

NORTH STAR HISTORIC CONSERVANCY

THE STAR

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019

The North Star Gardener's Cottage Roses

by Carole Miller

The North Star Gardener's Cottage was one of the complex of buildings built in 1888 by new mine owner, James D. Hague. The simple Victorian cottage was destined to house a progression of North Star gardeners. Its Victorian style garden still flourishes there. A great lawn was planted in the front of the house. A lilac-flowering quince garden, seen from the front porch across this lawn, is still thriving. A massive number of Blue Dutch iris bloom there every spring. There is a very old Felix Gillet Colossal chestnut tree planted at the back corner of the house. There are several Gillet black walnut and fruit trees in the area. A rose garden was planted at the back of the house.

When the North Star property was acquired in 2003, three modern hybrid tea roses were found still growing in this garden. 'Sonia', 'Peace' and 'Tropicana'.



[Left] 'Sonia', a beautiful pink grandiflora, was bred in France in the world famous Meilland Int'l Co.

[Right] 'Peace' is one of the best known roses in the world.

Smuggled out of France by



Meilland on the eve of the Nazi invasion, it became commercially available in 1945. It was first sold in the USA on the day that Berlin fell to the Allies, April 29, 1945. Later that year Peace roses were given to each of the delegations at the inaugural meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco.



[Left] 'Tropicana' was named the 1963 "All America Rose Selection".

These three outstanding roses were duplicated in the new North Star Heritage Garden. They are planted along the left path. A few steps further along brings you to the pond area where the five North Star House roses found in AD Foote's North Star House rose garden are planted.

President's Message: It's All About Volunteers!

Betzi Hart, President

We have introduced our new Volunteer Coordinator, Sherian Kuzera and she is already off to a great start. Organizing our volunteers and making them happy is an important job because without volunteers the North Star House would not be what it is today. Almost everybody you meet at The House is a volunteer; that means they want to be at The House, contributing to its restoration and revitalization.

The Construction Crew has done an outstanding job on the first floor. Did you know that, thanks to Tom, Jim and Doug, we now have working light switches for each room on the first floor? No longer do we have to go out to the storage room and flip the breaker!!

Also, the wood has arrived for the completion of the library ceiling and bookshelves. I caught Larry, Rich and Marko *drooling* over the beautiful wood planks.

David Wright is completing the architectural plans and the crew can hardly wait to start! The shingling is getting closer to completion on the North side and courtyard. Sherian and Marrilee are working hard to finish up the alcove section. Roger and Frank are up high working on scaffolding. Lori is busy staining all the wood that Rich puts up in the living room. Lisa has joined the crew helping Bob with clean-up and organization.

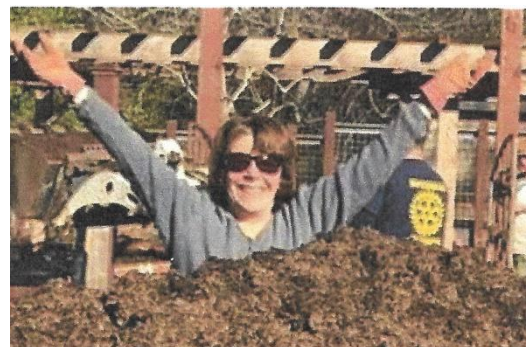
The Docents are finishing up their summer of tours. They have not only provided weekly ours during the Growers Market but have developed special guided tours for groups. The docents, with the help of Marrilee, Joan and the History Committee, have designed new history

displays that help tell the story of The House and its inhabitants.

I cannot possibly name all the people who have been so helpful this year, but I want to give a special "shout-out" to Marko and Joan. Marko has done a terrific job training and organizing the site managers. Joan has been a "behind the scenes angel" with all of her contributions to the publicizing of our events, developing displays and pamphlets, and undertaking the archiving of our photos and records.

I am hoping that all of the volunteers are able to join us at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on October 16th and then again at the Holiday Party on December 8th.

Thank you all so much for what you do for The North Star House!



The Heritage Garden is Nearing the Finish Line!

by Paula Campbell

This past spring, as the infrastructure supporting the garden was completed, the roses and shrubs were planted. We have a garden! Our entire community is very grateful to the many volunteers, professional and amateur, who worked to create this beautiful, restful garden.

This fall, we will be ready to plant the perennial area in the Heritage Garden and are again looking for support.

We will be using some plant divisions from the gardens of our Garden Crew. If you think you may have plants that could be used, please email Paula Campbell at paulacampbell@pacbell.net and she will send you the plant list.



Secondly, we are looking for donations.

After considering the plants we have already acquired, we need to raise \$600 to complete the project. If you are interested in donating, please give the office a call (530 477 7126). All donations will go toward the purchase of plants.

Third, we are always looking for more volunteers for our Garden Crew. Next year, we will be scheduling two work days per month plus weeks during which volunteers will check up on the garden. Our responsibilities include planting, weeding,

watering, pruning, pond maintenance, and maintenance of the hardscape. If you are interested, please call the office at 530-477-7126.

Correction to Piano Article

In the summer edition of the NSHC newsletter, we ran an article about the recent acquisition of a Krakauer piano.

We have learned from a Foote relative that Jeannette Foote's piano, a 1911 Steinway Grand, Model O, was sold to a private party, and we have been able to confirm that information. Thus the piano, of good quality, given to us by Emmanuel Episcopal Church, was not Jeannette's.

NSHC and the church are researching the history of this piano.

Queue the Lights

It all started several years ago with an appeal to assist with removing Scotch Broom and blackberry bushes from the North Star House property. Much of the grounds were thick with invasive plants.



Tom Milam

Tom eagerly signed on to tackle this job. Which evolved into mowing, and pruning plants and shrubs, and generally cleaning up the grounds

Fast forward to 2018, and now retired from Grass Valley Group. “I kept thinking, what an amazing place. Wouldn’t it be great to help restore its heritage in a meaningful way – to be actively used by the community? And to honor Peggy Levine.”

As a member of the Construction Crew, Tom is at the House every Tuesday and Thursday, along with a dozen other volunteers.

Tom has spent the last several months rewiring electrical outlets. This involved running many feet of electrical conduit under the upstairs flooring of what will be the M. W. Swan Levine Art Gallery.

Thanks to Tom’s electrical wizardry, the living room lights can now be turned on from the living room. Instead of going out to the storage room to flip a breaker switch!

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Volunteers Make It Happen

You Can Help Us with Ongoing Restoration Work

Events Committee Members: Attend monthly meeting to plan events; work on logistics of events between meetings and take responsibility for some aspects of some events.

Events Helpers: Day-of-event help with setup, during event, and cleanup.

Garden Crew for Heritage Garden: People needed for pruning, weeding, watering, maintaining hardscape, and maintaining irrigation system.

Docents: Learn basic information about the North Star House and its history, then welcome visitors to the house, answer questions, and offer to show them around if they would like a brief tour.

Construction / Carpenter: Help with general carpentry including wood shingling sides of house; work on two-story scaffolding.

Construction / Experienced Masons: Re-grout mine rock lower story of the house. Possibly help modify some foundation walls for wider doorways.

Outreach Coordinator: Connect with organizations in Western Nevada County to schedule speaking engagements for NSHC representatives.

Grant Writer: Research grants that may be applicable to one or more aspects of the organization's activities. Write and submit grant applications.

For more information on these volunteer opportunities, please see our listings on Connecting Point.

<https://volunteerhub.connectingpoint.org/opportunity/a0C1U000002fSgcUAE>

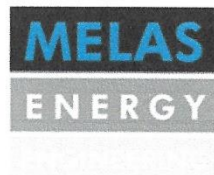


The Construction Crew recently had an end-of-summer BBQ luncheon, taking some time to enjoy the bounty of the season. But this does not mark the end of the project work season! With a 113-year-old house, there is always something needing attention. The crew will continue as always, working Tuesdays and Thursdays, restoring and revitalizing this historic treasure.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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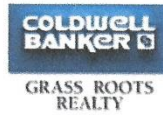
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