

# Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum

#### **QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST 2021



May 28 – September 6 – Open Daily 11-3 September 10- December 5 – Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11-3 All Dates And Times Are Subject To Change

Please call the Museum at (559) 841-4478 for more information.





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

Download our cell phone app at your app store!



Follow us on Instagram

Instagram.com/museumofthecentralsierra



Facebook.com/cshsmuseum







STORYTELLERS

The Mission of the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum, Inc. (CSHS) is to provide cultural and educational experiences to deepen the understanding of the human and natural history of the central Sierra region. The CSHS is a museum without walls inspiring future generations to nurture a healthy and resilient forest and community.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS FOR UNVACCINATED VISITORS ARE REQUIRED PER STATE OF CALIFORNIA GUIDELINES

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

#### -REMAINING EVENTS-

DATE	EVENT	TIME AND LOCATION	
August 8 August 8 August 8 August 8	Ice Cream Social (see page 7) Steam Donkey Engine Steam-Up San Joaquin Valley Antique Flywheelers Powerhouse Demo	1:00 pm-3:00 pm - Museum Media Room 10:00 am-3:00 pm - Museum Parking Lot 11:00 am-3:00 pm - Museum Parking Lot 12:00 pm - Museum Powerhouse	
August 13	Friday in the Pines Concert The GillyGirls, Entertainers	6:00 pm - Museum Amphitheater	
August 14	Sierra Voices Presentation (\$5 for non-members) Creek Fire Revisited, John Mount, Presenter	First Presentation @1:00 pm Second Presentation @ 2:30 pm Museum Media Room	
August 15	Art Show At The Museum (see page 8) 2:00 pm-5:00 pm – Museum Media Room Mono Native American Artist, Duane Jones Fine Art Pencil Drawings		
August 21	Hikes for History Potter Pass	9:00 am – Museum Parking Lot	
August 27	Friday in the Pines Concert Lance Canales and the Flood, Entertainers	6:00 pm - Museum Amphitheater	
September 5 September 5	Steam Donkey Engine Steam-Up Powerhouse Demo	10:00 am-3:00 pm – Museum Parking Lot 12:00 pm – Museum Powerhouse	
September 18	Sierra Voices Presentation (\$5 for non-members) High Odyssey, Phil Bartholomew, Presenter Wine & Whiskey Tasting Event (see page 9)	1:00 pm - Museum Media Room	
September 18		4:00 pm – 7:00 pm - Museum Grounds	
October 9	Sierra Voices Presentation (\$5 for non-members) 1:00 pm – Museum Media Room The History Of The Chaffee Zoo – Jean Chaffee, Presenter		
November 27	Children's Holiday Crafts (Weather Permitting) Sponsored by v.e.s.t.	11:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Museum	

December 6 Museum Closed for Winter



#### OUR ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

After being forced to hang up our spatulas and store away the grills for a year, we were delighted to host our Annual Pancake Breakfast on Memorial Day Sunday. The turnout was terrific, serving 356 plates (that's nearly 700 pancakes made by our incredible volunteers) for a net income to us of \$2,650. John Sthol of Shaver Lake, a long-time CSHS board member who chairs this annual event, graciously donated all the food and supplies needed to succeed. THANK YOU, John, for your commitment to the Historical Society.

It wouldn't be our Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast without John in his patriotic red, white & blue pants!

#### **SIERRA VOICES 2021**

Facilitator: Debbie Koerper

#### -REMAINING PRESENTATIONS-

Sierra Voices is an educational program that invites guest presenters to share information about our beautiful area's history and culture. This season is our 12<sup>th</sup>. The program is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from May through October at 1:00 pm in the Museum's media room.

#### FREE TO MEMBERS - \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS

<u>August 14 – The Creek Fire Revisited, John R. Mount, Presenter.</u> John will give a detailed overview of the Creek Fire. The subjects will include fire progression, factors affecting the Fire's behavior, and why the aftermath looks as it does today. He will also discuss what comes next and what we can do to protect our community in the future. **THERE WILL BE A SECOND PRESENTATION THE SAME DAY AT 2:30 PM.** 

September 18 – High Odyssey, Phil Bartholomew, Presenter. Phil was born in Fresno in April 1935. A one-monthold, his parents took him to Huntington Lake, where his father worked for the Forest Service. In 1941 Phil began school at Big Creek (his mother began school there in 1921), and he graduated from Pine Ridge Elementary School in 1949. Following his graduation from Sierra High School, Phil joined the Air Force, and his last duty station was in Alaska. After the Air Force, he attended Fresno State College and graduated from there in 1962 with a degree in biology. In 1963 he was hired as an aquatic biologist with the California Department of Fish & Game and retired as District Fishery Biologist in 1997. Shaver and Huntington Lakes were part of his district. During retirement, Phil gives talks on Sierra natural and cultural history and participates in public service projects. He says it has been a great life!

October 10 – The History Of The Chaffee Zoo – Jean Chaffee, Presenter. There are three key names in the park/zoo, Roeding, Nosey, and Chaffee history. Frederick Roeding and his son George pioneered the Fresno area with the building of the Central Railroad. George was a landscaper, who led to the creation of Roeding Park and, by accident, the zoo. The following 20 years saw the haphazard growth of the zoo. George died in 1927, one year before the zoo received accreditation. The arrival of Nosey the elephant in 1941 propelled a Zoo Society's forming and brought in 10 major animals in 10 years. This fast growth in many significant animals required the full-time service of a veterinarian. Dr. Paul Chaffee entered the exotic animal world when there was truly little information on these animals. Four years later, in 1965, he was appointed Director/Veterinarian. With that combination, he made significant changes in the care of zoo animals accepted throughout the country. The zoo's name was changed in 1990 with his passing. Measure Z passed in 2004, and the zoo has been on a growth trajectory ever since.

#### -HIKES FOR HISTORY PROGRAM 2021-

This was the 5th summer for our Hikes For History program. Over 100 people enjoyed one or more of the narrated hikes. Members of our docent program coordinated this year's hikes. Special thanks for the success of the hikes to all the docents and vest members who joined us.

The first hike, **June 26**, was to the Huntington Lake Dams and Historic Winch House. Led by Doug & Debbie Koerper, hikers viewed the dams and discussed their construction. They then walked to the Winch House to observe the 2000' climb; the railroad cars, loaded with materials, were winched up the steep hill to the bed of Huntington Lake.

The second hike, **July 24**, was to the Balsam Forebay. This hike was an easy walk, mostly level, offering birding, wildflowers, and Kaiser Wilderness views, led by Bill Donaghy. During high demand, water is drawn from Balsam Forebay into the Eastwood plant for power generation. Part of the hike included discussing many little-known facts regarding John Samuel Eastwood, a legendary figure in the development of the Central Sierra hydroelectric power system.



#### -REMAINING HIKE 2021-

<u>August 21 – Potter Pass – Meg Tallberg, Leader</u> – This is a moderate hike of approx. 4.25 miles roundtrip. We will begin the hike at the 8,200 ft. elevation and climb up to approx. 9,000 ft. in elevation. It is a beautiful hike through red fir forests, lovely meadows, creeks, and stunning vistas. At the top, we will have a gorgeous view of Mt. Ritter and Mt. Banner. Don't forget to bring your binoculars if you have them. Hikers should meet at the museum parking lot by 9:00 am. Bring a sack lunch.

# AUGUST 8 & SEPTEMBER 5th ARE OUR LAST STEAM DONKEY "STEAM-UPS" FOR THE YEAR

The Sierra Steamers can be seen in action in the parking lot at the Museum of the Central Sierra.

The Steam-Ups are always from 10:00 AM -3:00 PM.

For great family fun, bring the children and let them blow the whistle!



# AUGUST 8 & SEPTEMBER 5th ARE OUR LAST POWERHOUSE DEMOS FOR THE YEAR

There will be a demonstration of our Redinger Powerhouse #1, located at the museum, at <u>noon</u>.

This is a great opportunity for the entire family to learn how water generates electricity.



#### CSHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Keith Swinger Vice-Chair: Janet Parr Secretary: John Mount

Chief Financial Officer: Robert Knapp Executive Director: Frank Johnson Recording Secretary: Rebecca Davis

Patrick Emmert Norm Saude
Ben Kimbler Julianne Stewart
Doug Koerper John Sthol
Rick Reinhardt Vince Wiggins
Walt Reinhardt

### CSHS ADVOCATE COUNCIL

Chair: John R. Mount

Augusto Altamura Robert Berry, Jr. Dr John Boogaert William Chandler Hon. Debra Kazanjian James M. Krueger Steve McDonald Steve Magarian James Palmer Peter Van Vleet A. Emory Wishon III O. James Woodward III

If you feel you can contribute to the good works of the Historical Society as a member of the Board of Directors or as a member of the Advocate Council, feel free to contact Frank Johnson at frank@sierrahistorical.org

#### FRIDAY IN THE PINES CONCERT SERIES 2021

General seating begins at 5:00 p.m.

Shows start at 6:00 p.m.







#### PLEASE NOTE THE NEW RESTRICTIONS BELOW

Over the past seven years of concerts, it has become clear that we need to organize better how this concert series runs. Chairs will not be allowed to be set up before 4:00 pm UNLESS you are one of the following:

- 1) The winner of our live auction item at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner for premier seating and wine.
- 2) A Bronze, Business, Silver, or Gold Level Member.
- 3) A volunteer that has logged over 30 hours.

If you fall into one of the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> groups listed above, and you wish to place your chair(s) at the amphitheater, you will need to check into the museum on the day of the show between 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and you will be given up to four bands for your chair(s). This will allow us to know you have checked in.

If you do not fall into one of the above categories, you can put a chair out by checking in at the museum between 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on the day of the show and pay \$5 per chair.

Anyone that does not want to pay a fee is welcome at 4:00 p.m. All shows begin at 6:00 p.m.

We hope this will encourage more members and volunteer hours and mitigate the issue of chairs being set out without the museum's knowledge.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we roll out this newer and hope it will be an additional way to cover the museum expenses for these shows while also providing an appropriate option for seating.

#### -TWO PERFORMANCES REMAIN -

<u>August 13 – The GillyGirls</u> – We are excited to welcome back The GillyGirls Band. The GillyGirls is a local family of two sets of twins, Savannah & Morgan, and Hailey & Jillian. They enjoy playing bluegrass, southern gospel, and old-time string band music. Their music includes mandolin, fiddle, bass, guitar, banjo, singing, and even an occasional song with yodeling. These young ladies offer something unique! Mark your calendars, as this group will be a huge crowd pleaser!

<u>August 27 – Lance Canales And The Flood</u> – We are excited to announce, new to this year's Friday In The Pines Concert Series, Lance Canales & The Flood, a roots-blues influenced Americana trio from California. The Flood comprises stand-up bassist Stan "Cadillac" Lum and drummer Eric "The Kid" Encinas. Encinas keeps the rhythm along with the crowd as Canales plays hollow-bodied, anger-fueled blues guitar. For more information, please visit their website Lance Canales & The Flood.

The amphitheater is a perfect venue for picnicking and relaxing while listening to great music. Chairs, blankets, food, and drinks will continue to be welcomed. **NEW THIS YEAR: Snacks & Refreshments will be available for purchase by the Shaver Lake Trading Post.** Our concerts have brought to our Shaver community some great talent, are always fun, and continue to have free admission.

This program is supported solely by your generous donations. Artist donations are appreciated.

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER BENEFITS A NEW BUFFALO SOLDIER EXHIBIT

After the Covid-19 lockdown of 2020, the CSHS annual fundraiser dinner was once again held Saturday, July 17, at the Museum of the Sierra. A great time was had by all who attended. Buffalo Soldier educators were on hand to offer an outstanding presentation of the history of the Buffalo Soldiers. They were gracious in answering all questions that came their way. The Master of Ceremonies, KISS Country Radio Personality, Gnarley Charley, kept the night's excitement going with his enthusiasm. Thanks to our wonderful VEST volunteers, guests were treated to a fun social hour with drinks and appetizers. Blair Harlan of Riverdale catered a delicious BBQ dinner of Tri-Tip and



Chicken Quarters with all the trimmings. A silent auction, chaired by Debbie Koerper, offered 40 fabulous gift baskets valued between \$30 to \$700, followed by a spectacular 7-item live auction led by Gnarley Charley. Linda Cottingham chaired the dessert auction, offering 25 fabulous desserts purchased and shared by the guests at their tables. Proceeds for the evening yielded a net income of an estimated \$36,000 toward funding the Buffalo Soldier exhibit at the museum. **THANK YOU** to the hard-working volunteers who graciously donated over 400 hours to make this annual event a success, especially Alice Knapp, who worked tirelessly in her role as Chairperson. We couldn't have done it without you.

#### **THANK YOU** to the following people who contributed to our successful fundraiser dinner in some way:

Ace Hardware
Jan Akins
Auberry Feed Station
Basilwood Farms
Deb Bell
Linda Berry
Blue Sky Café
Buffalo Soldier Mounted Cavalry Unit

Gordon Bone

John & Christine Boogaert Burgers & Bourbon At The Point

Jean Bushell Cher Cardwell Kathleen Carlson China Peak Ski Resort Evan Collins

Lea Cordello
Brian & Linda Clague
Clawson's Motor Sports
Clovis Woodworking
Linda Cottingham
Dave's Auto Shop
Becky Davis
Bill Donaghy
Duck's Unlimited

Kristopher Elizondo Makenna Elizondo Sophia Elming Emily Falk Laura Garcia Gnarley Charley Kathy Hall Hard Entertainment

Kerri Elizondo

Blair Harlan Catering

Hungry Hut Intermountain Nursery Frank Johnson Robert & Alice Knapp Doug & Debbie Koerper Lowe's Home Improvement

MarVal Food Store Vickie Maxwell Me-N-Ed's Pizza

Al Meier

Gary & Darlene Meissner Jordan Morris

Barry & Suzanne Motte John & Dona Mount James & Delia Netto

Ohm-Mega Electric Penny Newman

Grain Co Ponderosa Market Pub-N-Grub

Judy Ricks Nancy Rose Southern California

Edison Season's Bistro Lynda Seibert Shaver Lake Art

Gallery

Shaver Lake Hotel Shaver Lake Liquor Shaver Lake Lodge Shaver Lake Pizza Shaver Lake Sports Shaver Stables
Shaver Lake Trading Post
Sierra Marina
Sierra Nut House
Judy Statler
Keith & Marcia Swinger
Tagress Pottery
Eric & Meg Tallberg
Tractor Supply
Peter & Cissy Van Vleet
Marsha Waller

Joy West Yosemite Conservancy Adventure



Buffalo Soldier Educators with Frank Johnson, CSHS Executive Director

#### IT'S BACK THIS YEAR! SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 FROM 1 PM - 3 PM







# ART SHOW AT THE MUSEUM

AND INTRODUCTION TO SEVERAL NEW EXHIBITS



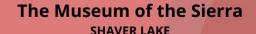




Be among the first to view a dozen fine-art, Native American themed, pencil drawings by artist Duane Jones.

Also: New Creek Fire Exhibit Trout Tank Vintage Ockenden Ranch Cash Register

August 3, 4 pm - 6 pm: Members and Invited Guests August 15, 2 pm - 5 pm: General Public



# WINE & WHISKEY

IN THE WOODS

\$40 for Whiskey Tasting \$40 for Wine Tasting (6 Tasting Tickets)

(6 Tasting Tickets)

Individual tickets will not be sold Beer and Wine will be available for purchase

We are limited to 200 attendees!

Tasting 4pm - 6pm. Music till 7pm

Music in the Amphitheater (Bring your own chair)

WINERIES, WHISKEY, FOOD AND MUSIC TO BE ANNOUNCED **Stroll to 5 Different Tasting Stations!** 



#### **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Since May, donations have been received in memory of the following:

- Mel Adamski -
  - Dusty Hill -
- Barbara Milton -

We hope you will remember the Society as a suitable means of honoring a departed friend or loved one. In addition, a Planned Giving Program is an easy way to give.

Please feel free to contact Frank Johnson at (559) 841-4478 or email: frank@sierrahistorical.org

#### CSHS MUSEUM STAFF

Frank Johnson – Executive Director Kerri Elizondo - Office Manager, Bookkeeper Rebecca Davis - Membership Coordinator, Newsletter, Recording Secretary

Deb Bell - Museum Assistant Joy West – Museum Assistant Laura Garcia – Museum Assistant



We need you! We value you more than you know. Please call the Museum if you would like to join our fantastic group of volunteers. The Historical Society is always looking for willing helpers. Members and friends alike have lent their talents in many ways. Unfortunately, we were closed most of 2020 due to the Covid-19 restrictions and then the Creek Fire, but volunteers generously donated over 5,000 hours of their time in 2019. 2021 has been an even busier year, and help is always needed. Or, to put it more appropriately, the Society needs your help! There are lots of opportunities, and there is always a place for your particular talent. We need YOU! You will have fun while working to enhance our museum. Do you know that volunteering may improve brain health? 8.6 million Americans are expected to suffer from Alzheimer's disease – a fourfold increase – in the next 50 years. Research shows a positive link between volunteering and improved brain health.

#### Ways to get involved:

- \* JOIN VEST and/or become a Docent.
- \* Help with an event: Ice Cream Social, Annual Fundraiser Dinner, Children's Holiday, and Summer Crafts
- \* Volunteer for the Partnership in Education Program: outreach to schools with local education opportunities

**Docents** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 9:00 A.M. to share ideas and information. Whether your interest is specific to an area like railroads, the steam donkey engine, or the powerhouse, or you prefer to greet visitors inside the museum, being a docent has much to offer.

**VEST (Volunteer Education Service Team)** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 10:15 A.M. The VEST mission is to create awareness of the Museum of the Central Sierra Historical Society and facilitate events and educational programs.

#### **OUR THANKS TO CSHS BUSINESS CIRCLE MEMBERS**

**THANK YOU** to the following businesses who 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. Please consider supporting us by joining the Historical Society as a Business Circle Member with a tax-deductible \$250/year membership donation.



Academic Gameplan, Jill McBride Baxter	Rolling Hills Estate
Auberry Feed Station, Patty Jones	Auberry
Augusto Altamura & Co, Augusto Altamura	Riverdale
Boy Scouts of America, Sequoia Chapter #027, John Richers	Fresno
Cal West Rain, Larry Isheim	Kerman
Coleman, Tom & Lisa	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	Shaver Lake
Lite-On-The Land, Steve & Starla Lawshe and Ryan & Kristen Day	Auberry
McPheeters & Associates, Land Surveying, Katrina Olsen	Clovis
Melko Notary Services, Philip Melkonian	Sanger
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
Outback Materials, Curtis Lovett	Fresno
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 Solid Waste, Fred Dow	Friant
Ponderosa Telephone, Dusty Gauthier	O'Neals
Quaking Aspen, Inc., Lindsey Chargin	Shaver Lake
Quality Home Painting, Inc., Jim Hoak	Prather
RPM Planing Mill, Inc., Mike & Jean Bushell	Fresno
Reedley Veterinary Hospital, John & Gail Gray	Parlier
Reinhardt Insurance Agency, Inc., Walt Reinhardt	Fresno
Roger E Petersen Investments, Roger E Petersen	Clovis

August 2021 Newsletter	
Shaver Lake Fishing Club, The McDonald Family	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Marina, Tyler Powell	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Pizza, Rehg & Darla Ronemus	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Sports, Dave Powell	Shaver Lake
Shaver Lake Trophy Trout Project, Bob Bernier, Treasurer	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

In addition to being mentioned in our quarterly newsletters and advertised 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 entry for up to four people into our Sierra Voices presentations. Your business can have free use of our media room for your meetings (see below).

## DO YOU NEED A PLACE TO HOLD YOUR EVENTS? OUR MEETING ROOM CAN BE RENTED CALL THE MUSEUM FOR SPECIFICS





**ATTENTION BUSINESS MEMBERS:** Your current CSHS business membership allows you to rent our media room at no cost, provided your meeting is held during regular museum hours. If your session is held before 11:00 am or after 3:00 pm, there is a \$50 charge for each additional hour. A current certificate of liability insurance from your insurance provider will be required.



#### THANK YOU, ALLAN BLACKSILL

One of our committed volunteers, and fellow Sierra Steamer, Allan Blacksill (left), graciously built and installed a beautiful cover for the signage at our Caboose. One side describes the spark arrestor, and the other side depicts the on-site incline car. Thank you so much, Allan. Your generosity speaks volumes, and we genuinely appreciate your help with this project.

#### PRESERVE THE 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, and improve the museum and its exhibits, and provide our community with educational programs, exhibitions, and engaging social activities.

	\$1000.00 - Gold Member	
	\$500.00 - Silver Member	
	\$ 250.00 - Bronze Member	
П	\$ 150.00 - Donor Member	

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#### □ \$ 50.00 – Family Member

#### □ \$ 30.00 – Individual Member

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

#### **CIRCLE LEVELS**

□ \$250 – Business Level

□ \$2000 – Patron (5-Yr Commitment)

☐ Monthly Donate \$5 or More – Friend Circle

Call the Museum (559-841-4478) to join -or- visit our website at www.sierrahistorical.org & click on membership.



In addition, you can scan this QR code to sign up for our Friend Circle Monthly Giving Program or make a One-Time Donation.

#### **GIFT MEMBERSHIPS**

You can support the Historical Society by giving your friends and loved ones a yearly membership to the Museum. It makes an excellent gift. Please call the Museum for details.



From new.artnet.com

The Effects of the Pandemic May Not Be Quite as Devastating for American Museums as Once Feared, a New Survey Finds

15% of surveyed museums are at risk of closing now. This time last year, it was 30%. Taylor Dafoe, June 2, 2021

A year ago, the outlook for US museums appeared grim: a July 2020 survey conducted by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) found that one-third of institutions across the country could close due to the devastating effects of the pandemic.

But now, things may be starting to look up. A <u>new report by AAM</u>—the professional organization's third such survey since March of 2020—suggests that 15 percent of museums are at risk of closure. That's an improved number, to be sure, but a sobering one, too.

Indeed, if there's a message to take away from the survey, it's that museums' prospects are better but still bleak. "The museum field will take years to recover to pre-pandemic levels of staffing, revenue, and community engagement," said Laura Lott, AAM's president, and CEO, in a statement.

More than 1,000 museum directors were surveyed for the report conducted in April and released this week. More than three-quarters of them noted that their operating income dropped by an average of 40 percent.

Twenty-two percent of museums had to lay off full-time staff; 28 percent had to cut part-time employees. Just 44 percent of institutions went through the pandemic without furloughing anyone.

Worryingly, nearly 60 percent of museums were forced to cut back on education, programming, and other public services.

On average, museums were closed for 28 weeks because of the health crisis. Of course, that number isn't static, either: 29 percent of respondents have yet to reopen. Those that have are expecting visitor numbers to come in at just 41 percent of pre-pandemic figures. (AAM's fall survey, released in November 2020, found similar numbers.) Focusing on the positive, Lott pointed to the contributions museums made during a turbulent time.

"Despite economic distress, museums have been filling critical gaps in our communities," she said. "During the pandemic, museum professionals—severely impacted by the pandemic themselves—stepped up by serving the needs of their communities by supporting an education system in crisis, donating PPE and addressing food insecurity, and providing reliable information on COVID-19 and vaccinations."



#### CENTRAL SIERRA RESILIENCY FUND

**RESTORATION • COMMUNITY • STEWARDSHIP** 

The Central Sierra Resiliency Fund is a community initiative held at the Central Sierra Historical Society, a California 501(c) 3 tax exempt non-profit organization managed by a Council of volunteers. The Resiliency Fund collaborates with other local, state, and national organizations to support the revitalization of the forests and communities surrounding Shaver Lake through land restoration, local stewardship, and efforts that honor the historical legacy of the Central Sierra region.

#### **SOIL STABILIZATION**

CSRF has been working in conjunction with community members, non-profit organizations and state/federal agencies to identify priority soil-stabilization areas and assist in stabilizing landscapes damaged by the Creek Fire. Sierra Resource Conservation District, People Food Land and NRCS have been valuable partners in these efforts.

Together with our partners, as of April 30, 2021, CSRF has:

- Hosted ten anti-erosion clinics and community workdays
- · Spread 42I bales of weed free rice straw
- Provided I60 tons of mulch
- · Dispersed 2,400 linear feet of wattles
- Given 1,300 sandbags

If your neighborhood/community/HOA is in need of soil stabilization, the Central Sierra Resiliency Fund may be able to help. Please reach out to us at resiliencyfund@sierrahistorical.org





With the help of Cal Fire Nurseries and Southern California Edison, the Seedlings of Hope fundraising campaign, community members and dedicated foresters, CSRF has planted 9,335 seedlings, free of charge.

Our partners; American Forest, Mulholland Citrus, and Intermountain Nursery, are growing an additional 48,000 seedlings for planting in Fall 2021 and spring 2022 (soil conditions permitting).

Applications for Fall 2021 seedlings are currently being accepted.

To make a donation or obtain an application go to:

museumofthesierra.org/seedlings



CSRF is honoring the historical legacy of the Central Sierra region by collecting community stories of the Creek Fire—and the unique histories that precede it—and preserving those stories through the Central Sierra Historical Society.

We are collecting stories of places before and after the Creek Fire, and/or of your experience during the Fire itself. You can submit your story at: museumofthesierra.org/resiliencyfund/storytelling- program

To read a sampling of what has been submitted so far visit museumofthesierra.org/resiliencyfund/community-stories

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

CSRF has sought out volunteers for help with various workshops, soil stabilization days, seedling planting days, seed planting days and for the Storytelling committee.

If you would like to help us help the community, please sign up to be a Resiliency Fund volunteer. You can help out once, or time and time again. By signing up you will receive emails about upcoming volunteer opportunities in your area of interest.

The CSRF volunteer sign-up sheet can be found at museumofthesierra.org/resiliencyfund/resiliency-fund-volunteers



If you have any questions about volunteering, or if your organization is in need of volunteers to help with Creek Fire relief efforts, please contact us at RFVolunteers@sierrahistorical.org

The Central Sierra Resiliency Fund has been busy over the last few months, fundraising, building collaborations, and getting our gloves dirty stabilizing soil and planting trees.

To donate, or for more details about our programs and information about becoming a volunteer, sponsor, or ambassador, please go to our website: museumofthesierra.org/resiliencyfund or email us at resiliencyfund@sierrahistorical.org







P O Box 617 42642 Tollhouse Rd Shaver Lake CA 93664-0617 (559) 841-4478 cshs@sierrahistorical.org www.sierrahistorical.org www.aforestwithouttrees.com NON-PROFIT ORG US Postage PAID Permit #77 Fresno CA

#### 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:

- Ceiling fans for the main museum
- Hydration Station
- Shade awnings for the museum patios
- Topo Map Projection Display
- Solar lights for Amphitheater pathway
- Restoration of an Alison Steam Boiler/Engine Mining Exhibit
- Restoration of the Musick Mountain Steam Donkey
- Restoration of the Shaver Lake Volunteer Firetruck
- Restoration of the Quall's Mining Exhibit