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**Welcome to Culture Connection,
Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District's newsletter
featuring the stories and people of our community**



The first women in Nevada County belonged to the Nisenan Tribe. Pictured here (l to r) Ginger Covert, Shelly Covert, Lorena Davis, and Sarah Thomas - standing in front of the Nisenan's sacred mountain Esto Yamani (the Sutter Buttes). Learn more about the Nisenan and how you can support them in achieving restoration of their federal status by clicking [here](#).

Women's History Month

In honor of Women's History Month we recognize and celebrate the women who have made remarkable contributions to the cultural legacy of Nevada City and Grass Valley.

Beginning in the late 1800's with May Martin Goyne, who along with her husband, owned and operated the Miners Foundry. She was a professional, philanthropist, community leader, and considered a driving force in the culture of Nevada City.

From Sarah Kidder, owner of the Narrow Gauge Railroad in Nevada City, and the first woman to own and operate a railroad in the United States to former Nevada City resident Ellen Sargent, a suffragette who worked on the national and state level to earn women the right to vote.

Julia Morgan and the North Star House



Morgan the architect and artist commissioned the design and construction of the house. The family occupied North Star House until 1968. Morgan's most famous and spectacular design was, of course, Hearst Castle. But in her wake, she left at least 700 buildings that are prized by owners like the Foote Family who

An architect's an architect... This building is in charge of a real architect and her name happens to be Julia Morgan, but it might as well be John Morgan."The

foreman answered, “

Julia Morgan was California’s first female architect. One of her first commissions, a freestanding bell tower for Mills College in Oakland, withstood the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. With that success, she was tapped to rebuild the damaged Fairmont Hotel. A San Francisco journalist apparently rushed to the hotel site wondering how the heck a woman could possibly be put in charge of such a large project.

The North Star House, owned and operated by the North Star Historic Conservancy is a beautiful and important example of the Arts and Crafts style. The home was built in 1905 and was Julia Morgan’s first residential commission.is enjoying a renaissance of recognition and honors.

Grass Valley is proud of the efforts to restore her important work. [You can visit the site at 12075 Auburn Road, Grass Valley](#)



Margaret Warner Swann Levine

Margaret Warner Swann – Peggy – was an artist, advocate, and

businesswoman. Since her move to Grass Valley in 1975, she - alongside her husband Howard Levine - was a force of nature. Peggy helped our Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District team kick off its state visit during the application process, and opened the doors to her historic home to help us host a breakfast with members of California Arts Council. It was one that we will never forget.

Margaret Warner Swann was a longtime member of the California Society of Printmakers. Her etchings and watercolors have been exhibited in many northern California notable galleries and exhibitions and can be found in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.

Her art and arts advocacy are the stuff of legends but the surprise, both for her friends and even for her, was her passion and considerable talent in rescuing historic homes and buildings.

It started with the purchase of the Old Jones Hospital, which - by the time she and Howard bought it - served simply as a must-see haunted house at Halloween. She and Howard painstakingly restored the old hospital into a charming bed and breakfast. Perhaps the most famous among the guest bedrooms is the old operating theater, which still features its original tile floors, and which is flooded with natural sunlight, and which - with artistic flair - is painted red.

Peggy and Howard later purchased the Holbrooke Hotel, which Peggy successfully managed. But her great love was the North Star House. She was thrilled when they uncovered Julia Morgan's connection with the house, and couldn't stay away. The rehabilitation of such an important architectural landmark was a source of great labor, and great joy, for Peggy, and she used her considerable influence and charm to pull in many volunteers to help with the effort.

We are grateful to Peggy for creating the first iteration of the Nevada County Arts Council. Her legacy will live on, as will her art and influence - and in 2018 Nevada County Arts Council inaugurated the Peggy Levine Arts & Community Service Award, to be awarded annually.

SwannLevine House

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Date

Sierra Poetry Festival, April 27 @ Sierra College Nevada County Campus

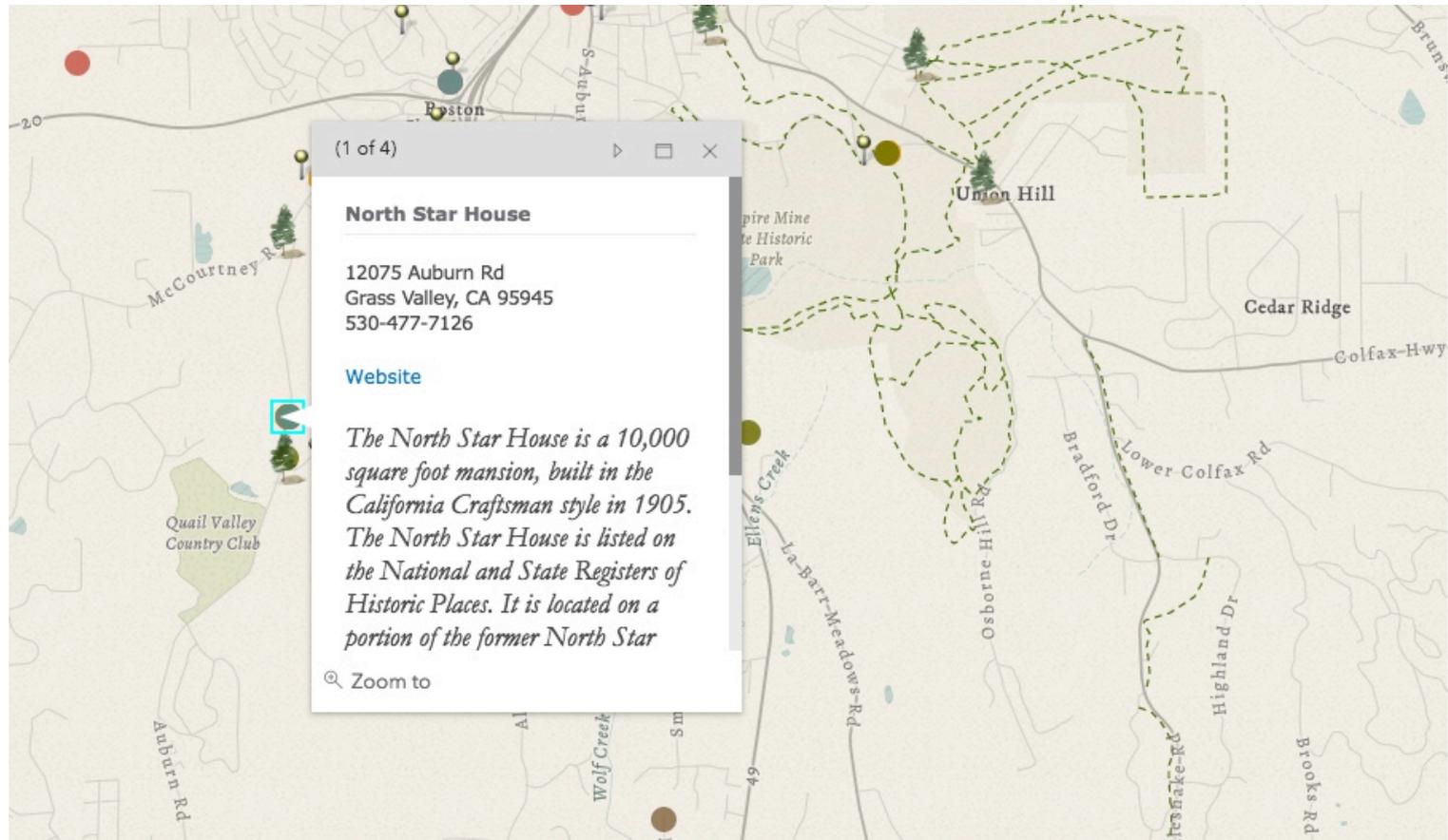
Sierra Poetry Festival marks **National Poetry Month** from the rolling foothills of California's Gold Country to the rugged High Sierra, bringing our rich literary community together to celebrate the spoken word and reach out to brand new audiences in fresh ways. Readings, workshops, music, an activity fair for all ages and youth performances will be preceded by a month of pre-festival pop-up poetry events. [Tickets and info here.](#)

Nevada County Arts Calendar - Share your event today!

Over 1,000 events are listed on the Nevada County Arts online community calendar. From concerts and theatrical productions, to gallery openings and literary talks, find out what's happening in Grass Valley and Nevada City by clicking on the link below. Take advantage of this great free resource as well as promote your upcoming events.

What is a Cultural District?

The historic twin cities of [Grass Valley and Nevada City](#) merge in the Sierra Foothills amidst pristine rivers and picturesque forests deep within California's Gold Country. Home to the Nisenan, the area's oldest indigenous peoples, the district is rich in cultural histories and the arts, and has an exciting emerging wine culture. The twin cities boast outstanding year-round programming in music, theatre and dance; a density of artists and makers; and a festival culture to die for.



#GVNCCulturalDistrict

Share what you love about the Cultural District by hashtagging your photos on Instagram and we'll share them in our next newsletter.

Below - [Lorraine Gervais](#) at Lolo's Groove Lounge at Golden Era playing vintage R&B and Soul.

[Ruth Chase](#) with the women participating in I AM HERE at the Crocker Art Museum standing in front of a Judith Lowry painting.

[Kial James](#): Seventeen high school finalists gathered to share the power of poetry alongside seven judges and NC Arts Council Poetry Out Loud Team.

[LeeAnn Brook Fine Art](#) JONI: a show of iconic professional photographs

spanning the life/career of Joni Mitchell, up until February 28.



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