



Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

MUSEUM CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR WINTER – REOPENS IN SPRING 2021

We can open the museum for special occasions, tour requests, etc. Please call the museum at (559) 841-4478 for more information.



Download our cell phone app at your app store!



Check out our website regarding the tree die-off at aforestwithouttrees.org



Follow us on Instagram

[Instagram.com/museumofthecentralsierra](https://www.instagram.com/museumofthecentralsierra)
[Instagram.com/resiliencyfund](https://www.instagram.com/resiliencyfund)



[Facebook.com/cshsmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/cshsmuseum)
[Facebook.com/sierraresiliencyfund](https://www.facebook.com/sierraresiliencyfund)

The mission of CSHS is to enrich the cultural and educational experiences of visitors to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, by deepening their understanding of the human and natural history of this area.

CSHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Peter Van Vleet
A Emory Wishon III
O James Woodward III

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

If you feel you can contribute to the Historical Society's good works as a member of the Board of Directors or as a member of the Advocate Council, please feel free to contact us at cshs@sierrahistorical.org.

CSHS MUSEUM STAFF

Kerri Elizondo - Office Manager and Bookkeeper
Rebecca Davis - Membership Coordinator, Newsletter, Recording Secretary
Deb Bell - Museum Assistant
Joy West – Museum Assistant

ATTENTION SCE CURRENT AND RETIRED EMPLOYEES

As the end of the year approaches Southern California Edison Company employees, current and past, can financially support the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum through the SCE Employee Volunteer Incentive Grant Program. This program is available through SCE's parent company, Edison International.

You can request a cash grant up to \$600 per year representing your hours of volunteer service. These hours do not need to be performed at the museum, but you can designate your grant to the Historical Society. Be sure to log your hours by the end of the year and submit your Edison International grant request. It can be done online, or by a simple phone call to them. We are already in Edison's system as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you need help, please feel free to call Becky Davis at the museum (559-841-4478).

Several current and retired SCE employees have taken advantage of this program and designated CSHS as the grant recipient. Please consider it. Giving back also includes volunteering!

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

We all have been through so much this year. In March, the Coronavirus guidelines forced us to shut down the museum, only to reopen the outdoor exhibits for a few weeks before the Creek Fire started.

We are fortunate the fire did not take the museum. It was honestly too close for comfort. Yet, the fire results caused us to make the difficult decision to close the museum until spring 2021. It has been a year we do not ever want to repeat.

As you know, being a seasonal museum, we cram 12 months of fundraising into 3-4 months in the summer. This year, except for the Virtual Black Pot Event, we held no other fundraisers. We did not call on you, our loyal volunteers, as much as we would in an average year. But please know, we are thinking of you and sending you good wishes for your health and safety. We are asking you not to give up on us! You are extremely important to us, and we still need your help.

We intend to hold our first 2021 VEST meeting in February, where we will begin discussing the museum's annual fundraiser dinner. It will be great to see you all again!



In the meantime, the Central Sierra Historical Society and Museum has joined forces with the Central Sierra Resiliency Fund. The Resiliency Fund will support Creek Fire recovery efforts in our affected communities. This effort is especially dear to our hearts because, besides one of our staff members, all of you know somebody who has been affected by this devastation.

Your volunteer skills are still needed. Won't you consider volunteering for the Resiliency Fund?

For more information, please go to the fund page on our website:

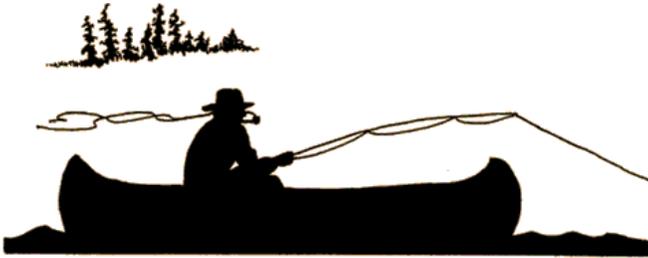
<https://sierrahistorical.org/resiliency-fund-volunteers>

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Lisa Monteiro by email at rfvolunteers@sierrahistorical.org

DOING GOOD IS GOOD FOR YOU...CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!

HUGE SUCCESS! THE 22ND ANNUAL BLACK POT COOKOFF...GONE VIRTUAL!

HOSTED BY
THE SHAVER LAKE FISHING CLUB
EST - 1902



This year, between Covid-19 and then the Creek Fire, we were faced with many challenges, but your faithfulness and generosity never wavered, and not only did we meet our goal of \$30,000, but we surpassed it by \$67!

For the past 21 years, community members, along with Central Sierra Historical Society supporters, have joined together on the beautiful shore of Shaver Lake to raise money for our local museum, The Museum Of The Central Sierra. Thousands of dollars are raised every August to help ensure the museum doors stay open for the enjoyment of thousands of visitors each year. In a typical year, the High Sierra Black Pot Cookers and other volunteer "chefs" prepare various delicious foods from cast iron Dutch ovens known as "black pots". Local bluegrass musicians *The Bluegrass Element* plays the sunset into place over the lake, while savory smells from the black pots fill the air. Shaver Lake Fishing Club members host cocktails, appetizers, dinner, and dessert for the many wonderful people who attend. The Black Pot Cookoff is the largest annual fundraiser for the Central Sierra Historical Society, raising nearly \$400,000 since 1999.

Due to restrictions placed on us because of Covid-19 guidelines, the Shaver Lake Fishing Club held a "virtual" event. All proceeds from this "virtual" event go to the Central Historical Society's – Building and Exhibit Fund.



The winner of the raffle prize, a beautiful quilt made by Sue Golda and donated to the cause, was John Sthol (left). He was presented the prize by Steve McDonald (right) when he was evacuated from his home in Shaver Lake because of the Creek Fire.



Brenda & Mark Isaac received their "cooker" prize. They were one of five entrants who submitted a video of their Black Pot cooking skills.



Submitted by Jacqueline McDonald Pucheu

We all know that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. In September, our community was struck suddenly by the Creek Fire. The fast and furious flames devastated our mountain communities and destroyed in seconds historical legacies shaped over hundreds of years. When the Creek Fire violently swept through historical places, such as Huntington, Big Creek, and the Pine Ridge area, it awoke in that soil something stronger than fire. The stories of our historic community have risen from the ashes. The Central Sierra Historical Society has joined forces with families deeply affected by the Creek Fire and other community members to muster an equal and opposite reaction of hope, fortitude, and neighborly support. This movement is the **Central Sierra Resiliency Fund**.

The Board of Directors established a committee, namely the Resiliency Council, to direct available resources from the restricted fund to the community's priority recovery needs. The Council will partner with other local, state, and national organizations to secure resources to empower the mountain community to get people living, working, and recreating on the mountain again. The Resiliency Fund will support Creek Fire recovery efforts in communities within the vicinity of Fresno County's Central Sierra region, including, but not limited to, Huntington Lake, Lakeshore, Big Creek, Shaver Lake, Pine Ridge, Meadow Lakes, Alder Springs, and Auberry.

This local effort will regenerate forests and revitalize the local economy through:

- *Land restoration*- healing the soils, addressing drainage, and planting seedlings;
- *Local stewardship* - moving forward as a community respecting our forests and history;
- *Economic efforts* - honoring the Central Sierra's historical legacy as we rebuild the area.



The Resiliency Fund just completed its first month of operations but has accomplished much in that time. The Resiliency Fund team is currently focused on expanding community education for those affected by the Creek Fire through in-person workshops with subject experts and online resources, getting people connected with the right programs to begin to move forward. The team has also launched volunteer training efforts for soil stabilization and plan to assist with community risk mitigation efforts on priority lands altered by the Creek Fire to protect drainages, roadways, and communities. We hope to sponsor seedling plantings to begin revitalizing our forests in Spring 2021.

Please consider supporting the **Central Sierra Resiliency Fund**, a restricted fund held by the Central Sierra Historical Society. Much like the brave firefighters, law enforcement, and first responders who rush into the flames and sacrifice so much to save all that they can, the Central Sierra Historical Society staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and broader Central Sierra community also seek to rush into this area devastated by fire and get to work in revitalizing the area. Learn more at <https://sierrahistorical.org/resiliencyfund> and follow the Resiliency Fund on Facebook (@sierraresiliencyfund) and Instagram (@resiliencyfund).

OUR SIGN WAS SAVED FROM THE FIRE!

In 2016 the previous owners of Cressman's General Store, Keith Davis, Vince Wiggins, and Jean Kilpatrick, were generous enough to let us stake a handcrafted museum sign at their parking lot near the store. When they sold the store to Ty Gillett, he allowed the sign to stay where it was. When the Creek Fire took the store, we assumed the sign was destroyed too. Yet, somehow on that horrible night, our sign was spared! It was discovered laying on the ground and given to our board member, John Sthol, who assumed the task to clean it the best he could. Out of the ruins comes hope!



HAYDEN SAWMILL RESTORATION UPDATE



Board member Norm Saude is pleased to report the Hayden Sawmill Restoration Project continues to move forward despite the slow-down due to Covid-19 and the Creek Fire. Volunteer Mark Isaac continues to amaze us with his commitment to this project. The engine has been weatherproofed, and we are working on an engine cover. 250' of cable to operate the sawmill carriage has been acquired, and we were ready to place it when the Creek Fire started.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We hope you will remember the Society when you are planning your estate, or as a suitable means of honoring a departed friend or loved one. Donations have recently been received in memory of:

- Vance Fleming-
- Bud Spickler-
- Kitty Terry-

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

You can support the Historical Society by giving your friends and loved ones a yearly membership to the Museum of the Central Sierra. At only \$30, it makes an excellent gift. Please call Rebecca Davis, Membership Coordinator, for the details.

2020 SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

A Emory & Sydney Wishon of Fresno, donated the desk that belonged to Emory's great grandfather, Albert Graves Wishon. Mr. Wishon, who was a pioneer in development of hydro power for the San Joaquin Valley and is the person most credited with introducing electric pumps for agriculture in the Valley, used the desk from 1924 until his death in 1936. It was then in possession at PG&E's executive offices on Fulton Street in Fresno until 1995, when A Emory Wishon III and his wife Sydney assumed ownership of it until they donated it to the Historical Society. It is now proudly on display in the museum's Redinger Powerhouse #1 exhibit.

Allan Blacksill of Easton, donated his time and talent to construct a signage station at the SJ&E Caboose Exhibit.

AlphaGraphics in Clovis, supported CSHS by providing excellent service for all our printing needs throughout the year.

Apex Window Cleaning Service, Mike Gaynor of Oakhurst, discounted costs for cleaning the museum windows.

Al & Char Meier of Clovis, once again donated their time and talent to clean the museum grounds in the spring.

Gail Hayden Saunders of Fresno, donated funds designated for a computer topo map exhibit in memory of her late husband, Dan Saunders and his late mother, Cora Saunders. Both Dan and Cora were teachers.

Jeff & Dina Young of Lima, Montana, along with local family members, donated their time and talents this summer to complete the Flume Tenders Cabin exhibit's construction.

Mike Yelinek of Shaver Lake, donated his time and effort to repair door locks at the museum.

Outback Material, Curtis Lovett of Fresno, donated rock mix for the new museum sign on Highway 168.

Peter McKinley of Auberry, donated his time & effort to help us with minor maintenance jobs at the museum.

Shaver Lake Trophy Trout organization of Shaver Lake, donated a fish tank and cabinet, including all the equipment and supplies needed to create a new aquarium exhibit inside the museum. It will be ready for viewing when we reopen in the spring.

Two Brothers Landscaping of Sanger, discounted costs for landscaping services around the museum.

Please note a process that we must adhere to if you have an item you think would be an asset to the museum. You can visit, call, or email the museum to request an acquisition form. Once you have completed that form and provided a photo of the item, return staff the form and image. They will give the form and image to the Acquisition Committee, who will then meet to discuss whether the item would be relative to our mission. Please do not bring the item to the museum until you have heard if the committee will accept it or not.

*Whether it be a cash donation, an acquisition, or an in-kind donation, all contributions are precious to the Historical Society. We are a nonprofit organization, and with everybody's support, we can help our community fulfill the dream to keep the museum moving forward. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!***

OUR THANKS TO CSHS BUSINESS CIRCLE MEMBERS

THANK YOU to the following businesses that have joined the Historical Society's Business Circle. Your membership helps preserve the museum collection, maintain and improve the museum and its exhibits, and provide our community with educational programs, exhibitions, and engaging social activities. An updated portable banner listing all business memberships will be commissioned in April and displayed at the museum and other outreach events. If you have a business, please consider supporting us by joining the Historical Society as a Business Circle Member with a **tax-deductible \$250/year** membership donation.

In addition to the quarterly newsletters, your business name is on signage at the museum & outside events. You will receive free entry for up to four people into the Friday In The Pines concerts with early seating as well as free admission for up to four people into our Sierra Voices presentations. Your business can have free use of our media room for your meetings.

Academic Gameplan, Jill McBride Baxter	Rolling Hills Estate
Augusto Altamura & Co, Augusto Altamura	Riverdale
Boy Scouts of America, Sequoia Chapter #027, John Richers	Fresno
Cal West Rain, Larry Isheim	Kerman
California State University, Fresno Foundation, Dr. Joseph I.	Fresno
Doug Koerper Construction, Doug Koerper	Shaver Lake
Emerson Church Law, Rayma Church	Fresno
F&F West, Ferguson Farming, Ryan Ferguson	Lemoore
FACSCO, Steve McBride	Fresno
Financial Depot, Dennis Hoffman	Auberry
Fleming & Sons, LLC, Grant & Jennifer Fleming	Auberry
Gold Arrow Camp, Steven & Audrey Monke	Huntington Lake
Golden Empire Electric, Doug & Sharon Tudor	Bakersfield
J Noble Binns Plumbing Co, Don & Carolyn Schimnowski	Bakersfield
J&J Custom Picking, Jim & Judy Errecart	Shaver Lake
James G Palmer Appraisals, Inc., Jim Palmer	Fresno
Jeff Covey, CPA, Jeff Covey	Auberry
Jill McBride Baxter/Sports Law Attorney	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Lite-On-The Land, Steve & Starla Lawshe and Ryan & Kristen	Auberry
McPheeters & Associates, Land Surveying, Katrina Olsen	Clovis
Mid-Term, Inc, Craig & Ellen Middleton	Fresno
Muir Trail Ranch, Karla Hurley	Ahwahnee
OHM-Mega Electric, Mark & Kerri Elizondo	Auberry
O'Neill Agri-Management, Inc., Tim & Anna O'Neill	Madera
Peter Van Vleet, Realtor	Shaver Lake
Pine Ridge Elementary School District	Pine Ridge
Pinnacle Real Estate of Shaver Lake, Beth Brown	Shaver Lake
Pius Construction, Diana Pius	Shaver Lake
Ponderosa Telephone, Dusty Gauthier	O'Neals
Quality Home Painting, Inc., Jim Hoak	Prather
Reedley Veterinary Hospital, John & Gail Gray	Parlier
Reinhardt Insurance Agency, Inc., Walt Reinhardt	Fresno
Roger E Petersen Investments, Roger E Petersen	Clovis

Shaver Lake Fishing Club, The McDonald Family	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Sports, Dave Powell	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Trophy Trout Project, Bob Bernier	Shaver Lake
Sierra Forest Products, Darren Mahr	Terra Bella
Sierra Marina Inc., Sheldon Sandstrom	Shaver Lake
TB Pump Systems, Thom Boganwright	Madera
Two Brothers Landscaping, Mario Contreras	Sanger
Waters Properties, Danny & Joan Waters	Fresno
Wer-Stan Associates, John Stanfield	Shaver Lake

SUPPORT US WHEN SHOPPING ON AMAZON THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

BUY YOUR GIFTS AND HOLIDAY ESSENTIALS AT SMILE.AMAZON.COM

YOU SHOP... AMAZON DONATES...EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS

GREAT NEWS! AS OF AUGUST 13, 2020, CSHS HAS RECEIVED \$613. THANKS TO YOU!



What is AmazonSmile? It is a simple and automatic way for you to support CSHS every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com; with the bonus, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to us.

How do you shop at AmazonSmile? To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations? Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile Donation" on their product detail pages.

Can you use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile? Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do you select CSHS to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to choose the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of your purchase does Amazon donate? The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to CSHS. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

Can you receive a tax deduction for amounts donated to CSHS from your purchases on AmazonSmile? Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax-deductible by you.

PRESERVE CENTRAL SIERRA HISTORY – BECOME A MEMBER!

Become a MEMBER of the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum and explore our unique cultural history.

Your membership helps preserve the museum collection, maintain, improve the museum and its exhibits, and provide our community with educational programs, exhibitions, and engaging social activities.

If you are among the generous friends who renewed their 2020 membership or became a new member this year, you have our most heartfelt thanks. If you cannot yet renew your membership – or if you have and can consider adding to it – please do so today. Your contributions enable us to accomplish so much, and we need your help now more than ever.

COVID-19 restrictions closed the museum on March 17, but on June 26, we could open our outdoor exhibits on weekends. Unfortunately, only ten weeks later, on September 4, the Creek Fire began. Thanks to all first responders and local firefighters and loggers' heroic actions, we did not lose any outdoor exhibits or the museum building. We at the museum feel incredibly lucky. Yet, we were forced to make the difficult decision to remain closed until Spring 2021.

Except for a Virtual Black Pot Event (thanks to the Shaver Lake Fishing Club for spearheading this effort), we could not fundraise in 2020. Because the museum has been closed, we have had minimal gift shop or book sales. We could not have our Annual Fundraiser Dinner, monthly Sierra Voices Presentations, Friday In The Pines Concert Series, or any of our Hikes For History. These are some of the ways we fundraise in our short summer season to cover the yearly cost to maintain the museum and its grounds. Your annual membership dues cover only a small portion of the cost. We look to the generosity of like-minded people as yourself, who share in our belief that the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum is, and must continue to be, an essential part of our community and surrounding forest into the future.

Please help us keep the museum moving forward as we adapt to these changes. Every amount helps. When we can get back to business as usual, the museum will still offer free entry to the exhibits, and most of our programs are free of charge, thanks to your membership. We could not do that without your support.

There Are Several Ways You Can Contribute:

- (1) Complete and mail the form on the next page;
- (2) Visit our website (www.sierrahistorical.org) and click on membership to pay with a credit card;
- (3) Call the office (559-841-4478) to use a credit card over the phone. Leave a message for a callback.

On behalf of all of us at the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum, you are a vital part of our CSHS family, and our caring thoughts are extended for your continued health and safety.

We hope you will continue supporting us with your tax-deductible contribution.

_____ Membership Renewal _____ New Member
_____ Check here if you have a change of address

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$1000.00 - Gold Member
- \$ 500.00 – Silver Member
- \$ 250.00 - Bronze Member
- \$ 150.00 – Donor Member
- \$ 50.00 – Family Member
- \$ 30.00 – Individual Member

**WE ARE SUPPORTED SOLELY BY THE
GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS**

CIRCLE LEVELS

- \$250 – Business Level
- \$2000 – Patrons (5-Yr Commitment)

IN ADDITION:

- I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Museum Building Fund.
- I would like to donate \$ _____ in memory of: _____
and I would like a notice of my donation be sent to: _____

- I would like to donate a gift membership in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 559-841-4478

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Method of Payment: Visa MasterCard Personal Check

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
CSHS, PO BOX 617, SHAVER LAKE CA 93664-0617**

All members will receive the CSHS newsletter. Each paid membership constitutes one vote at the CSHS Annual Meeting. The Central Sierra Historical Society is a California nonprofit corporation formed to preserve the Central Sierra Mountain area's history. We operate exclusively for the public benefit and educational purposes within the margins of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID # 77-0280796



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Shaver Lake CA 93664-0617
(559) 841-4478
Email: cshs@sierrahistorical.org
www.sierrahistorical.org
www.sierrahistorical.org/resiliencyfund

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SUGGESTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORSHIP

*Have you wished you could have a lasting impact on the Museum of the Central Sierra?
Here is your chance...Donations are appreciated to fund the following projects:*

1. Ceiling fans for the main museum.
2. Shade awnings for the museum patios.
3. Restoration of an Alison Steam Boiler/Engine Mining Exhibit.
4. Restoration of the Musick Mountain Steam Donkey.
5. Restoration of the Shaver Lake Volunteer Firetruck.

Please call CSHS at 841-4478 for more information on how you can sponsor one or more of these projects.