MUSEUM OF THE SIERRA
AND EDUCATION CENTER

OUR HISTORY
OUR PLACES
OUR PEOPLE
OUR FUTURE



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026

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CENTRAL SIERRA RESILIENCY FUND

WEBSITE
museumofthesierra.org

MUSEUM OF THE SIERRA AND EDUCATION CENTER

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Hello, Museum of the Sierra Family,

As the season winds down and transitions into beautifully crisp autumn, I find myself reflecting with a heart full of warmth and gratitude. Summer flew by so fast it felt like the museum grounds had a life of their own. If you blinked, you may have missed it- but what a summer it was! From the first sparkle over Shaver Lake to the final notes drifting through the pines, our community turned out in full force.

Summer arrived with fireworks, music, historical stories and education, pancakes, steam/power-up demonstrations, an old-fashioned community-style ice cream social, craft fairs, and plenty of familiar faces, plus so many new ones, here to make memories and become family. What made the summer special wasn't just the number of events- it was the people who came out and supported them.

Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, performers, presenters, vendors, community members, and area guests. You make the magic happen!

I look forward to seeing you again this season, and if not, then next,

Warm regards,

Jeanine Halbrook

STILL TO COME

Fall colors are rushing in, with winter's bluster tiptoeing in behind. Here at the Museum, we're not quite ready to batten down the hatches, yet. Our open season will extend by a few weekends, weather permitting; we close for Winter on Dec. 20th.



FALL MUSEUM HOURS:
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
11:00 AM–3:00 PM
CLOSED MONDAY–THURSDAY

The gift shop is stocked with a variety of lovely hand-crafted holiday gifts for your local shopping pleasure.



While you're here, check out our Scavenger hunt, brilliantly designed by our Education & Artifact Coordinator, Seth, in collaboration with our Administrative Assistant, Cheyenne.

There is still fun to be had!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHILDREN'S CRAFTS
SATURDAY NOV. 28TH 11AM-2PM

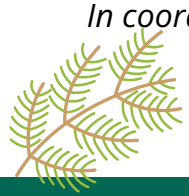
We're delighted to welcome you to our annual Holiday Children's Craft Day, brought to you by our wonderful volunteers!



- Pinecone Bird Feeder
- Ribbon Chains
- Felt Animal Ornament

Join us for an afternoon filled with festive fun, holiday creativity, and joyful memories. Bring the little ones and let their imaginations sparkle as we celebrate the season's magic together!

In coordination with the Shaver Lake Winter Wonderfland festivities, and proud shuttle stop participant for all guests traveling between the Community Center & Camp Edison!





EVENTS RECAP







ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER BENEFITING BOTANICAL GARDENS

Guests gathered for an enchanting evening supporting our botanical garden, where nature, philanthropy, and community came together in full bloom. Surrounded by the garden's beauty and inspiration, attendees enjoyed an elegant dinner followed by an exciting auction featuring unique experiences, special treasures, and one-of-a-kind offerings—all to help preserve and nurture our garden for generations to come.



SYMPHONY IN THE SIERRAS
ALL PROCEEDS TO ENDOWMENT

Our Symphony in the Sierra welcomed a wonderful crowd for a magical evening of music, mountain beauty, and community. We were honored to host the Fresno Philharmonic once again, beginning with a stirring rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner and a heartfelt flag salute by Cub Scout Pack 65. The evening continued with spirited favorites, creating a beautiful night of music and memories beneath the Sierra sky. Proceeds from this sponsored event go to the Museum's Endowment Fund, which sustains the museum.





COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIR & POWER UP DAYS

This year, we launched our Community Craft Fair to coincide with our annual Steam Donkey Engine Steam-Up and Powerhouse Demonstrations. It was so nice to see the museum bustling with record numbers of smiling faces, many of whom were visiting for the first time.

The events are wonderful, but the community that comes out, volunteers, sponsors, participates, and supports them is what makes the magic happen.



EVENTS RECAP

FRIDAY IN THE PINES

Our music series, Friday in the Pines, featured The Killer Dueling Pianos, The Joe Lennigan Band, Stealing Nick's, John Pemberton and the Shotgun Riders, Douglas Rogers- “the Crooner,” The Blue Grass Element, and the season's grand finale, Cab Street Band. Good music kept the good vibes grooving all summer long!

We even had a very special proposal. Our amphitheater is a magical, inspiring place.







THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Special Thanks to our event organizers.

Hikes for History monthly hikes, organized by Meg Talberg, are always fun and educational.

Sierra Voices: phenomenal oral history monthly presentations planned by our lovely Deb Koerper

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast was delicious, as always. Special thanks to our event coordinator, John Sthol; your generosity and wonderful smile give our community purpose.

Ice Cream Social, organized by our Lead Volunteer Alice Knapp with the support of our amazing entourage of volunteers, kept bowls full of ice cream and smiles on faces all afternoon. This year we enjoyed the addition of live music by the Uncle Ephus band

Steam Donkey Steam-up led by our phenomenal Steamers, with Norm Saude leading the way.

Power House Power -Up facilitated by the mastery of Doug Koerper, with support volunteers assisting the live demonstration of hydroelectricity.

Children's Crafts, Annual Dinner, Friday in the Pines Field trips, and so much more- our volunteers make the magic happen!

27TH ANNUAL BLACK POT COOK-OFF

There is something special about a summer day at Shaver Lake when good food, great music, and generous hearts come together for a cause that means so much to our mountain community. The Annual High Sierra Black Pot Cook-off once again filled the Shaver Lake Fishing Club with the sights, sounds, and aromas that have made this event such a beloved tradition.

Guests gathered beneath the pines to enjoy incredible dishes prepared over black pots, live music, and the simple pleasure of spending the day with friends, family, and neighbors. More importantly, everyone came together with a shared purpose—supporting the Museum of the Sierra and its Building and Exhibit Fund. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and guests, this year's Cook-off raised approximately $43,000 to help the Museum continue preserving, protecting, and sharing the history of the Central Sierra for generations to come.

An event like this is only possible because so many people are willing to lend their time, talents, and energy. The Shaver Lake Fishing Club members and the McDonald Family worked throughout the event to keep everything running smoothly. Sue Johnson and the High Sierra Black Pot Cookers once again brought their cooking talents—and plenty of delicious food—to the festivities, while Stevo Gillett and his fellow musicians provided the soundtrack for a wonderful afternoon in the mountains.







Just as important are the volunteers, donors, sponsors, businesses, organizations, and guests whose generosity makes this tradition possible year after year. Every donated item, helping hand, prepared dish, purchased ticket, and contribution helps make the Cook-off a success and supports the Museum's future. To everyone who helped make this year's gathering possible, we offer our heartfelt thanks. We are especially grateful to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses whose generosity and support helped carry on this special High Sierra tradition:

Shaver Lake Fishing Club
Southern California Edison
SDM Realty
Community West Bank
Enterprise Car Rental
DeGraw Livestock
Donaghy Sales
Fresno County Sheriff's SAR
Huneeus Vintners
J. Noble Binns Plumbing Co.
James Quashnick Photography
La Boulangerie
Lite on the Land
Mountain Milk & Air
Norman Saude
Patty Holman
Reimer Packing
Shaver Coffee & Deli

SUBMITTED BY: HEATHER MCDONALD SULLIVAN, BLACK POT COORDINATOR, SHAVER LAKE FISHING CLUB

INTRODUCING



TESS ERDMAN
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DONOR RELATIONS

For those I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, I'd like to introduce myself. I recently joined the Museum of the Sierra team with a focus on donor development, marketing, communications, and strengthening the relationships that connect our Museum to the community we serve.

While my role here is new, my connection to this community is not.

I'm a local to the Shaver Lake area and have spent many years working, raising my family, volunteering, and supporting community and youth programs throughout our mountain communities. I care deeply about this area—not only about preserving its history, but about creating opportunities for people to experience, understand, and become part of it.

The Museum of the Sierra is more than a collection of artifacts—it's where the stories of our mountains, communities, and families are preserved and passed on. My role is to help strengthen that mission by building relationships with members and donors, developing community partnerships, expanding awareness, and growing support for the Museum's programs, collections, and future.

Why I'm Here **YOU ARE PART OF THE MUSEUM'S STORY, TOO.**

Just as importantly, I want to get to know the people who already care about this organization. Many of you have supported the Museum and the Central Sierra Historical Society long before I arrived. You have volunteered, donated, attended events, shared stories, preserved photographs and artifacts, served on committees and boards, renewed memberships, and told others why this place matters.

I'd love to hear from you.

There is a lot ahead for the Museum of the Sierra, and I'm excited to be part of it.

I look forward to sharing more with you soon!

559.841.4478 / 559.218.0548 tess@sierrahistorical.org

WAYS TO SUPPORT

MEMBERSHIP

BE CONNECTED. MAKE AN IMPACT

Membership keeps you connected to the Museum while helping preserve the stories and heritage of the Sierra for generations to come.

- Help preserve and share Sierra history.
- Enjoy member benefits, programs, and events.
- Support our heritage for future generations.



MAJOR GIFTS

LEAVE A LEGACY THAT LASTS.

Major gifts make a lasting difference. Your generosity helps fund exhibits, facility improvements, collections care and future growth that ensures the museum thrives for generations to come.

- Support capital projects and long-term initiatives.
- Create a legacy that reflects your values.
- Make a transformational impact on our mission.



EDUCATION INITIATIVE

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE.

Our education programs inspire curiosity, strengthen local identity, and connect young people to history and landscapes that surround them. Your support helps us expand hands-on learning opportunities for students and families.

- Fund field trips, workshops and classroom programs.
- Provide scholarships and outreach opportunities.
- Help young people become future stewards of the Sierra.



VOLUNTEER

JOIN US. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Volunteers are at the heart of the Museum of the Sierra. Share your time and talents while helping preserve our history and create meaningful experiences for our community.

- Share your skills, interests, and experience.
- Support exhibits, events, programs, and visitors.
- Connect with others who care about the Sierra.



NEW MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS STARTING JAN. 1, 2027

COMMUNITY MEMBER

$50 / year

- Benefits for household
- Voting Rights
- Event Notices
- Member Pricing on Events & Tours
- Library Access
- FREE Sierra Voices Admission

BUSINESS MEMBER

$300 / year

All Donor benefits, plus:

- ✓ 10% Discount at Museum Gift Shop
- ✓ Early Preview of New Exhibits

JOIN THE FRIENDS CIRCLE

Make your Impact monthly

Choose convenient automatic monthly giving with a **12-month commitment** and receive benefits associated with your annual giving level.

- $5-$16 /MONTH — COMMUNITY BENEFITS
- $17-$49 /MONTH — BRONZE BENEFITS
- $50-$99 /MONTH — SILVER BENEFITS
- $100+ /MONTH — GOLD BENEFITS

BRONZE SUPPORTER

$200-599 / year

All Community benefits, plus:

- ✓ Access for Two
- ✓ 10% Discount at Museum Gift Shop
- ✓ Recognition on Our Website

SILVER SUPPORTER

$600-1,199 / year

All Bronze benefits, plus:

- ✓ 20% Discount at Museum Gift Shop

GOLD SUPPORTER

$1200+ / year

All Silver benefits, plus:

- ✓ Invitation to Exclusive Experiences
- ✓ 2 Gift Community Memberships

PATRON CIRCLE

$2,000+ /year

All Gold benefits, plus:

- ✓ Behind-the-Scenes Tours
- ✓ Early preview of new exhibits
- ✓ Donor Wall
- ✓ 20% facility discount