banter the way only Lorraine can deliver accompanied her rocking music.

Wonderful food provided by Calla Lily Crepes, Papa John's Pizza, Lazy Dog Ice Cream, Fable Coffee, and a wine/beer bar hosted by Szabo Winery kept the good tastes and drinks coming.

The courtyard and east lawn of The North Star House is proving to be a warm and intimate venue for small concerts like this. The "House Party" was not only fun, but it raised needed funds to get the house ready to host year round events, in keeping with the North Star Historic Conservancy's Master Plan to be a cultural events center for Nevada County.

This year's "House Party" was made possible by the sponsorship of local supporting businesses: Telestream, B&C Hardware, C.A.S.E Contracting, Mohr's Excavation Company, Comfort Plumbing, Hart and Hart, Hansen Brothers Enterprises, Young's



Lorraine Gervais and the Love Bombs keep the audience entertained and get people dancing!

Photo by Marion Charlotte,  
[marioncharlottephotography.com](http://marioncharlottephotography.com)

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The work of the North Star Historic Conservancy continues to move forward with the help of hard working and dedicated board members and volunteers. These volunteers have donated over 20,000 hours towards reaching our goals. Each issue of the "Star" introduces some of these amazing volunteers. This issue focuses on volunteers Larry Dulmage and Cindy Lazzareschi.



**Larry Dulmage** is a man of few words, but a volunteer of many, many hours! He summed up that he and his wife have been moving to Nevada City since the year 2000! Being the co-founder of a start-up company in the Silicon Valley conspired to slow the moving progress to a crawl, and for the next ten years he was building this new company along with a new house in Nevada City. The company was a huge success, garnering seven patents along the way for innovative new robotic systems. Larry sold the company about the same time they finished the house in Nevada City. He considered this to be a great time to end his thirty-five years in Semiconductor Manufacturing Equipment and fifteen years in Ion Physics Research in Southern California. Larry then became involved with the North Star Historic Conservancy and has been heading up the Construction Team for the ground floor rehabilitation project ever since. Larry and his team of volunteers can usually be found at the North Star House on Tuesdays and Thursdays working their magic to transform heavily damaged walls, floors and rooms into new and usable space for our conservancy office, the new kitchen and bathrooms. Larry's work has been crucial to readying the North Star House for hosting many cultural events.

**Cindy Lazzareschi** and her husband moved to Nevada City from the Bay Area in 2012. They chose this area for the same reasons as so many others; the natural beauty, recreational opportunities, very friendly people, and the peace and quiet. Cindy received her Bachelor's Degree in English and decided many years later to return to school for her Teaching Credential. She began her teaching career teaching English at J.L. Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto. After teaching for ten years, she returned to school once again for a Master's Degree in Education and a Reading Specialist Credential. Along with English, she taught reading to small groups of students and created a reading program, which was duplicated at the other two middle schools in Palo Alto. Cindy retired in 2012, and now enjoys her home and garden, kayaking, hiking, camping, reading, quilting, and volunteering with the North Star Historic Conservancy.

## COMMUNITY GROWERS' MARKET AT THE NORTH STAR HOUSE

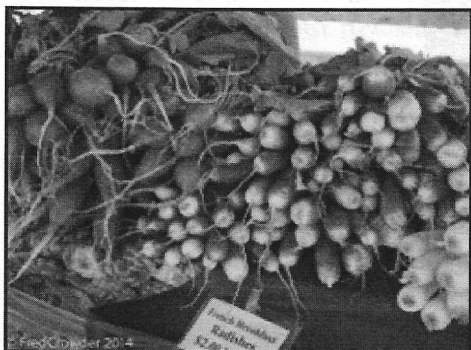
By Stephanie Cohelan

Assistant Manager, Nevada County Certified Growers' Market

They say when stars collide families are born, and that is just the way members of the Nevada County Certified Growers' Market feel about our partnership with the North Star House. Our fifty-five vendors feel right at home every Saturday morning starting at 8AM and continue to feel that way right up until close at 12:30 PM. Without a doubt, we have the very best location in the county to welcome and serve our customers, and this is reflected week after week where over the past year alone we have enjoyed an 11% increase in vendor numbers and a 24% increase in sales.

Our mission of bringing growers and community together by offering local, farm-fresh fruit, vegetables, baked goods, grass fed meats, poultry and eggs is one we take seriously, and we look forward to a continued and well attended market through November 22nd come rain or come shine.

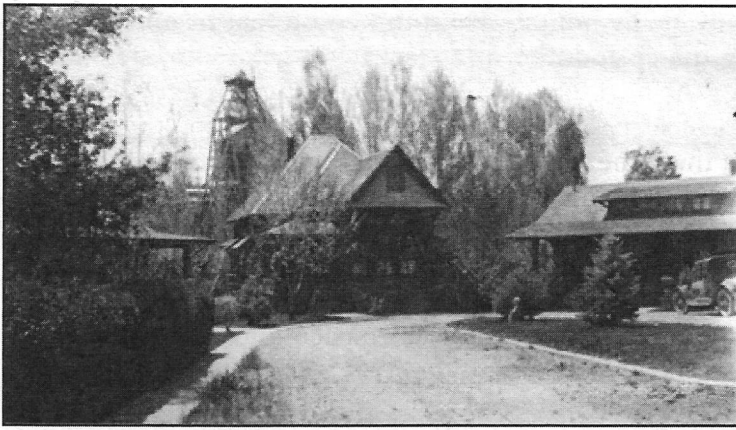
In addition to the Certified Section of the market, we also have a thriving Community Event Section where customers can purchase a variety of items from local artisans and crafters. We also offer hot food, live music, and weekly activities for kids. Every first Saturday children can enjoy art projects with Mim, and every third Saturday they can have fun with metal working projects with Jerry.



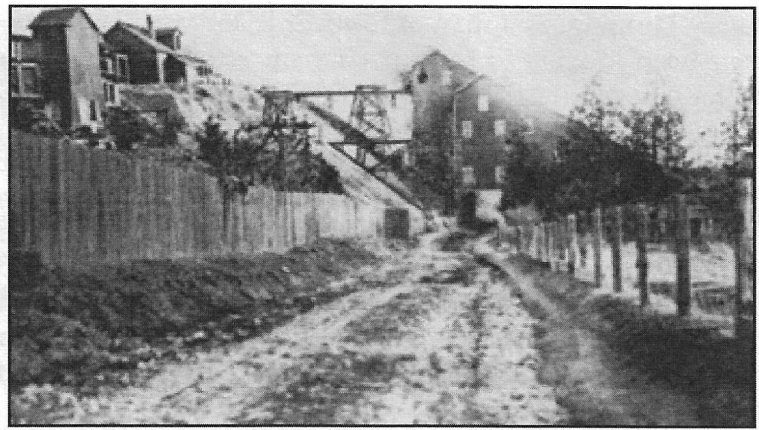
We congratulate the North Star House Conservancy on its recent achievements as it works toward fulfilling its Master Plan of becoming a community-gathering place and cultural hub, and we feel privileged to be part of the restoration of this historical landmark in Nevada County.

We invite you to visit us at the Growers' Market Saturday mornings where EBT, Square, and WIC are welcomed, and plenty of free parking is available. While you shop, be sure to tour the beautiful North Star House where docents will guide you through the colorful history of our very own *Jewel of the Sierra*.

Delicious produce from the Growers' Market at the North Star House. Photo Credit by Fred Crowder



**Can you identify this?** It was a part of the old North Star Mine. We'll reveal the identity in the next issue of "The Star"!



**Mystery Revealed!** Answer to the mystery photo from August's issue: The photo was of the North Star Stamp Mill on Auburn Road.

## ***Progress! Progress! Progress!***

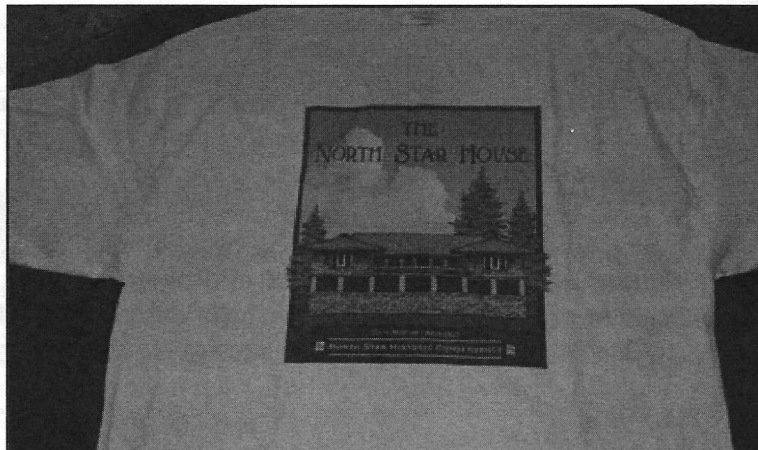
**Ground'Floor'Project'Update:** The intrepid Construction Team is moving forward with progress on the ground floor of the North Star House. Larry and his team report that:

- The Kitchen floor is now complete
- Most walls are now in place in the kitchen
- There is a new beam in place in the kitchen
- Remaining plaster is being removed from kitchen and office
- Most walls in bathrooms are now complete
- The new Conservancy Office floor is down
- There is a temporary sink installed in the kitchen, which brings potable water to the house for the first time in decades!

The next work challenge will be to demo the remaining kitchen space and office exterior walls. Drop by the North Star House Saturdays from 8-12 to see the progress and the new pergola!

## **NEW NORTH STAR HOUSE T-SHIRTS**

The newly designed North Star T-shirts were unveiled at the House Party and very quickly were snapped up. Many of our supporters said they would like to have one, so we ordered more. We have men's and women's sizes available for a donation of \$20 each. Please email David Wright: [david@davidwrightarchitect.com](mailto:david@davidwrightarchitect.com) or give him a call at 530-477-5057 if you would like to arrange to get one of these great shirts.





# HORTICULTURAL WALKING TOUR AT THE NORTH STAR HOUSE

Join Carole Miller on Saturday, October 20, 2014 at 11 AM for a one-hour walk-about on the North Star House property. This fall tour will feature fruit and nut trees, heritage roses, and the native California Canyon Live Oak. The walk will visit the orchard, Gardener's Cottage, the site of the 1880's Supervisor's cottage, as well as viewing the historic plants at the North Star House. Listen to historic stories and gain horticultural information about many of the North Star's 60 heritage plantings that still thrive on the property. Learn about Felix Gillet's and Luther Burbank's connection to A.D. Foote, the original owner of the North Star House. We request a \$5.00 donation. Please wear closed toe shoes. Meet on the terrace of the North Star House at 11 AM.



Where is this North Star House mystery spot? Find out on the Horticultural Walking Tour on October 20!

## WANT TO SAVE A TREE? "GO GREEN" WITH "THE STAR"!

OK.... maybe not save a *whole* tree, but at least several branches. Many of our readers have asked us to "Go Green" and offer our quarterly newsletter electronically. Thanks to new volunteer, Susan Kane, we now have set up a special email program called Constant Contact that will allow us to safely email the North Star Historic Conservancy's quarterly newsletter, "The Star," to any of our supporters who choose to go electronic. We will start in January 2015, so there is plenty of time for you to let us know your preference.

If you would you like to receive "The Star" via your email address, you will need to do two things:

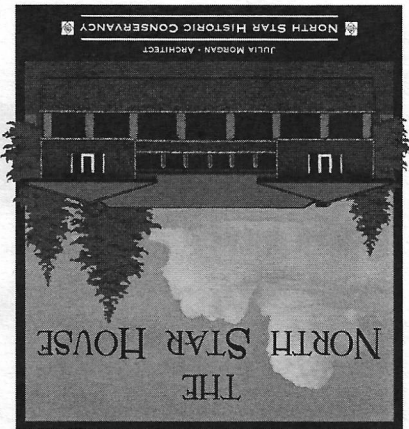
- 1) Email Cheryl Belcher: [cherylmbelcher@gmail.com](mailto:cherylmbelcher@gmail.com) and tell her that you would like to "Go Green" with The Star and;
- 2) Make sure you let us know the email address you want us to use.

For those of you who want to continue to receive a hard copy in the mail, you don't have to do a thing. You will continue to receive your newsletter via the postal service.



New Signs help visitors see their way to the North Star House  
Thanks to the following volunteers for their work on the signs project: Doug Forster (tractor), Alex Szabo, Vance Goss, Tom Van Wagner, Steven Smith, Dan Mc McCarthy, Elizabeth Dunn (drafting), Craig Weaver, Mike Weaver, David Wright, and Grass Valley Sign Company

North Star Historic Conservancy  
12075 Auburn Road  
Grass Valley, Ca. 95949



**Wish List –**

- A (functioning ) gas-powered weed trimmer
- 2 drawer wooden file cabinets – need 2
- 4 drawer file cabinet – need 1
- 1 period tabletop lamp for the office
- 1920's era style over head lighting fixtures
- 5 LED Can lights for the new kitchen Golf Cart batteries 12 volt deep cycle – need 6

Contact Larry Dulmage at [ldulmage@att.net](mailto:ldulmage@att.net), if you can donate.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WANT TO LEARN RE-GROUTING?

We need volunteers willing to learn the art of re-grouting. The 109 year old masonry around the base of The North Star House needs to be re-grouted. Larry Dulmage is setting up a class to teach how to do this work. After the class, volunteers will work with our mason to do the job. Contact Larry Dulmage at [ldulmage@att.net](mailto:ldulmage@att.net) if you would like to be in the class and help.



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