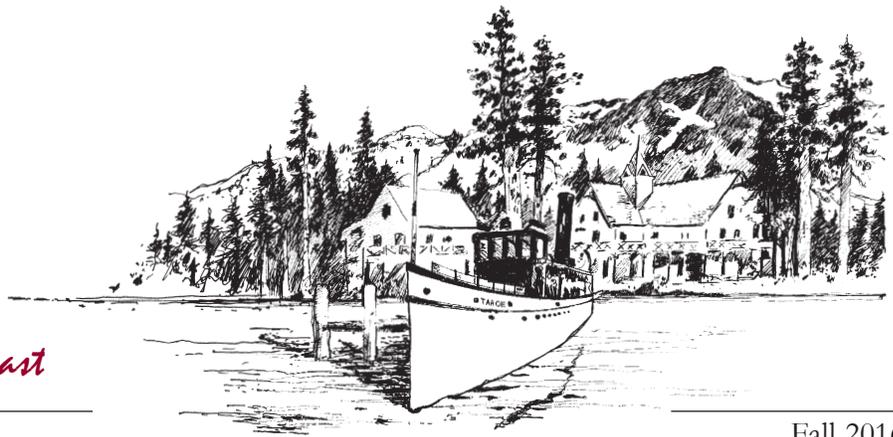


# TAHOE HERITAGE FOUNDATION



*...preserving a window to the past*

Volume 19, No. 1

Fall 2016

## *New Membership Program*

AFTER MANY YEARS IN THE PLANNING, THF HAS APPROVED A MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM...

The Tahoe Heritage Foundation supports a variety of preservation, restoration and education projects and programs in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe Heritage Foundation was founded in 1996 to enable a public/private partnership with the US Department of Agriculture that manages Forest Service restoration projects and interpretive activities at the Tallac Historic Site adjacent to the southern shore of Lake Tahoe. The Pope and Baldwin Estates remain the flagship partnership for THF. Over the years the Forest Service has had to significantly reduce its financial support to the Site. Each year the THF has had to increase its support in order to sustain even minimal maintenance and programming. For several years Tahoe Heritage Foundation (THF) has considered a membership program as the best way to augment funds and benefit our strongest supporters, and that program will be operational in 2017. There will be a mailing with details in the Spring such that members will be able to enjoy the benefits for the entire 2017 season, benefits which will include such things as discounts at our shops, priority admission to special events, and even a members-only special event..

By becoming a member you will be aiding in the restoration, preservation and interpretive activities of the Tallac Historic Site and the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, precious community resources. The Baldwin and Pope Estates are open during the summer season and offer tours, beautiful grounds and unique cabin exhibits with programs for adults, children and families. Watch for our membership mailing.

## *Environmentally Responsible Water Station*

TAHOE HERITAGE FOUNDATION HAS WORKED TO MOVE AWAY FROM BOTTLED WATER

For many years Tahoe Heritage Foundation has been unhappy about the need to sell bottled water. However the reality was that visitors arrive without water and thirsty. In 2016 THF studied how other historic sites have been able to install water refill stations and approached the Forest Service with a request to install a refill station at the Tallac Historic Site and also to consider a refill station for the Visitor Center. That Historic Site request was approved and this past summer a refill station was purchased by THF and installed outside the Baldwin Museum by our dedicated volunteers, the Generation Green team and Bob I. Concurrently THF designed and stocked a collapsible water bottle. Note that the label mentions both the Historic Site and the Visitor Center with the hope that we or the Forest Service will be able to provide another refill station next year.



## Tahoe Heritage Foundation supports the Forest Service intern program...

TALLAC HISTORIC SITE AND TAYLOR CREEK VISITOR CENTER BENEFIT FROM THE INTERN PROGRAM AND INTERNS BENEFIT FROM SERVICE TO THESE SPECIAL PLACES

Each year between four and six interns are selected to spend their summers working at Lake Tahoe. Their backgrounds vary from the biological sciences, to business, to history, to education and they share a common goal of public service. The program varies each year according to the specialties and interest of the selected candidates. At the Visitor Center they all must learn about the Tahoe Basin and be able to work the front desk where they are part of the Forest Service face to the public, answering questions as varied as, “where are the bears?” to “how do I get a permit to stay overnight in the backcountry?” to “what wildflower is this?”. They participate in leading programs such as the Rainbow Trail Walk and they also assist the Tahoe Heritage Foundation in the sale of interpretive materials which enhance the public understanding and raise funds that are returned to the Site. At the Tallac Historic Site the roles can be quite different year-to-year depending on individual interest. Some have acted as historic characters leading tours of the Pope House dressed in period costume. Some work with the Site Director to develop a specific summer-long program such as a developing new exhibit of historic toys and games or creating a new video that serves as a visitor introduction to the Site. The Program requires that, in addition to helping the Site, each intern experience personal growth leading to better career opportunities. Two interns have gone on to become employees of Tahoe Heritage Foundation. The Forest Service provides housing for the interns and Tahoe Heritage Foundation provides stipends for food and transportation.

Ally Holmes is a perfect example. In the summer of 2014 Ally was an intern at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center. While Ally’s background was in anthropology, Tahoe Heritage Foundation Board members noticed that even before the season started, Ally had taken control of the retail inventory. She always knew how to display merchandise to encourage interpretive value and maximize potential for sales. As the summer progressed Ally always was always at the Friday night programs at the Taylor Creek Amphitheater making visitors comfortable. In 2015 THF received a grant to enhance the Friday night Amphitheater programs and needed additional staffing to carry out the obligations of the grant. THF turned to Ally and she was hired as THF Program Coordinator. Her role quickly expanded to include handling of the ordering and processing of merchandise for the retail operation. She learned a lot and THF could not have gotten through the summer without her. The boxed personal stories speak for themselves about the value of the program to both the Site and individuals. We could not do all that we do without them!



I was an intern for the Tallac Historic Site during the 2013 season and the opportunity couldn't have come at a better time. Having just left my doctoral program in Environmental History to pursue a career in the non-profit world, I was at the beginning of a BIG shift. Tallac gave me the opportunity to own many of the responsibilities of a non-profit director under the fantastic leadership of Jackie Dumin and her dedicated volunteer staff. I was lucky enough to make long-lasting friendships with our staff and volunteers and use my skill sets to help with implementing historical programs, exhibit development, donation solicitation for the Great Gatsby festival, and developing the Xplore map project of historic sites around in the Basin. While getting a peek inside how the Forest Service operates and sitting on the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition were eye-opening and resume building experiences, the most important thing I learned while I was at Tallac was how to foster relationships. It was so much fun coming into a family as tight knit as the volunteers! Working and relaxing along side them taught me that appreciation, socializing and taking the time to get to know people is the best way to create a dynamic work environment, and that it's truly passion, love and a little bit of elbow grease that keep a successful operation running. As a Regional Market Manager at a charity non-profit called Cupid's Undie Run, I think about our volunteers almost every day because all of our events are put on by volunteer event managers. Non-profits wouldn't be anything without volunteers, and none even come close to the ones I've worked with at Tallac. - Kristi Roberts

## Custom Merchandise

Over the past couple of years THF has developed more and more custom items to sell at our shops. This year the custom art for one of the items was so appropriate that we decided to use it, not only on merchandise, but also on our advertising for the Gatsby Festival. Other custom items that also feature the Honeymoon cabin are coffee mugs and an embroidered women's tee shirt with a stellar's jay and the cabin. The Stellar's Jay is also one of the pins in our new Wildlife Pin series. Please come by our shops and check out our interpretive materials that enhance your visit and support our mission.



I am someone who believes that everything happens for a reason, exactly in the way it's supposed to, even if it doesn't seem apparent to me at the time. The story of how I came to this internship at Tallac Historic Site is a series of events that somehow, without me realizing it, got me to exactly where I needed to be. I applied for this job on a limb: I didn't think I had any chance of getting the position, I had never been to Tahoe or lived in California, and I knew no one at the site. But I applied – and was given an offer. After a few more unusual circumstances, I accepted it, somehow feeling in my gut that this was the place to go. I told my mom about this feeling shortly after I had accepted it, and she said that meant it was the best place for me to go.

She was right – but I don't think either of us knew at the time just how right she was. I didn't fully realize what I was coming in to at the end of May, right after graduating college. But throughout my entire summer here, I was having so much fun that I sometimes forgot I was working. The Tallac Historic Site is such a beautiful place, with so many incredible opportunities to share history with the public in interesting ways. During our many interpretive and living history programs, I got to wear play a variety of historical characters – which, with my theatre background, was a wonderful and exciting surprise. I saw an opportunity to re-create the informational video that plays in the Baldwin Museum. I was able to help to make visiting this site a better experience for visitors who are disabled through work with my fellow intern on a photo book of the Pope House. I helped plan and organize programs and worked on some new advertising methods. The list of opportunities I was given in this position goes on and on – and I learned how to look for tasks that needed to be done and figure out how I might be able to help.

I say all these things not to “toot my own horn,” but to express what an incredible environment Tallac Historic Site is for interns like myself. In this position, I was given guidance and advice, but also granted the reins to make the experience my own – to learn and grow in the areas I wanted to. I met and worked with incredible people who have changed my life in ways that I could never have imagined. I have become stronger, more confident, and more driven. I learned about the struggles that come with working in an organization and with many different personalities – and I grew in my ability to stand up for myself, to talk about difficult things, and to admit when I made a mistake. I could go on for ages about all that I have learned about the history of this area and about myself – but that could take a while! All I can say is how truly grateful I am for this opportunity. I know that I have gained so many important skills for my future career in public history and for my life in general. As I near the end of my time here at Tallac, my feelings are bittersweet. I am excited for my future and for applying what I have learned here. But my heart is heavy with the knowledge that I am leaving this unbelievable place that has impacted my life in innumerable ways. This historic site will always hold a special part of my soul, and I will never forget my time here. - Ellie Hinkle



## Letter from the President...

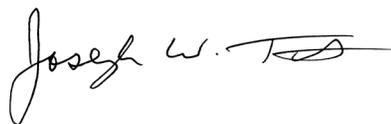
Greetings from the Board of Directors of Tahoe Heritage Foundation to the Volunteers, United States Forest Service Employees and all those interested in the welfare of the Tallac Site and the Taylor Creek Visitor Center; 2016 was another successful year. 2017 is almost here and we are all hopeful for another successful year. My letter this year addresses two serious matters facing Tahoe Heritage Foundation. Both of these issues could impact the foundation's continued involvement with these popular visitor sites.

The first involves money. Due to budget constraints hitting the USFS, many of the activities at the site previously performed by the forest service employees are now the responsibility of the paid staff of the THF. Much of the FS funds otherwise earmarked for use at the site are being funneled off to fight forest fires. The volunteers and interns still perform necessary functions, but more and more of the day to day activities and responsibilities at the site are being handled by staff of THF. The individuals working for THF do exemplary work, but additional personnel are needed to assist the current director and her staff to accomplish the goals set for the site. Additionally, THF pays the stipend earned by the interns and assists with the funds needed to make the volunteers' stays workable. THF also pays for many of the improvements at the site as well as the infrastructure and support for the interpretive stores. Historically some of the funds used to pay for the activities outlined above have come from donations; however, donations are no longer sufficient to continue the activities carried on at the site. The board, which is completely voluntary, has decided to encourage the public to become members of THF in 2017. Incentives to become a member will allow the public to enjoy discounts when visiting the site. With your financial help in 2016 and 2017 either through donations or membership, visiting the site without any admission charge and free parking will remain the best bargain in Tahoe.

The second issue involves the Board itself. To put it bluntly, we need volunteers. The board has experienced unimaginable decline in its ranks due to a number of unforeseen factors. We say goodbye to John Shilling after eight years and Jane Mitchell after seventeen years and welcome Marilyn Long. We desperately need people to fill the positions of treasurer, vice-president, other committee chair positions. If you are interested, please contact us at our offices.

Tahoe Heritage Foundation is again very fortunate to work with the USFS in partnership to offer visitors and locals alike an opportunity to view what it was like at Tahoe during the late 1800s and early 1900s and to better understand our natural environment. Thank you again for your support of our work and we will again try to make 2017 an enjoyable experience for all those who visit the Tallac Site.

I hope that you all have a joyous and happy holiday season.



Joe Tillson, President, Tahoe Heritage Foundation



### WELCOMING MARILYN LONG TO THE BOARD

Marilyn and her husband, John, started as RV volunteers at the Tallac Historic Site in the early 1990s. As a school librarian, she brought talents such as storytelling, research and organization to the site through the years. She has consistently offered her expertise through many programs, engaging visitors, becoming knowledgeable of Tahoe history and even moving the donor records from card files to the computer at Tallac and at the local history museum. In 2009, the Longs moved to South Shore and have continued to volunteer between extensive travels. John's expertise has been as an electrician, woodworker and general maintenance person over the years. In April, Marilyn, with her knowledge from various areas, agreed to join the THF Board and hopes to help us focus on many of the areas of our mission, "...to preserve and protect the cultural heritage and natural history resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin through restoration, interpretation, and education."

Look for us on our web site: [www.tahoheritage.org](http://www.tahoheritage.org).

Tahoe Heritage Foundation • P.O. Box 8586, South Lake Tahoe CA 96158 • voice 530.544.7383 • fax 530.544.7778  
[www.tahoheritage.org](http://www.tahoheritage.org) e-mail: [info@tahoheritage.org](mailto:info@tahoheritage.org)