

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Museum Matters

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Historical Highlights:

Presently in America, women are CEO's of Fortune 500 companies, top level executives, political powerhouses, thought leaders, and a myriad of other high level positions. Therefore, dedicating the month of March in honor of women's achievements may seem irrelevant today. But at the time of the conception of a Women's History month, activists saw the designation as a way to revise a written and social American history that had largely ignored women's contributions.

Women's History Month had its origin in 1981 when, authorized and requested by Congress, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week". Five years later, the President declared March, 1987 as "Women's History Month" and called upon all Americans to mark the month with observances to honor the achievements of American women. The Great Communicator eloquently stated:

American women of every race, creed and ethnic background helped found and build our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways ... As leaders in public affairs, American women not only worked to secure their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity but also were principal advocates in the abolitionist, temperance, mental health reform, industrial labor and social reform movements, as well as the modern civil rights movement.

Tulare County has a rich history of honoring and embracing the accomplishments of hard-working American women. Strong and capable women have been influential and instrumental in the history of the Central Valley. The extraordinary women who have made a difference in our county is numerous, no doubt, highlighted by the following examples:

- Josephine Allensworth, wife of the founder of Allensworth, the only town in California founded and run by African Americans. She made sure Allensworth had a library.
 - Anna Mills Johnston, the first woman to climb Mt. Whitney, in 1878, despite a physical handicap, accomplishing the feat with three other women and five men.
 - Eleanor Calhoun, a well-connected actress of the late 1800s, who married a Serbian prince and has been dubbed "the princess of Visalia."
 - Mary Garcia Pohot, a Wukchumni basket weaver, singer and Native American story teller. Her basketry is on display at the Tulare County Museum in Mooney Grove Park.
 - Ina Stiner, a Porterville high school teacher and school librarian who wrote books about Porterville history, especially pioneers.
 - Annie Mitchell, a Visalia historian and educator who wrote several books about Tulare County history and for whom, the history room at the library is named.
- Struggle is what the month of March signifies and what its traditions are all about. That and the solidarity with American women are at the heart of this distinctive month that has been dubbed Women's History Month.

~ From Los Tulares Article, written by Joel Reed

Save the Date:

The Tulare County Museum is thrilled to announce it will host its fifth annual Museum Jamboree on Saturday, April 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Tulare County Museum in Mooney Grove Park. This free, family-friendly event is packed with fun and educational activities for guests of all ages to learn more about the Museum and Tulare County's history.

The first annual Jamboree celebrated the restoration and reopening of the Museum's Main Street gallery, which had been closed for a decade. Since then, the event has continued to bring community members together each year to explore the Museum's newest exhibits and get to know its community partners.

This year, the Jamboree will feature a blacksmith at work in front of a real blacksmith shop from Ducor, a woodworking demonstration, model trains, and a mini car show put on by the Visalia Vapor Trailers Car Club. There will also be hayrides, mini golf, free classes, and performances!

Visitors interested in learning more about the County's history are invited to watch videos provided by Tulare County Treasures in the Museum Theatre and opportunities will be available to learn about local Native American culture with the Tule River Language Project. Other attractions include gardening tips from Master Gardeners, local artist demonstrations with the Arts Consortium, the Tulare County Library Book Mobile, American Legion Post 18 information on veterans, and Visit Visalia informational booths, along with other Tulare County museums.

Don't miss the chance to get a photo with Tipper from the Rawhide or Captain Cal with Cal Fire. Food from Quesadilla Gorilla's food truck & Lulu's Kettle Corn and root beer floats from A&W will be available for purchase. Guests won't want to miss the raffle drawing for exciting prizes donated by local businesses. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$2.00 each, and prizes include a gift card and t-shirt from Brewbakers, two family fun packs for the Rawhide, gift certificates to Outback and Tractor Supply, family fun night passes for Roller Towne, and an item to paint at Clay Cafe.

The Jamboree is a perfect event for the whole family with so much to see, hear, and do, so please join us!



Tulare County Museum Jamboree

The Tulare County Museum, in Mooney Grove Park, invites your entire family to join us in celebrating the heritage of Tulare County on **Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



- ♦ Visalia Vapor Trailers Car Show
- ♦ Watch a real blacksmith at work
- ♦ Play a round of mini-golf
- ♦ Grow with the Master Gardeners
- ♦ Explore information about National Parks
- ♦ Learn about local Native Americans with the Tule River Language Project



Performances Demonstrations Hayrides Live Music Free classes

Food from **Quesadilla Gorilla & Lulu's Kettle Corn** & root beer floats from **A&W** will be available for purchase!

*Park entrance fee \$6.00/vehicle at the front gate & includes admission to the museum.

For information: 27000 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia | 559-624-7326 | aking1@tularecounty.ca.gov

Thank you to our partners!



Save the Date (cont):

During the Museum Jamboree there will be several opportunities to take in performances and also participate in free classes. See the schedule below for programming throughout the day!

11:00 a.m.—Enchanted Playhouse performs scenes from their upcoming play *Snow White*. Tickets can be purchased for the full length play on the Fox Theatre website for \$10 each for the performance that will take place April 28-30, 2022.

11:30 a.m.—The Tulare County Office of Education presents a recap of History Day! Students that will be moving on from the County to State level will give performances based on this year's theme of Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, and Consequences. You can also view student exhibits on display in the museum for one week starting on this day!

12:00 p.m.—Eager Studios' glee club will perform some favorite songs that you can sing along to. Eager Studios offers lessons for students of all ages and skill levels on a variety of instruments and you can enroll with them today!

12:30 p.m.—Enchanted Playhouse performs scenes from their upcoming play *Snow White*. Tickets can be purchased for the full length play on the Fox Theatre website for \$10 each for the performance that will take place April 28-30, 2022.

1:00 p.m.—Dance students from Kid's Edition will perform several dance routines. Following the performance, one of their teachers will offer a free dance class for anyone in attendance! Kid's Edition offers classes in dance and drama.

2:00 p.m.—*Exploring America's Frontier: Westward Settler Experiences in Tulare County* exhibit reception! Local historian and past president of the Tulare County Historical Society, Terry Ommen, will speak about Tulare County history during the mid to late 1800s, you won't want to miss it!

2:30 p.m.—Dina Restivo, owner of Rocky Hill Yoga & Meditation in Exeter, will conduct a gentle standing yoga class to close out the day! Rocky Hill Yoga & Meditation offers classes for all levels of yogis.

From the Collection:



The Tulare County Museum is excited to host its thirteenth cultural exhibit in the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum! The newest exhibit will highlight the pioneers of Tulare County and their impact on local history through agriculture. This exhibit is part of a rotating series to increase awareness of the rich cultures that helped shape Tulare County. The pioneer exhibit *Exploring America's Frontier: Westward Settler Experiences in Tulare County* fills the gallery with artifacts, photographs, and stories that tell an important part of Tulare County's agricultural history as many of the

families still here today have had Tulare County land in their families for several generations.

This exhibit is unique in that it includes items and photos that have been loaned from all historical museums in Tulare County, complete with a covered wagon that made the journey out to California from Texas in 1864. All museums in Tulare County have amazing collections and we are fortunate to be able to share them in our exhibit!





Super Sleuths Needed!

This photo was taken at Rankin Field and includes quite a few women! Do you know who any of these folks are? Unfortunately we do not know the year this was taken, but if you do let us know! This photo will be posted on the Museum Instagram and Facebook page so you can comment there or email us at tularecountymuseum1948@gmail.com with any clues you might have. Put on your Sherlock hat and get out your magnifying glasses to help the museum solve the mystery of identifying this picture!

Find us on the web:

<https://tularecountymuseum.org/museum/>

Call us: (559) 624-7326

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Curator's Corner

Hello history heroes,

2022 has started off with lots of planning for the year ahead! I am looking forward to new exhibits and I hope to see you at our upcoming events. Our volunteers continue to help make the museum look and run great and I am very thankful for them. Thank you to all who donated holiday decorations for a new event at the end of this year, you will not want to miss it! I hope you will join me in celebrating Tulare County at our Museum Jamboree on April 2 from 10-3 here at the Museum!
~Amy King-Sunderson