

# NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY

# THE STAR

# NEWSLETTER

## 2016 – A Milestone Year for The North Star House

## President's Message

By Joe Heckel

It has been a year of tremendous progress at The North Star House and we owe this to the generosity of you, our dedicated supporters and volunteers. In 2016, your support has allowed us to:

- Complete the new stone wall and perimeter fence at the Heritage Garden
- Plant a full-sized tree in the Heritage Garden
- Re-plane and refinish another wall in the Dining Room
- Install the new cedar ceiling in the Library in accordance with original Julia Morgan design
- Re-plaster and repair the extensively damaged walls in the Julia Morgan room and the Library
- Install period-style lighting in the Julia Morgan Room
- Build and install authentic windows and doors in the office and entry hall
- Install new concrete entry to facilitate handicap access
- Begin to rebuild, repair and reshingle the entire front of the House

In order to continue the progress making our North Star shine even brighter, we ask for your support again this year. You can either designate the project you would like to support or let us choose a priority

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## Ten Years of Community Service: The North Star Historic Conservancy

It is always important to recognize milestones as time passes and our memories of certain events can dim. Milestones celebrate significant achievements as well as important steps along the way. One milestone that the Board of Directors of the North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC) would like to proudly recognize is our 10 year anniversary as an organization. In 2006, the NSHC was created to restore and manage the North Star House and the historic grounds. Much has occurred since that date NSHC was created....

As many will recall, the North Star House sat vacant and deteriorating to the point of collapse. The surrounding grounds were littered with debris, garbage and illegal structures. What has occurred over the last 10 years is one of the more remarkable stories of perseverance and dedication for our County. After years of volunteer labor and an infusion of donated funds and materials, the House and grounds have been preserved and now are being converted into a cultural event center for all to enjoy.

The North Star House and its surrounding grounds contain a unique and rare legacy. The progress that has occurred over the last 10 years is a testament to our community and its commitment to protect this legacy for future generations. The advances made in

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We're hanging from scaffolds and climbing in trees.  
We're posing for pictures, playing like children and  
we're celebrating ourselves in countless ways...

Welcome to our  
**DECEMBER**  
**2016**  
Newsletter



## President's Message

### NSHC

Board of Directors

Joe Heckel  
President

Larry Dulmage  
Vice President

Cheryl Belcher  
Treasurer

Susan Kane  
Secretary

Peggy Levine  
House  
Ambassador

Deborah Gilcrest  
Contract  
Administrator

Betzi Hart

Carole Miller

David Wright

### Newsletter Team

Susan Kane  
Janice Lukenbill

rehabilitating and restoring these historic features were only made possible by the many people who donated their time, labor and money.

One major accomplishment our Board can proudly state will occur, is that the North Star House will be open for public tours and visits during set hours in 2017. Our remodel work on the lower floor includes new plumbing, electrical and heating systems for the House, allowing the interior to be available year-round for public use. It is still difficult to believe that the North Star House has transitioned from near ruin to an open and operating historic event venue, where the interior can be rented for receptions, retreats, educational classes and tours provided to the public.

The progress of transforming this property into a premier cultural event center continues. For 2017, aside from opening the House for regular office hours and public tours, NSHC will be working on these important projects:

- Rebuild, repair and re-shingle the entire front (east-facing side) of the House;
- Rehabilitate and restore the Library and Julia Morgan Room;
- Work to complete the Heritage Garden, complete with installation of solar panels; and
- Improve our roadways, parking areas, lighting and signage.

Your continued support is needed, now more than ever, so a number of these critical improvements can be made. All of our 2017 improvements further advance our mission to open the property for public access and use.

**In closing, the recognition of a milestone is a unique opportunity to build a sense of appreciation, well-being and inspiration into the core of an organization's culture. It also allows our organization, the NSHC, to say thank you to the community who made it happen.**

## 2016 – A Milestone Year for The North Star House

project. Every penny you donate will be used for restoration and rehabilitation of The North Star House. And, the benefits of your gift will be multiplied many times over by the thousands of volunteer hours spent each year on the House and grounds projects.



NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY  
12075 AUBURN ROAD, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95949  
thenorthstarhouse.org 530.477.7126



### NORTH STAR PRIORITY DONATION DESIGNATION

For restoration & rehabilitation of the Julia Morgan-designed North Star House and grounds

#### Project:

1. Heritage Flower Garden .....
2. Ground floor and Courtyard windows and doors.....
3. Library Rehabilitation.....
4. East face shingle siding restoration.....
5. Julia Morgan room restoration .....
6. Mary Hallock Foote Study restoration.....
7. Site improvements for parking, lighting, signs, & access
8. Please use my gift for any of the above projects.....

#### Amount:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Care and Feeding of Our Heritage Roses, Shrubs and Trees

If you have ever taken a tour of the entire 14-acre North Star House property, you would begin to get an idea of the time and effort required to ensure the health of the many garden areas and fruit trees. Headed by Board member Carole Miller, our Rose Team members include Kathy Granlund, Barbara Friedlander, Sherri Anderson, Rita Birdsong, and Bonnie Hampton.



Photo by Carole Miller

The Heritage Rose Team works at five different sites on the property: The North Star House, the Hague House, the site of the cottage, the Gardener's cottage, and several places along the entry and exit roads. In addition to trimming and pruning, team members take turns watering the rose gardens in the summer months. They are constantly monitoring the health of all of the heritage plants as well.

Thank you, Rose Garden Team, for helping to preserve a significant part of The North Star House story.

## Rich McRay, a Constant Presence at The North Star House

"I first saw the house while attending the farmers market, and wanted right then and there to work on a restoration project. And become a member. At first, it was just the house that interested me, but then I found a very large group of people dedicated to saving the house and

working very hard to put in the hours needed to acquire ownership. I found a home, the kind of work I like to do and people I like to do it with. I absolutely love working here...



Photo by Doug Young

Anyone looking for something really worthwhile to do, look no further. This is it."

## Heritage Garden Update By Betzi Hart

The Heritage Garden at The North Star House is taking shape.

The final retaining wall was recently completed by Ron Bailey Masonry. The plans call for a Chinese Elm tree to be planted to shade the circular portion of the bench. Additional seating will be furnished by four Western Red Cedar benches – to be built by our own Larry Dulmage. Each bench will display a memorial plaque.



Photo by David Wright

The Heritage Garden is going "solar"! A gift from Gil Mathews of Plan it Solar, is making it possible for our garden's power needs to be generated by the sun. The solar system will be installed next Spring, to run the irrigation and lighting systems in the garden.

Jim Pyle, Carole Miller and Paula Campbell have been preparing a planting plan for the Heritage Garden. However, before the planting can take place, a shade pergola surrounding the center tree needs to be erected. We are looking for volunteers to help with construction.

The Donor Appreciation Plaque will be a permanent part of the entry structure. There are still two trees available for purchase at \$2,500 each and anyone donating \$1,000 or more will be included on the Donor Appreciation Plaque.

If you would like to help please contact  
The North Star House at 530-477-7126  
or [thenorthstarhouse@gmail.com](mailto:thenorthstarhouse@gmail.com).

eScrip

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.

Thank You



Photo by Doug Young

## Docents & Construction Teams Luncheon

We had a great turnout for the recent Docents and Construction Teams Luncheon. The rain did not deter attendance. Carole Miller thanked the docents who staffed the 27 Saturday mornings this past year when the House was open to the public. Larry grilled hamburgers on the verandah



Photo by Doug Young

and then provided an update on House projects. Our guest for the event was Foote family descendant, Elizabeth Haskell (black hat), who answered many questions about her family, and treated us to great stories about her life growing up at the North Star House.

### 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 and Mary Brock**

**Coldwell Banker**

**Grass Roots Realty**

**David Wright, Architect**

**Estate of Jeanette Emanuel**

**Grass Valley Eye Care**

**Hills Flat Lumber**

**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**

**Tim the Treeman**

## Volunteer Appreciation Party

We had a great turnout for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party. Our family of volunteers shared memorable stories about their volunteer experiences -- humorous and entertaining moments -- over the past year. Board members Joe Heckel, Carole Miller, Betzi Hart, Larry Dulmage, and Cheryl Belcher provided an overview of our many accomplishments in 2016 thanks to an extremely dedicated group of volunteers. Everyone had an opportunity to meet our new Volunteer Coordinator, Michael Lewis. Michael outlined his plans to support various priority projects for 2017.



Photo by Doug Young

## Deborah Gilcrest is NSHC's First Paid Staff Member

In addition to bookkeeping and contract administration at North Star House, Deborah works part time as a Clerk/Analyst at Nevada LAFCo. Deborah is a graduate of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and completed post-graduate work in theatre and drama therapy.

While working in rural Alaska as a Community Planner, Deborah had her first exposure to the challenges of preserving an historic building. She partnered with other government officials and community leaders (in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta) to protect the BIA school which had been scheduled for demolition. The school was constructed in the mid-20th century to perpetuate the western education of Native Alaskan children; which represented a significant cultural shift for the region.

When Deborah accepted a position at the Kenai Peninsula Borough, she and her colleagues developed a Habitat Protection Ordinance for the Kenai River.

She also organized the first Statewide Oil and Gas Stakeholders meeting (hosted by the Mayor's office), and soon thereafter was assigned to organize the Western States Planners Conference.

For three consecutive years Deborah served as Chair on the Board of Directors for a women's health clinic in Soldotna. Along with fellow board members and a large cadre of volunteers, Deborah was responsible for the clinic's annual fundraiser; which was the largest percentage of the operating budget. As Development Director for the Alaska Conservation Alliance, Deborah educated voters on the agency's mission and sought funding sources.

Deborah is honored to partner with the very committed NSHC Board of Directors – whose worthy goal is the preservation of one of Northern California's most significant legacies.



### Sundays at the Star -- a Preview of Spring 2017

On March 26 we kick off the Spring educational series with **Atelier Morgan: The Personal Archives of Julia Morgan**. Betty Marvin, known for her amazing impression of Julia Morgan, will be joining us (as Julia Morgan) for the exhibit's opening event. Betty is highly recognized for her historical expertise and work with the Oakland Heritage Alliance.

On April 23 The North Star House welcomes local historian Gary Noy. Gary is well known for his gift of weaving historical research and storytelling into engaging, entertaining presentations about the Sierra Nevada and the American West. Gary will have available his latest book, set for release in May 2017: ***Gold Rush Stories: 49 Tales of Seekers, Scoundrels, Loss and Luck***. Join us for what promises to be an enlightening and enjoyable celebration of our culture and history!

### New Shingles for East Side of House

The NSHC is partnering with Western Sierra YouthBuild and Hills Flat Lumber to restore and reshingle the front of The North Star House. YouthBuild students participate in academics, vocational training, life skills and career development classes, as well as leadership development and community service activities.



Photo by Doug Young

This project was made possible by a generous donation from an anonymous donor.

Thank You

#### Make Us Smile

If you shop at Amazon.com, go to first, and enter "North Star Historic Conservancy" as the organization you would like to support. Once you establish NSHC as your preferred charity, a percentage of eligible purchases will be designated.

**It all adds up!**



## Farmers Market will reopen April 2017

The Farmers Market at The North Star House opened on Saturday, April 16th, and ran until November 19. Many people visited the market this past year, enjoying fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, crafts, children's activities, live music, and much more! The Market will reopen in April 2017. Plan on visiting the House to see the progress that has been made to refurbish this Nevada County community treasure. There is always something new to see!

Mim Meakin will be back next Spring, continuing a tradition of offering art classes for children on the first Saturday of each month, May through October.



Photos by Brandon Atmore-Meakin



### Would You Like to Lend a Hand?

Our priority goals and projects for 2017 are many and varied, so lots of interesting things to get involved with. We are currently looking for:

Sponsorship Coordinator -- Most active November through March, averaging 5 hours per month.

Publicity Coordinator -- Ongoing work, approximately 5 hours per month

Historical and Educational Program Development -- Develop educational programs that highlight the history and people who made the North Star so vital to our past and present community.

Outreach Coordinator -- Contact local service groups and associations to set up speaking engagements

Please visit our website for complete job descriptions, additional needs, and contact information.

### Consider a Gift Memberships for the Holidays

Do you know someone who is interested in architecture? Or is a history buff? Perhaps you have talked to friends

or relatives on your gift list about the incredible ongoing transformation of The North Star House. All donations and membership funds go towards restoration and rehabilitation of NSHC.



## Remembering Dave McKeen --

### A Long Time Volunteer

Dave was a great friend of The North Star Historic Conservancy. He was an expert on A. D. Foote's accomplishments as both an engineer and a horticulturist, and served as a docent for The North Star House for many years. Dave and his wife, Jean, would frequently dress up as Mr. and Mrs. Foote for various North Star events. When Dave was in costume as A. D. Foote, history came alive again. We will miss his graciousness and enthusiasm about The North Star's former inhabitants.



Photo by Carole Miller







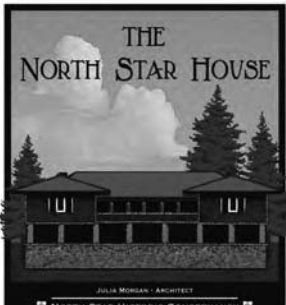
MEET  
Michael Lewis  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Volunteer Job Fair to Be Held on February 25th

North Star's new Volunteer Coordinator, Michael Lewis, will be hosting a Volunteer Jobs Fair at The North Star House. This event will take place on Saturday, February 25. Those interested in volunteering will be able to talk to our project leaders about specific needs – including construction, grounds, the Heritage Garden, and our office. If you would like to attend, please email: [thenorthstarhouse@gmail.com](mailto:thenorthstarhouse@gmail.com) and we will add you to the invitation list.

Full details to follow in January 2017.

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[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