

The STAR

March 2015

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 restore its place as an active hub of the community.

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President's Message* By Joe Heckel** ***Evolving to a Cultural Event Center

The vision of opening the North Star House and the historic grounds to the public as a cultural event center is a reality. 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. Now, we 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.

Opening the doors to welcome the public may seem simple, but operating as an event venue business is a new challenge. Since the NSHC was formed in 2006, our mission has centered on protecting and refurbishing the North Star House. We are now evolving into a cultural events center, which we hope someday will be recognized as a premier venue in the Gold Country. With the help of our members, donors and volunteers, we have every reason to believe we will be successful as an event center. Our objective is simply to generate the income needed for a sustainable business. Sustainability, in our terms, is not only maintaining a business structure to manage the property as an event center, but to allow the North Star House and other historic elements of this unique property to one day be fully rehabilitated.

To this end, our board is working on a number of projects in 2015 to help with this transition. There are too many to list, but let's start with the most significant. The board has prepared a new business plan, designed to address our operational needs as more of a cultural event center. A marketing plan has been prepared which identifies a specific marketing strategy for us to follow in future years. Our newly adopted 2015 budget was restructured to include expenditures for our operational and marketing needs (it tied the business plan and marketing plan together). Probably the most significant project is the lower floor remodel, which should be completed by spring and will feature a new catering kitchen, new restrooms, a new office, and an array of new windows and doors. Also, we're updating our website and have developed a new brochure.

Whew.....we hit the ground running in 2015. Thanks to all of you who have contributed your time and/or money in these efforts. Anyone inclined to participate in this historical and meaningful movement is welcome to bring your talents, passions, friends, hat, broom, shovel, hammer, lunch and a lounge chair.

Soroptimist International \$10,000 Grant for Heritage Garden!

Soroptimist International of the Sierra Foothills (SISF) has awarded its first Impact Project Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to the North Star Conservancy for the building of the Heritage Garden. This is the first Impact Project Grant given by the local Soroptimist group. SISF is a group of dedicated business women who raise funds specifically for the betterment of women and children by providing financial support to local, regional and international

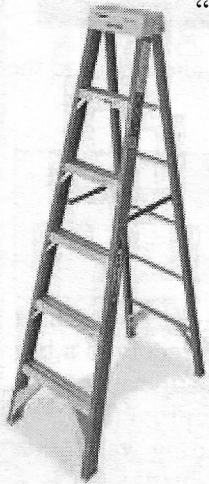
organizations that are serving educational and environmental needs. SISF gives approximately \$20,000 in grants and scholarships every year. The funds come from fundraising events, including the Yard Sale and the Garden Tour.

More information about the generous Soroptimist Grant in the next issue of "The Star" including the Heritage Garden Landscape Design Plan by Jim Pyle, David Wright, and Doug Forster

2015-16 Mini-Campaign Launched

The North Star Historic Conservancy has identified a series of priority projects over the next four years that will need to be funded in order to fully implement Phase I of the NSHC's Master Plan, including the North Star House and the 14 acre historic property. The completion of these priority improvements will position the organization and property so it can fully operate as a

"cultural event center" and be in compliance with all conditions and requirements.



The Priority Projects Include:

- New shingles for the west-facing side of the house
- A Fire/Security System
- Re-grouting of all masonry around the house
- Rehabilitation of the library
- New entry doors and kitchen windows for the courtyard
- Paving and re-surfacing for access roads and pull-outs and improvements to north parking area
- ADA accessible parking, pathways to the house, and additional road signage
- Repair/reconstruct the irrigation water tanks
- Establishment of the new North Star Heritage Garden



The total for these improvements will be \$246,500. Impossible, you say? How can we plan to accomplish so much for such a low price? Volunteers and supporters make this possible. With over 23,000 hours of volunteer hours invested in the North Star House and grounds to date, we can attest to fantastic community support.

We will be breaking up the work to raise this money with a series of 3 Mini-Campaigns over the next five years. We are off to a fantastic start on the first Mini-Campaign with over \$18,000 raised to date. You have seen the progress at the House. Want to see more?

Please consider a special gift to support our project work. All gifts are tax deductible and will give you the satisfaction of being a part of making the "Star" shine again. You can either designate a specific project, or allow us to use your gift as needed. Any amount will be appreciated, but if you donate \$100 or more between now and June 1st, you will receive one of our newly designed North Star T-shirts as a gift (while supplies last!). Many thanks to Lorraine Gervais for her fine design work on this T-shirt.

You can use the form in this newsletter to mail in your support check, or you can drop by the house starting April 11th to donate in person. Please call **Cheryl at 530-205-8793** if you have any questions

Transfer of Property to NSHC! *Significant Milestone Targeted for 2015*

By Joe Heckel

One of the most significant steps the North Star Historic Conservancy will be taking in 2015 will be to consummate the transfer of title of the 14 acre site to NSHC from the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT). When the NSHC was formed in 2006, a Purchase Agreement was executed with BYLT, formerly the Nevada County Land Trust, in which ownership of the 14 acre site would be officially transferred to NSHC. The agreement had a number of milestones for NSHC to address before the transfer could occur, largely to ensure the NSHC was economically and legally viable to take over the stewardship of the North Star House and property. The milestones included investing at least \$1,000,000

of improvement and volunteer labor on site, having an adopted Master Plan governing the future use of the property, having a Business Plan, and Capital Campaign Plan. The NSHC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that these milestones have been addressed to the point where a formal request will be filed with BYLT by April 1, 2015. This is an important achievement for both NSHC and BYLT and speaks to the visionary efforts of past Board members and volunteers from both organizations who sought to protect this historic iconic feature. At this point, NSHC is extremely hopeful that this important milestone will be achieved. Stay tuned.....an announcement may arrive shortly!

Julia Morgan and the California Arts and Crafts Movement Part 2

by Johanna Kahn, M.Arch.H.

Despite the distinction of her world-class architectural education at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Julia Morgan became better known for her instrumental role in the movement to create architecture that was distinctly Californian. It was through Arts and Crafts expression that Morgan demonstrated her signature ingenuity.

One prominent vein of the California Arts and Crafts movement that can be detected in Morgan's work evokes a strongly Mediterranean character, specifically the influence of Spanish, Italian, and French architectural traditions. Beginning in the 1870s, the California-Mediterranean comparison was used as a promotional device to celebrate the state's scenery and climate, but this analogy was applied primarily to southern California. California's Hispanic heritage, however, was not exclusively southern, and a new interest in the Spanish missions brought about the Mission Revival Style. In San Francisco, it gained popularity in 1894 when several mission-inspired buildings were exhibited

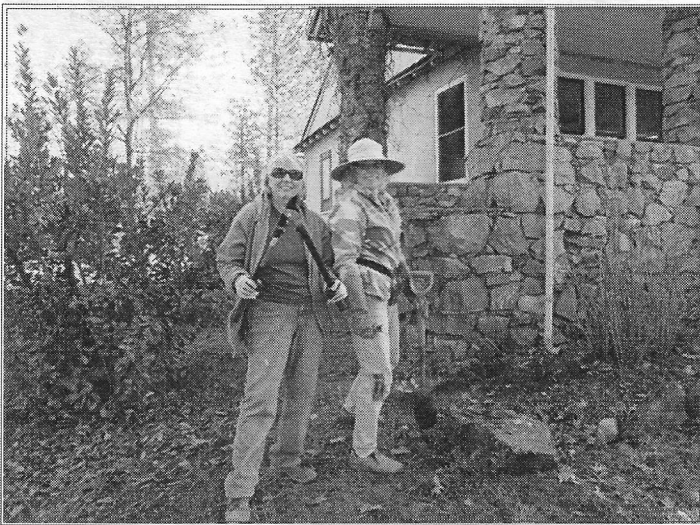
at the Midwinter Fair and when "Mission Style" furniture was first designed for the city's Swedenborgian Church of the New Jerusalem. The multifaceted Mediterranean analogy extended to northern California and reached San Francisco in the early 20th century. This is perhaps best illustrated by the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, which conceptually represented an ideal city. (At this exposition, Morgan was involved in the design for the interior of the YWCA Building.)

Julia Morgan is remembered first and foremost as an Arts and Crafts architect, and her contribution to the California Arts and Crafts movement cannot be overstated. While not every Morgan building can or should be classified as "Arts and Crafts," she embraced that international movement early in her career, and its sustained influence is an essential characteristic of her life's work.

For more information, contact the author at johanna.kahn@gmail.com.



Julia Morgan
Architect



Rose Team Volunteers Sherri Anderson
and

Barbara Frielander

*Volunteers needed to help with
grant research and writing for
North Star projects.

Questions or interest please email
Cheryl at: cherlmbelcher@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed:

Want to join the Rose Team? We work a 4-hour session twice a month. If you have gardening or pruning skills and would like to help, please contact Carole Miller at: 272-7347 or carole650@me.com.

North Star Docents get training to talk about the history of the house and the stories of the people involved. Docents serve one 3-hour shift on Saturday mornings. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carole Miller at:

272-7347 or carole650@me.com.

**Community Growers' Market at the
North Star House
Opens April 11 at 8 am**

Selection of New Co-Chairs for Grounds Committee for 2015

By Joe Heckel

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of two individuals to serve as Co-Chairs for the Grounds Committee. Doug Forster and John Taylor agreed and were unanimously appointed by the board to jointly serve in this capacity for 2015. The Grounds Committee is largely responsible for overseeing and maintaining our 14.6 acre property. The focus of maintenance and upkeep is on the improved areas of the property and includes landscaping (primarily lawn areas), roadways, walkways, drainage, parking areas, signage, utilities and fire protection (i.e. vegetation management). A secondary responsibility is to monitor the condition of the on-site buildings under lease or use by other parties and to complete periodic maintenance. The committee works with the board, the on-site caretaker and other committees to set priorities for their work projects. If you like to work outdoors and wish to help Doug or John as a member of this committee, even for a few hours each week, please contact us.....there are a number of great projects for 2015!

Construction Update

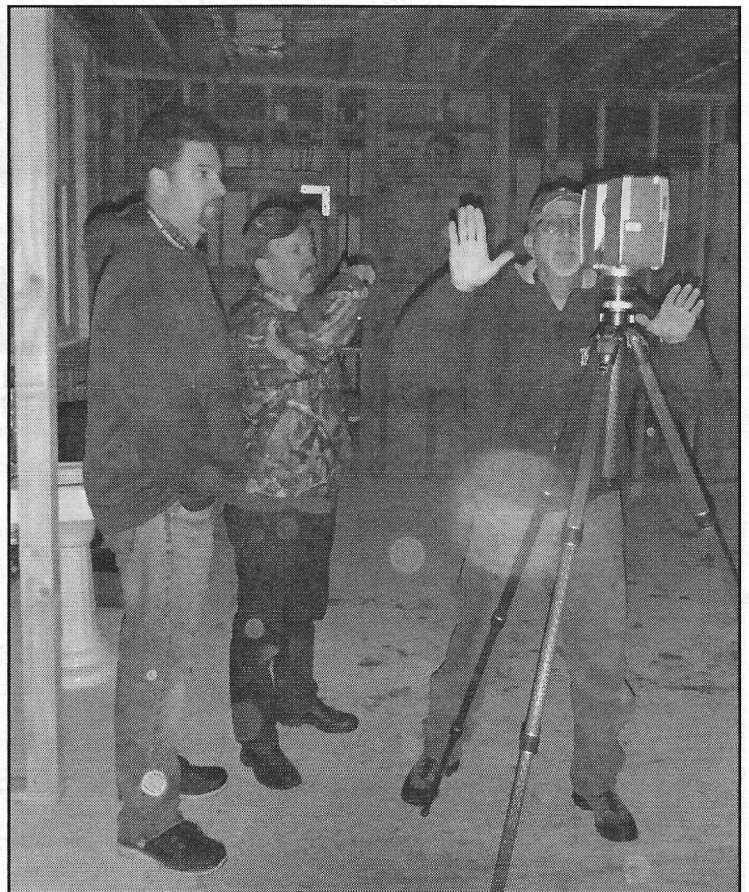
By Larry Dulmage

Kitchen and Bathroom Project

2014 was a great year at the North Star House thanks to some fantastic volunteers and the amazing work of some of the best contractors in Nevada County: A&E Heating and Air, Comfort Plumbing, and C.A.S.E. Electrical. All infrastructure is completed. We can only say "Thanks." We are going to be calling for our next inspection in March. We have closed up all the floors, repaired a lot of rotten wood, reseated some large beams installed during the old school days of the house, and framed in many new walls. We have two projects left to wrap-up: electrical and changes to the new North Star Historic Conservancy/Event Planning office. Many thanks to our volunteers: Ron Breeden, Dick Vasey, Bob Rhodes, Adam, Doug Young, Don Dumas, Chuck Field, Tim Colbert, Craig Weaver and his father, Mike, and Bob Lawrence. Dick Vasey is out on the injured reserve due to an accident at home. We hope to see him back soon.

New doors and windows

are being installed, and the wall paneling in the dining room is now being sanded to remove the last remnants of graffiti. Next steps involve re-installation of the panels and sheet rock to the kitchen, pantry, and office areas. The new fire and security system will be installed after that is completed.



Community support from Ron Dundas (right), of KPFF Engineers. Laser Imaging measures the interior of the house which will serve to accurately map all the room dimensions and floor plans for our future projects

*** We need help with demolition, finish carpentry, rough carpentry, and grout-ing work. If you have these skills come out either Tuesdays or Thursdays to the house or contact Larry Dulmage at: ldulmage@att.net for more information.**

We Have Donated Over 23,000 Hours To The North Star

WE ARE MAKING 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 23,000 hours towards reaching our goals. Each issue of the "Star" introduces some of these amazing volunteers. This issue focuses on Peggy Levine and Doug Forster.

We Have Donated Over 23,000 Hours Towards The North Star Conservancy

Peggy Levine

A.K.A. Margaret Warner Swan, has a degree from and is a 1990 co-founder of The Fine Art of Printmaking from San Francisco State College. Her artwork is signed in her maiden name - hence the A.K.A. - which shows up in interesting places! Peggy has been volunteering on the North Star Project since 2006 - starting with site cleanup and then moving on to the Board of the North Star Historic Conservancy as Secretary and now with the title of Executive Director. Peggy has served on the board of Nevada Union High School in an elected position. She has served on many community boards such as the Nevada County Arts Council, Foothill Theatre Company and the Center of the Arts. She and her husband Howard Levine, have been involved with many other local organizations including Music in the Mountains, the Sierra Nevada Hospital Foundation and the South Yuba River Citizens League, often serving as artists working on decorations and sets. She currently serves on the Foundation Board for the Sierra College Campus in Nevada County, and the Historical Commissions for the City of Grass Valley.

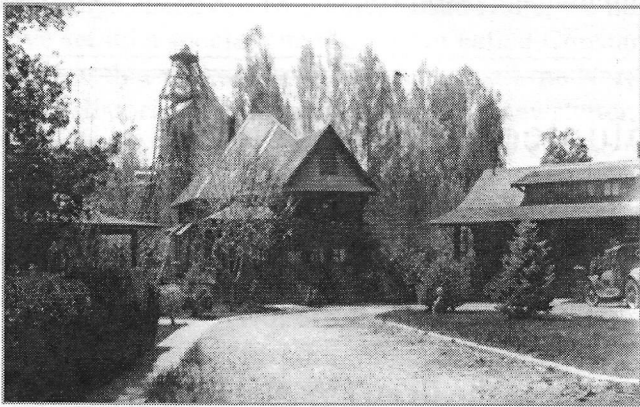
Peggy hopes that all of her experience contributes to her ability to promote the North Star Conservancy's vision of saving and promoting a very significant asset to our community.

Doug Forster

Doug Forster first became involved with the North Star House through the Nevada County Certified Growers' Market. As a Growers' Market Board member, Doug worked closely with the North Star House volunteers to establish the popular Saturday morning market at its current location. The site's charms and the tireless North Star House volunteers have contributed greatly to the Market's success. When offered an opportunity to serve on the North Star House Grounds Committee, Doug quickly accepted. Although he suspects the offer was made largely to gain continued access to his tractor implements that are compatible with the North Star House tractor, he is looking forward to continually improving the grounds to broaden the appeal of the North Star House to a variety of community groups and events.



Grounds Committee
volunteers needed to work 6-10
hours a month at the NS property.
WE will be working on
pathways, sign installation and
other light site improvements.



Answer to last issue's mystery photo: The photo showed the head frame at the North Star Mine Shaft.



Can you identify this historic photo? Who is it? Where is she? Mystery photo answer will be revealed in the next issue of "The Star."

The North Star Historic Conservancy 2015

Events and Happenings

Thursday, March 19th: Table Top Mixer

5:30 - 7:30p.m. Nevada City Elks

Lodge - 518 Hwy. 49 N.C.95959

Sponsors: Nevada City and Greater Grass Valley Chambers of Commerce

Saturday, March 28: Docent Meeting.

NSH docents will meet to socialize and talk about the spring and summer schedules. We meet in the NSH dining room at 10 AM. Visitors are welcome to come to this meeting.

Saturday, April 11: VOLUNTEER FAIR from 1-4 PM in the NSH Courtyard and House. Learn about volunteer opportunities!

Saturday, April 11: NSH Growers' Market

8 AM to 12:30 PM through November. Growers offer local, farm-fresh fruit, vegetables, baked goods, grass fed meats, poultry, and eggs. Also available are a variety of items from local artisans and crafters. Enjoy hot food, live music, and weekly activities for kids. The Grower's Market is truly an example of the community coming together.

Friday, May 8th: "Speakeasy" at the NSH with Lorraine Gervais and her Jazz Hound and The Bow-Tie Beauty Dancers. " 7:30 - 10:00p.m. Full bar with specialty drinks, a costume contest, classic car photos, complimentary appetizers and desserts, and dancing 'till you drop! Sponsored by NSH \$45, \$40 for members.

Saturday, May 16th: Spring Landscape Tour.

The one hour walking tour starts at 11 am on the

terrace. We will walk to the Hague House and along the road to the pond area. Banksia roses, mock orange and Bridal Wreath Spirea are just a few of the plants that will be in bloom. Please wear closed toed shoes as the roads are rocky. Tour costs \$5.

Saturday, June 13th: Rose Landscape Tour. The one hour walking tour starts at 11 am on the terrace. We will walk through the orchard to the Gardener's Cottage. Heritage roses should be in full bloom. Felix Gillet fruit and nut trees and heritage roses will be highlights of the tour. Please wear closed toed shoes as the roads are rocky. Tour costs \$5.

Thursday, August 6th: Joint Chamber Mixer and Ribbon-Cutting 5:30 -7:30p.m.

Saturday, August 29th: "House Party at NSH with Lorraine Gervais and her Love Bombs." 7:30 - 10:00p.m. Enjoy a dance concert under the stars with casual lawn seating, tantalizing snacks, and thirst-quenching beverages sponsored by NSH Conservancy to benefit and manage the Julia Morgan NSH projects Admission: \$40, Members \$35.

Sunday, September 20th: "A Conversation With Julia Morgan: Celebrate 110 Years of The North Star House." 2:00 - 5:00 PM. Celebrate the 110th Birthday of The NSH with a presentation by Julia Morgan (Betty Marvin, Architectural Historian), tours of the house and garden and complimentary beverages and goodies. Sponsored by the NSH Conservancy to benefit and manage NSH projects. \$35, \$30 for Members.

Visit Us At Our Volunteer Fair

April 11th from 1-4 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

Want to learn how you can? We are holding a Volunteer Fair on April 11th from 1-4 p.m. in the courtyard and house so you can learn of all the job opportunities for construction, grounds, docents, events and more!

As it happens, April 11th is the opening day of the Grower's Market, so come a little early and find the perfect produce or craft item before you attend the Fair.

Talk to the Program and Project Chairs to learn more.
Your talent will help us to make the "Star" shine even brighter!

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eScrip!

eScrip is the longest running, most successful shop-to-raise "electronic scrip" program in the United States. eScrip has helped schools and nonprofits to **raise over \$400 million**. It's free, and you can support up to three schools or nonprofits. **Just go to the eScrip website www.escrip.com/signup**. You can register store cards or credit/debit cards securely online. You can shop locally—at Big O Tires, Safeway, or SPD Markets -- or on-line, choosing from thousands of merchants, including dining and travel options. If you are already a subscriber to eScrip, please consider designating the NSHC as a recipient. This is a terrific way to support our efforts as we continue to refurbish the North Star House. Whether you shop at locally designated stores or on-line, it can add up to a significant amount very quickly.

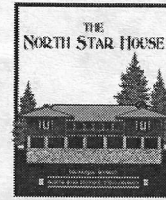
Go Green Save a Tree

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 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. If you would you like to receive "The Star" via your email address, you will need to do is

Email Cheryl Belcher: cherylmbelcher@gmail.com and tell her that you would like to "Go Green" with The Star

AND

for your own copy of our newsletter be sure we have your information!



Have your next event here with us.
It'll be an affair to remember.

Contact our event coordinator for
details

Peggy Levine, Executive Director
530/272-1873 Home Office
530/400-4109 Cell

Under the Covers at North Star: Update from Behind the Scenes

By Jim Bair, Board Member

Highly visible progress is being made at North Star House, ranging from the kitchen and bathrooms to the pergola and new courtyard doors and windows. Other progress is not as visible, but crucial to our transition to a cultural events venue. When the County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously last September to approve the zoning changes and Master Plan for our 14 acre property, the second of a two-part lengthy process was set in motion. The first part was in gaining county approval, and the second part is to address a myriad of county requirements, prompting dozens of projects. The projects are diverse, including a Fire Protection Plan, code-compliant septic systems, handicap access, paved parking areas, exterior lighting, signage, etc. Just managing these projects is a huge job in itself. We have completed the Fire Protection Plan that details programs like vegetation management, road improvements, and standard traffic signage. We are in the final stage of submitting the Plan to the County, thanks to the professional expertise of Joanne Drummond, Director of the Fire Safe Council, and Terry McMahan, Deputy Fire Marshall, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District. Less visible efforts include a 14 month marketing planning program. Through the efforts of Lowell Robertson, Cheryl Belcher, Joe Heckel, myself, and the entire Board, a detailed Marketing Plan has been written that will be used to promote our property both locally and regionally as a cultural event center. The Marketing Plan is being integrated into an updated Business Plan. Not a small part of the marketing effort is the North Star House brochure, a trifold handout that is printed and will be on our updated Web site! For copies, contact me, Peggy Levine, or Cheryl Belcher. Yea!

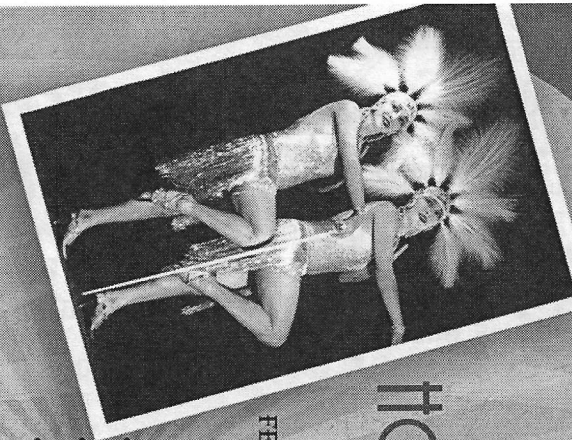
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SPEAKEASY

AT THE NORTHSTAR HOUSE

MAY 8TH 7:30-10:30PM



AN EVENING OF HOOGT • HOT JAZZ & DANCING GIRLS

FEATURING

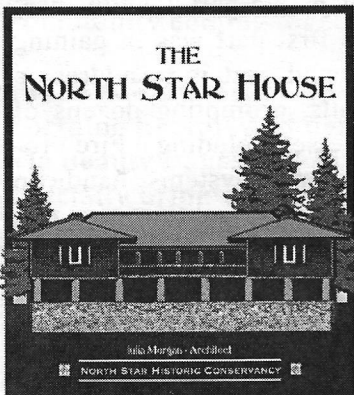
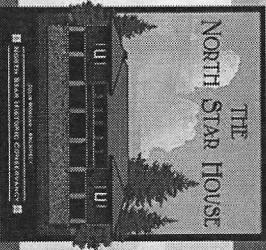
• LORRAINE GERVAIS & THE SIN CITY SOCIETY
JACOB AGUIRRE • DANNY McLEON • JENNIFER VAUGHAN
CHARLIE FRISER • BENNY BRYAN

- BOW TIE BEAUTIES BURLESQUE
- BOOTLEGGED COCKTAILS
- SCINTILLATING CONVERSATION
- COSTUMED REVELRY & FLAPPERS GALORE
- FLASHBULB! PHOTOS! PACKARDS! DANCING!
- SWANKY APPETIZERS & DELISH DESSERTS!
- COSTUME CONTEST!

TICKET DONATIONS: ONLY \$45.00!

INFO & DIRECTIONS: WWW.NORTHSTARCONSERVANCY.ORG
(530) 278-6868

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North Star House Conservancy
12075 Auburn Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949

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details inside

See what so many of us are doing for fun! Get involved! It's contagious!!