

June 2016

## NSHC Board of Directors

Joe Heckel  
President

Larry Dulmage  
Vice President

Cheryl Belcher  
Treasurer

Susan Kane  
Secretary

Peggy Levine  
House Ambassador

Betzi Hart

Carole Miller

David Wright

## Newsletter Team

Susan Kane

Cindy Lazzareschi

Janice Lukenbill

NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY

# THE STAR NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

By Joe Heckel

### A Big Thank You to Our Supporters

### The North Star House Protected for Future Generations

Step by step, brick by brick, board by board, the North Star House and the historic grounds are being restored and transformed into a cultural event center for all to enjoy. The vision of renovating this incredible historic gem and opening it to the public is becoming a reality. On behalf of the Board of Directors for the North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC), I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors, members, and volunteers who have supported this effort over the years. Your dedication and commitment have resulted in saving one of the most beautiful and historic treasures in our county.

The North Star House was the business hub of the second largest gold producer in California history, the home of one of the significant and interesting families of the American West, The Foote family, and the first major work of the world's premier female architect, Julia Morgan. Built in 1905 as the main building for the North Star Mine headquarters, this National Historical Register Landmark has many stories to tell. Because of your willingness to help our non-profit organization, whether through your donation, membership, or rolling up your sleeves as a volunteer, those stories will be told to future generations.

The progress of transforming this property into a premier cultural event center continues. Our Board is nearing completion on a number of projects in 2016. Probably the most significant is the lower floor remodel for the North Star House featuring a new catering kitchen, two new restrooms, a new office, and an array of new windows and doors. This remodel also includes new plumbing, and electrical and heating systems for the house, allowing the interior to be available year-round for public use. 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

or tours, theatrical or musical performances and the display of arts. Your continued support is needed, now more than ever, so a number of these critical improvements can be made.

As we look into the future and what the North Star House perhaps means to the community and each one of us who have given our time and effort to preserve it, a quote from George Bernard Shaw may say it best.....

*"Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have gotten hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before passing it on to future generations."*

The NSHC is thankful to every donor, member and volunteer who has contributed to this effort. Your donations of time, money, or labor will leave a lasting legacy.

Stay tuned as we take our next step.....

Our New Web Site! [www.thenorthstarhouse.org](http://www.thenorthstarhouse.org). Take a look!

# Heritage Garden News

Betzi Hart

Though the rain left us guessing, the promise of Spring kept us moving, and the Garden Committee never missed a beat. Instead we fired up the tractor and moved mountains of dirt, preparing a foundation for our garden shed, and our beloved garden grounds.

Having lugged fence posts and panels, carried buckets, and pushed barrels, we are well on our way to completing a handsome garden fence. Then it will be fitted with custom built, tooled entry gates.

We received a generous donation from an anonymous donor to purchase the first of three trees – a Chinese Elm – *Ulmus Parviflora*. The same donor, and two of our committee members, Gary Emanuel and Charles Hart, each purchased memorial benches for the garden.

Additionally, our Garden Shed project is not only complete, but is secure, providing a safe place for storage.

The items slated to be completed this summer are: a decorative rock bench/retaining wall, the entry arbor, the walkways, the reflecting pond, installation of systems for both watering and lighting, and finally, the plants.

We could never have accomplished these rewarding projects without our dedicated volunteers – and the generous donations from our supporters – Wu-Way Landscape, Jerry's (LaFerriere) Tooling, and Nevada County Fence, who often work right alongside us.

And thank you to our work team: Jim Pyle and Obie Anderson (of Wu-Way Landscape), Ron Bailey, Ken Bales, Charlie Brock, Larry Dulmage, Gary Emanuel, Betzi Hart, Joe Heckel, John Schugren, Maiko Terrell, and David Wright.

Donors of trees, benches or gifts of \$1,000 or more will be specially recognized on a plaque honoring such contributions at the entrance of the Heritage Garden.



If you would like to help us with the next phase of this project,  
please contact us at:

[www.thenorthstarhouse.org](http://www.thenorthstarhouse.org)

or leave a message on our office phone 530-477-7126.



# Summer Events

at the North Star House

**O**n Sunday, June 26, 2016, we will present, *FAIR USE* a comic-drama by Sands Hall, which explores the controversy surrounding the renowned American author, Wallace Stegner, and his masterwork, *Angle of Repose*. Stegner based much of his novel on the lives of 19th century writer/illustrator Mary Hallock Foote, and her brilliant engineering husband, Arthur. In his novel, Stegner incorporates, unattributed, substantial excerpts from Mary's letters and her posthumously published reminiscences. The play examines the lengths to which artists may go as they create their work. *FAIR USE* tells the moving story of the Footes—born and bred easterners—as they struggle to create a life in the Far West.

This staged reading will take place from 2 - 5pm.

Wine will be available for purchase and light fare will be provided.

Tickets are \$15 Members/\$20 General Public/\$7 Students and are available on our website:  
[TheNorthStarHouse.org](http://TheNorthStarHouse.org)

*FAIR USE* premiered at The Foothill Theatre Company in Nevada City, California, in 2001. It has been the subject of academic papers, and a cover article, "Tangle of Repose," in *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*. An accomplished actor and director, Sands Hall has worked with the Oregon, Colorado, and Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festivals. She is an adjunct Assistant Professor of English at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA.

**O**n Sunday, July 31, 2016, to celebrate our community of rising stars, and to honor the emergence of Jazz at the very time the North Star House was being built, our theme for this year's annual house party is early decades of Jazz, **Joplin to Django**.

Beginning at 4:30pm, several small combos comprised of members of local favorite, Nevada County Concert Band, will play different genres of jazz in various locations on the property. Their sets will be unique, entertaining, and educational - a journey through time and the Great American Songbook. Then, at 7:30pm the Raspberry Jam Band, composed of luminaries whom you will recognize from many local bands, headlines our ragtime to swing evening.

Lawn games will be available, docents will offer house tours, and historic displays will be open. Summer Thyme's Bakery and Café will provide picnic dinner boxes, with child plates available, for purchase, and the North Star Historic Conservancy will serve wine, beer, soft drinks and desserts.

Tickets are \$20 Members / \$25 General Public / \$10 Students  
Under 12 years of age free entrance.

Proceeds from these events allow us to continue our work to rehabilitate the North Star House and property as an irreplaceable cultural landmark, and this year we are proud to re-introduce the Historic North Star House as an education and event venue newly accredited on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ticket information: [www.thenorthstarhouse.org](http://www.thenorthstarhouse.org)

## Julia Morgan, Architect and “Long-Distance Dreamer”

by Johanna Kahn, M.Arch.H.

Architect Julia Morgan (1872-1957) is famous for the versatility she exhibited during her prolific career. She traveled widely throughout her life and her first-hand knowledge of foreign architecture and cultures certainly enhanced her body of work. One might be surprised to learn that she never traveled to Asia, for she designed a number of East Asian-inspired buildings in Northern California.

Being a woman architect and therefore in the professional minority, Morgan was also sympathetic to ethnic minorities. Her San Francisco office, from which she practiced architecture for 45 years, was located very near Chinatown. Morgan became familiar with the neighborhood, studied the buildings, cultivated friendships with local shopkeepers, and occasionally purchased decorative items such as ceramics and embroidered fabrics for wealthy patrons like William Randolph Hearst. After her retirement at the age of 80, she betrayed a passion for Chinese calligraphy when Walter Steilberg, a longtime employee and successful

designer in his own right, found her alone in the office one night copying characters from *Introduction to Colloquial Cantonese*. Because of Morgan's love for all things foreign, Steilberg affectionately referred to her as a “long-distance dreamer.”

Morgan's notable Asian-inspired buildings include the **Methodist Chinese Mission School in San Francisco** (1907-10; today the Gum Moon Residence Hall, part of the Asian Women's Resource Center), the **Ming Quong Chinese School for Girls in Oakland** (1924-25; today the Julia Morgan School for Girls on the Mills College campus), the **Japanese YWCA in San Francisco** (1930; today Nihonmachi Little Friends Preschool), and the **Chinese YWCA in San Francisco** (1930; today the Chinese Historical Society of America). The facts that all four of these buildings are still in existence and that their present functions are similar to their original uses indicate the enduring significance of Julia Morgan's contribution to women's organizations and to the Chinese and Japanese communities of Northern California.

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

---

### Volunteers Make a Difference!

Maria Hetherton,  
Archivist

In the mid-1980s, I helped restore the William E. Colby house in Berkeley, another of Julia Morgan's early designs built the same year as North Star. It had been several years a UC student boarding house, but had seen far better straits than North Star. Still, it took months of elbow grease and Murphy's Oil to reveal the original beauty of the home. It was a pleasure to attend gatherings and occasionally reside at the house, absorbing the extraordinary sensibilities of the design.

When David Wright mentioned his work at North Star a few years back, I definitely looked forward to visiting. When my husband, Ken, and I attended a few gatherings for North Star volunteers, I was happy to learn there were ways I could contribute to the project. Now I am learning about the Foote family as I help to preserve and organize documents and artifacts concerning both the house and the Conservancy itself. Here is my motto: Come for the Julia Morgan; stay for the Footes.

As a folklorist trained in oral history and narrative, and having taught many years in the bay area, I'm looking forward to the ways we can unfold North Star's history through collecting and presenting her stories. It would also be wonderful to host workshops for school children that might combine an introduction to Mary Hallock Foote's creative output with their own autobiographical writing and art. Or promote engineering sciences by exploring the rudiments of hydropower generation—the hands-on creation of a water wheel, anyone? Both the North Star House and its grounds could host engaging learning experiences, and further define its role as a place of culture and creativity.

The vision, dedication and hard work of everyone involved in restoring, preserving and developing the North Star site truly inspires! I feel welcomed by everyone I've met so far, and am grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this endeavor so rich in cultural and historical significance.



## 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 35,000 hours towards reaching our goals.

Each issue of the "Star" introduces some of these amazing volunteers.

### Carol Stuart, Community Resources Coordinator

As many "newbies" to the Grass Valley/Nevada City area, Carol Stuart looked for ways to be involved with her new community. She was already involved with sales for her custom note card business, Richmar Note Cards, but wanted to be active in something reflecting the historical aspect of Grass Valley. Since her husband and she had not bought a historical house, the North Star House fit the bill. Her enthusiasm stems from her interest in art (had been an art major in college), architecture (had hoped to buy a Victorian home), western history (reflected in Mary Hallock Foote's novels) and the lore of the mining generation. A friend described her as curious—which she curiously agrees with. Her 36 years in education as a teacher, school and district administrator in Southern California provided experience for connecting with the community at local, state and national levels. As a North Star House docent for five years and recently Coordinator of Community Resources for The North Star Historic Conservancy, she thinks these are wonderful opportunities to provide and extend the fabulous history and potential of The North Star House.

### Tim Colbert, our dedicated electrical contractor

Tim Colbert of C.A.S.E. Contracting is an electrical contractor, and has been volunteering at the North Star House for over three years. According to Larry Dulmage, head of the Construction Committee, Tim is a contractor who regularly volunteers his time and knowledge in a "big time way," and is committed to the highest standards and quality.

Tim first saw the North Star House the way many others do, while visiting the Farmer's Market. He recognized it for the grand home it once was and knew he wanted to give back to the community by volunteering to help with the house's rehabilitation. He knew that work needed to be done on the house, and in a way that is functional, and true to the original structure of the house.

Tim finds working with Larry and his crew to be enjoyable, as well as knowing that the work he is doing will help the North Star House "be a show piece once again." Starting one project often leads to the necessity of another project. If walls are going to be opened up, Tim makes sure that all work in that area gets done, so that the walls don't have to be opened up again.

Tim's son Ryan who also works at C.A.S.E. described his father as a man who is "interested in doing the job right, doing the job right, he's honest, and he has integrity. My dad's awesome, and I'm proud of his work." We want to recognize Tim for his generosity of expertise, time, and his commitment to The North Star House.

eScrip

It's FREE

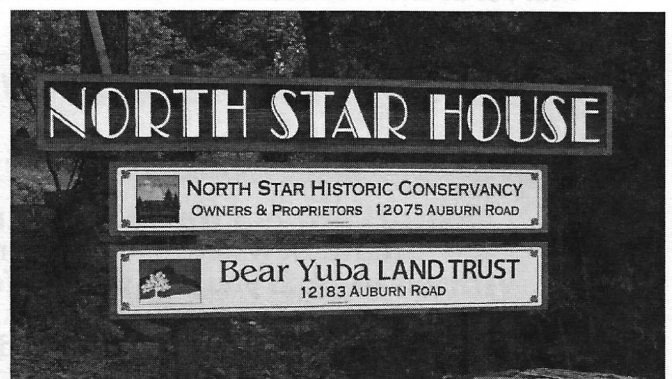
It's EASY

Using eScrip is free and easy.  
Just go to the eScrip website, [www.escrip.com/signup](http://www.escrip.com/signup).

Please consider designating the North Star Historic Conservancy as a recipient.

It's a terrific way to support our efforts to refurbish The North Star House.

### New Signs Point the way to The North Star House!



**"Mining Minds" Series**  
at The North Star House

On February 9, we launched our new series, "Mining Minds", with a memoir writing workshop led by local author, Rachel Howard. The workshop used the work of Mary Hallock Foote as inspiration, as attendees delved deeper into their own memoirs. "Mining Minds" will explore the arts, letters, and sciences of Nevada County. Watch for our next offerings in this exciting new series!



**Voted "Best in the County,"**

**Grass Valley Farmers Market**

Our market opened Saturday, April 16th, and will run until November 19, 2016.

Come out and enjoy fresh harvested produce, flowers, fresh baked goods, crafts, children's activities, live music, and much more!

**Saturdays are the best days to tour**

**Meet the North Star House Docents**

The trained docents at the North Star House take pleasure in answering simple questions or sharing in-depth perspectives on everything surrounding this remarkable piece of history. They can share information about this former hub of the Nevada County community, including the grounds, mines, and the building itself. They also can introduce visitors to the first owners of the house, engineer Arthur Foote, and his wife, writer and illustrator, Mary Hallock Foote. While touring the house, learn more about the architect, Julia Morgan, the first licensed woman architect in California. The docents look forward to sharing their passion for all there is to know about the house. Treat yourself and your family to a docent led tour and marvel at the work that has been accomplished to refurbish this Nevada County treasure.

***"The Star" is Moving...***

***.....and becoming greener!***

We will be issuing two hard copies of our NSHC Newsletter, "The Star", per year and two electronic copies.

And you will want to follow our progress electronically  
(the photos are much better in color)

Submit your preferred email address to: [theNorthStarHouse@gmail.com](mailto:theNorthStarHouse@gmail.com).



Local Audubon Society  
at the North Star House

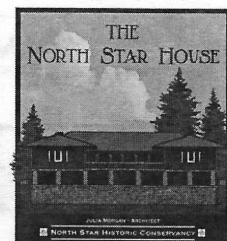


The local Audubon Society is replacing and adding a number of bird boxes to the property. Willie Hall is constructing the boxes of cedar and placing them on the property in accordance with the Master Plan. The hope was to attract Western Bluebirds and other interesting species. The boxes have been a success, as we have several nesting pairs of Bluebirds with offspring! Hall is also responsible for the beautiful poster in the library of the house with descriptions and photos of birds common to the area.



**Thank you, Audubon Society!**

Many Thanks  
to our sponsors and partners  
who have so generously  
given of their time, talent,  
and financial support.



**Art of Logic**

**Betzi & Chuck Hart**

**Charles D. Hart, E.A. Tax Services**

**Charlie Brock**

**Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty**

**David Wright, Architect**

**Estate of Jeanette Emanuel**

**Grass Valley Eye Care**

**Jerry's (LaFerriere) Tooling**

**Jim & Susan Pyle of Wu-Way Landscape**

**KVMR Community Radio**

**Lincoln and Long Engineering**

**Mill Street Properties**

**Network Real Estate**

**Nevada County Fence**

**Out of the Woods by Karin**

**Prospector's Nursery**

**Real Graphics**

**Ron Bailey Masonry**

**Sierra Solar Systems**

**Soroptimist International**

**SPD Markets**

**Summer Thyme's Bakery & Deli**

**Swan Levine House**

**The Ted Tillman Family**

June 26th  
2016

SANDS HALL'S



*Fair Use*

A THEATRICAL READING

SUN • JUNE 26 • 2 - 5PM

THENORTHSTARHOUSE.ORG



CHARLES HART, E.A., TAX SERVICES  
Lincoln & Long  
Engineering

to JOPLIN  
DJANGO

EARLY DECADES OF JAZZ

SUNDAY  
JULY 31  
4:30-9:30PM

A COMMUNITY PARTY  
AT THE  
NORTH STAR HOUSE  
GRASS VALLEY

TICKETS:  
THENORTHSTAR  
HOUSE.ORG

CHARLES HART, E.A., TAX SERVICES

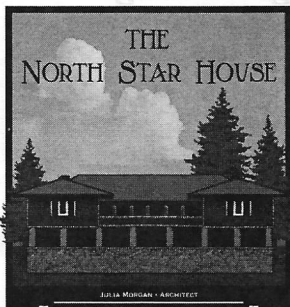


Lincoln & Long Engineering



July 31st  
2016

For ticket information visit us at [www.thenorthstarhouse.org](http://www.thenorthstarhouse.org)



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

[www.thenorthstarhouse.org](http://www.thenorthstarhouse.org)

[www.facebook.com/TheNorthStarHouse](https://www.facebook.com/TheNorthStarHouse)

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

details inside