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Lancaster, California 93584

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Holidays on the Homestead 2018

BY INTERPRETER, JEAN RHYNE

A record number of holiday revelers came to the Antelope Valley Indian Museum to enjoy chili around the campfire at the 8th annual Holidays on the Homestead! Almost 200 visitors and event participants sampled the six chili cook-off entries, and tried real “cowboy coffee” poured from tin kettles while singer Michael Tcherkassky crooned cowboy poetry under the wintery desert sky.

Harking back to the creativity and artistry of museum founder H. A. Edwards, the event’s craft boutique featured handmade jewelry, whimsical housewares, miniatures, needlework and more from Art Resurrected, Toodeloo Studios, Dark Wolf Jewelry Design, Accent Illusions, and Kittyloaf Designs.



Visitors Enjoying the Craft Vendors

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE #S

Holidays on the Homestead	1 - 6
Volunteer Jeannine Byer	3 - 4
Play Rehearsals	
More Museum Info, online & Facebook	
Friends of AVIM Directors 2017-2018	
AVIM Contact Info & FAVIM Membership	



<http://www.avim.parks.ca.gov/info.shtml>

This year’s chili cook-off judge was State Park Ranger Damion Laughlin from Red Rock Canyon State Park. After comprehensive deliberation, first place went to “3rd Alarm Chili,” submitted by LA County Fire Station 114’s Jeremy Wright. Joanna Parker came in second place with her “Mighty Bison Chili,” and Homestead cook-off regular Jodi Mulder took third with her “Taco Chili.” The winners took home a hot sauce set, a \$20 gift certificate for the AVIM gift shop, and a day-use/camping pass for the 11 parks of the Tehachapi District, respectively.

Other chili’s submitted were State Park volunteer Ale Sandoval’s vegan chili (which won first place in 2017), a team of her father Juan and sister Lizette with “Thunder Chili,” and State Park Ranger Kevin Overduin’s “Cattle Wrangler’s Trail Chili.”



Ranger Damion takes his chili judging responsibilities very seriously while volunteer and chili competitor Ale Sandoval looks on

Also available for tasting was Rose Edwards' original 1940's "Texas Style Chili" recipe, made with real suet and lard! In the Museum's early days, Rose's chili was popular at the local community Christmas gatherings. State Park Interpreter Jean Rhyne and District Admin Chief Patty Plumlee recreated the recipe, which involved special requests for the obscure ingredients at the local Mexican market, and interpreting Rose's sometimes ambiguous recipe notes.

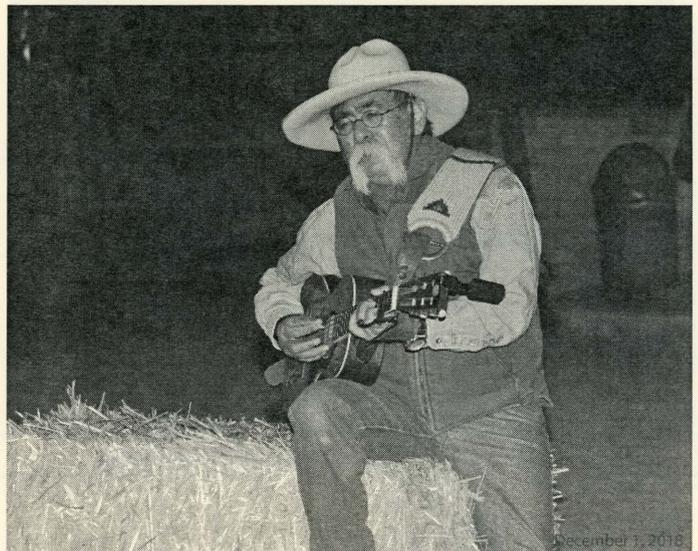
Outdoor heat lamps were a new addition at the seating areas this year, which were greatly appreciated by the visitors on the particularly chilly night!

Destination Lancaster, one of the biggest promoters of our local State Parks, organized a visit to the event for a group of 20 local and world-wide travel bloggers and tour companies. Interpreter Jean Rhyne hosted a private tour of the historic grounds for the group, in addition to a public tour, which included a rare opportunity to view the inside of historic Lizard Cottage temporarily furnished with the original 1940's Monterey Furniture.

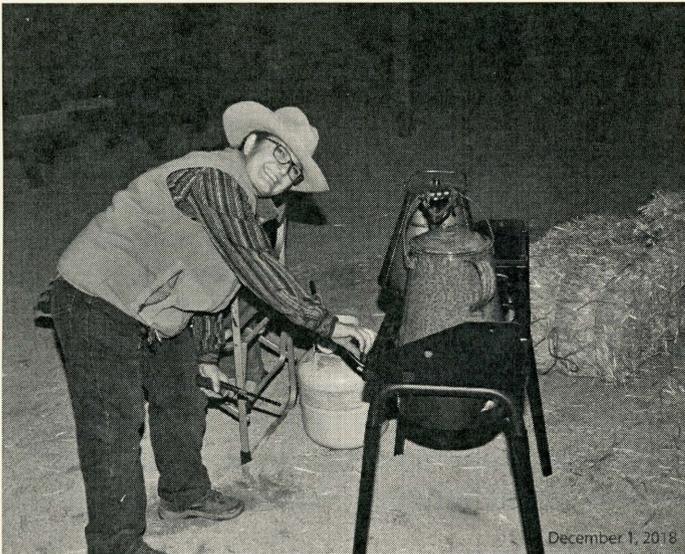
The museum grounds were festively decorated with live greenery and ribbons, in the original holiday style of Mr. Edwards. Over the previous week, Interpreter Jean had diligently pillaged four Christmas tree lots on a nightly basis for leftover tree branches, so volunteers could make the fresh-smelling garland, swags and wreaths. The volunteers were often excited to discover they had a new talent!

Just as it was in the 1940's, the local community comes together to support each other in the spirit of the holidays season. To accompany the chili, The Lemon Leaf Café in Lancaster donated trays of delicious cornbread. Karen Freeman from The Feed Store loaned straw bales for seating around the fire, and Moses Medina donated firewood to keep everyone toasty and the kettles hot!

The event, benefitting the Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum, could not happen without the support of our staff and volunteers. Museum Curator Peggy Ronning staffed the museum entrance and Rangers Kevin and Damion assisted with the event (when they weren't on chili duty!). FAVIM Board members Don Borchers, Betsy Matheny, John and Susan Martin, Cydnee Ashmore and Darrell Walters, along with volunteers Jim Quinn, Michiko Shimizu and Ale Sandoval, also supported the event.



Cowboy Singer Michael Tcherkassky



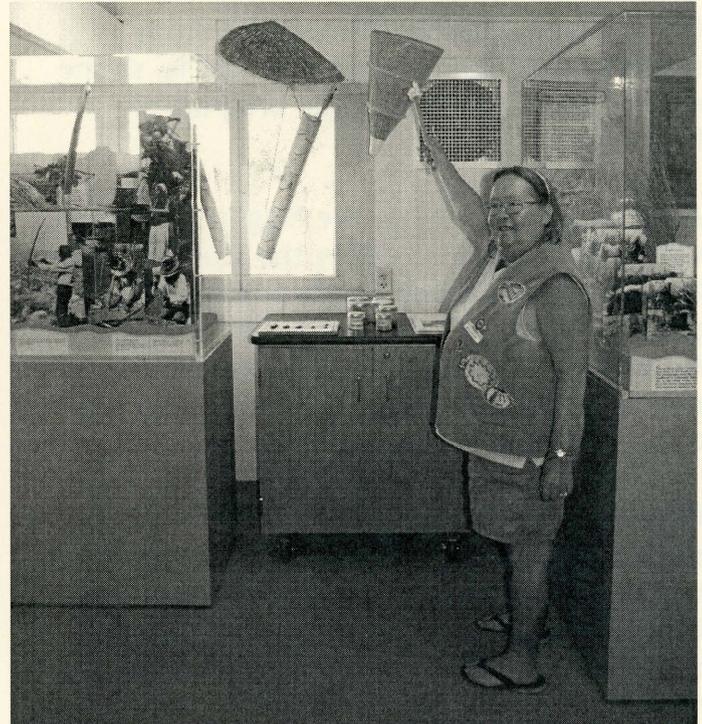
Paulette Tcherkassky Brewing Up Cowboy Coffee

Poppy Reserve volunteers John and Connie Scott, Marti Lindsey and Laurie Mohning ventured across the valley to assist with decorating with fresh greenery. A big thank you for your help with making Holidays on the Homestead a treasured community activity!

Featuring Volunteer Jeannine Byer
 BY MUSEUM CURATOR, PEGGY RONNING

Jeannine Byer began volunteering at Antelope Valley Indian Museum in 2002. She has dedicated a total of 967 hours to the museum. The museum is very lucky that the Antelope Valley Press printed an article about volunteer opportunities at the museum at the same time that Jeannine was looking for a museum where she could volunteer to fulfill a class requirement at Cal State Northridge. Jeannine went on to complete her BA in History at Cal State Northridge. She started teaching in 2004 and received her teaching credential in 2006.

Like many volunteers, Jeanine began as a weekend volunteer. Veteran volunteers Margaret Borchers, Bethel Gordon, and Dana Grabb provided her training. Jeannine never felt intimidated or nervous because there is a reference notebook in each room to help volunteers answer visitor questions.



Volunteer Jeannine Byer

Back when Jeannine first became a volunteer in 2002, there were a total of 138 volunteers at the museum. The museum was able to staff not only staff Kachina Hall, California Hall, the Southwest Room, and the Great Basin Room with volunteers, but also the touch table in Joshua Cottage. In comparison, in 2018 the museum only had 14 volunteers, and we were lucky to have someone to staff Kachina Hall. While Jeannine rotated through all the rooms, she ended up spending the most time at the touch table partly because she discovered she enjoyed interacting with the kids and partly because she was the only volunteer who didn't mind cleaning up the touch table at the end of the shift!

Jeannine decided to become a tour docent in 2014 because teaching children who want to learn brings her joy. It wasn't hard for her to learn how to give school tours because she was already a teacher. The tour content was already developed, and she just needed to learn it. However, after she mastered the basic school tour, she began customizing the tour based on her interactions with the kids.

For example, she discovered that many students don't know what a basket is, so she expanded the portion of the program on baskets.

According to Jeannine, the biggest challenge with school tours is getting the students and teachers organized at the beginning when they get off the bus. This is when the tour guides figure out if the teacher has classroom management skills, or if the tour group is going to be rowdy.

However, even the rowdy students are enthusiastic about learning at the museum, which is the biggest reward of doing school tours. Jeannine enjoys hearing how excited the students are when they walk out the door after their program is over. Sometimes the students even give her a hug!

While Jeanine likes giving school tours, her favorite volunteer activity at the museum is staffing the clay activity during the annual American Indian Celebration event. The kids really enjoy making a clay object, and because the bag of clay is only \$1, they come back over and over again to make new items. Jeannine laughs because the dads start out helping their kids, but eventually the dads give up pretending to help and just buy a bag of clay for themselves.

When Jeannine is not volunteering at the museum, you can usually find her out in her garden, but she also enjoys traveling and cooking. When asked what she wants everyone to know about volunteering at the museum, Jeannine says, "It's worth the drive to come out here and volunteer!"

Actors Needed

BY MUSEUM CURATOR, PEGGY RONNING

If you are between the ages of 8 and 18 and enjoy acting, come out to Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park and audition for our annual outdoor play based on a traditional California Indian story. Rehearsals will be every Tuesday afternoon from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. starting on Tuesday, February 19. Auditions will be on the first day of rehearsal. The performance is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Saturday, May 4.

The history of theater at the museum dates back to 1932. Museum founder H. A. Edwards wrote an Indian pageant, which was performed outdoors near the museum, annually from 1932 to 1935. Edwards' drama students from Lincoln High School played the main roles, and local friends and neighbors played the secondary roles. Edwards named his outdoor stage Theatre of the Standing Rocks.

Actors (age 8-18) Needed No Experience Necessary!



A youth play based on an
American Indian Story

Performed outdoors at
Little Theatre of the Standing Rocks



Rehearsals every Tuesday
From 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Starting Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019

Where:

Antelope Valley Indian Museum
15701 East Avenue M,
Lake Los Angeles

For information:

Phone: (661) 946-3055
Peggy.Ronning@parks.ca.gov

New in the Gift Shop

BY SUSY MARTIN

Native American artist Maria Adelicia is of San Juan Pueblo descent from San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico.

She specializes in black on black pottery. This beautiful black pottery starts with white clay made from the finest materials available. Every line on this piece is hand painted, then high fired three times at 2000+ degrees Fahrenheit.

The Gift Shop has a limited number of this beautiful pottery on display and available in February 2019.



Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum (FAVIM) is online:

- AVIM.parks.ca.gov : Click on “Join” for information about FAVIM, and about volunteering at the AV Indian Museum
- Facebook.com/IndianMuseumFriends : Photos, FAVIM announcements, and events such as Visiting Artists, Nights at the Museum, the Annual Celebration and more. “Like” us and support the Museum!

Online information about Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park:

- AVIM.parks.ca.gov : Museum website with information about the American Indians of the Great Basin, Southwest, and California coast; events calendar; virtual tours of the museum; and search the museum’s entire collection online.
- Facebook.com/AVIndianMuseum : Share upcoming Event announcements with friends!



Pottery by Maria Adelicia (San Juan Pueblo)



FRIENDS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY INDIAN MUSEUM DIRECTORS 2017-2018

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Antelope Valley Indian Museum
State Historic Park

Is located at:
15701 East Avenue M
Lancaster, CA 93534

(Avenue M between 150th St. & 170th St. East)

Phone: 661-946-3055



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://www.avim.parks.ca.gov>

and FAVIM is now on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/AVIndianMuseum>

Your Membership Is Important To FAVIM

FAVIM raises funds to support Projects and Activities at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum.

The membership is renewed each September, except in the case of Life Membership.

Please make membership checks payable to "Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum" (or "FAVIM"), and return to:

P.O. Box 1171, Lancaster, CA 93584.

If you are not yet a member, and would like to support the Indian Museum, and receive a quarterly FAVIM Bulletin, and also receive a 10% Discount with Membership Card to use in the FAVIM Gift Shop, please send your check to the above address.

NEW ** BULLETIN Delivery Option - Choose one:

- either Email - provide Email address
- or USPS Postal mail

Dues:

Individual	\$ 15	Organization	\$ 35
Family	\$ 20	Patron	\$ 50
Life	\$ 200		

If your name or address is not correct, or you have moved, or you just need information about the Park or FAVIM, please call 661-946-3055.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 1171, Lancaster, CA 93584

Indian Museum
Friends of the Antelope Valley

