

the KERN COUNTY COURIER



2023 SUMMER EDITION

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Thanks to a new partnership with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Pioneer Village was filled with happy children at three different summer programs. Our Museum has supported a camp program for many years but programming, staffing and marketing have always been challenging. This summer with the large network KCSOS supports, more than 150 children took advantage of three camp programs.

Many children in Kern County look for learning enrichment activities and preventing what is known as the "summer slide." The phrase "summer slide" refers to the loss of academic skills and knowledge that students experience over the summer break when they are not engaged in formal learning activities. However, for just two to three hours per week during the summer, students who read or engage in another form of learning can prevent this loss of learning.

"The reality is half of all students lose up to 40% of their learning during the year – we don't want them to start behind when they start the new school year," said Justin Janssen, STEAM Program Specialist for KCSOS. "We need to treat our student's brains like a muscle by exercising and stimulating it for only a couple of hours a week."

Camp STEAM had special learning stations around the Village and promoted hands-on learning activities. More than 100 children worked with college aged counselors and professional staff from KCSOS. There was an emphasis on inquiry based learning and a solid infusion of arts and games.

Another cohort of special children also had a summer camp program. Often foster youth struggle to connect with extra activities for the summer. A special camp session, also managed by KCSOS, provided extra reading, math and science activities for these children. "Seeing all of these kids learning and playing together was very heart warming," said Museum Education Manager Maria Guerrero.

The Fairfax School District also supported a special summer camp for migrant children. These kids often have a difficult time with learning during the summer and connecting with recreation. The special camp brought them to Pioneer Village and provided an arts intense curriculum along with history, literacy and math projects.



from the **DIRECTOR'S DESK** BY DR. MIKE MCCOY

The story of California's Central Valley is the story of hard working immigrants creating one of the most economically important regions in the United States. I had the opportunity recently to engage with three cultural groups and to look for ways for our Museum to better celebrate their contributions.

Dr. Patrick Leung has been a long time leader in the Kern Chinese community. With his wife Maria, they have been active in the Ying On Benevolent Association, the Bakersfield Chinese School, and the Chinese Women's Club. Dr. Leung and several Chinese leaders recently gave me a tour of the Ying On Association Building on L Street. We agreed on improving and expanding the Joss House Exhibit in Pioneer Village organized by Norman Lum. We also discussed improvements at the historic Chinese cemetery that was moved to Union Cemetery in 1958.



Altar in the Ying On Association building

With an immigration surge in the late 19th century, Italian pioneers built Kern County's agricultural industry and made important contributions in law, medicine, education, public service and business. With support from the Italian Heritage Dante Association and the Italian Federation, Pioneer Village will be creating an exhibit of an Italian Immigrant home. With additional contributions from a number of Italian families, the project will relocate the home of John and Antonia Bugni to the Village and restore it beginning this Fall to serve school tours and events.



Larry Itliong Mural in Delano

Alex Edillor is active in the Filipino American Historical Society and recently met with our curator Ashleigh Meyers and West Research Fellow Katana Lester. Katana, a Filipino from Hawaii, is working this summer on building our archival collection on Filipino history. Larry has invited our team back for a luncheon meeting with his society in Delano and has agreed to be a lecturer and book club facilitator.



Proposed Italian Cottage project for Fall of 2023

SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWS

The Kern County Museum is very proud to announce the summer research fellows for 2023. Supported by grants from the Harry and Ethel West Foundation and the Ben H. and Gladys Arkelian Foundation, the summer fellowships bring two university students to the Museum who have an interest in history or museum studies for a paid work experience.

Katana Lester is the West Research Fellow. Katana is originally from the Big Island of Hawaii. A graduate of Bakersfield Christian High School, Katana is majoring in Art History at Westmont College in Santa Barbara and is considering a career in museum studies. Katana is also a Filipina and has begun expanding the Museum's collection of Filipino cultural artifacts, photographs and ephemera. She recently met with Alex Edillor, a Filipino historian in Delano California, who is assisting her with collecting information on the Manong culture and the labor leader Larry Itliong.

Monique Dhaliwal is the Arkelian Research Fellow. Monique is a senior at CSU Bakersfield and very active in the university's Public History Program. She has been a volunteer at the Bakersfield Museum of Art and is a double major with Public History and Studio Art. Monique is also a member of Kern County's Punjabi community. She will be beginning a new archival collection on Sikh culture including photographs, artifacts and oral history.



Katana Lester and Monique Dhaliwal with Ashleigh Meyers in the center



Curator Ashleigh Meyers holding one of Buck Owen's suit in the Bakersfield Sound exhibit.

Ashleigh

CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

The Museum is also pleased to announce that Ashleigh Meyers has been named the new Curator of Collections. Ashleigh is a graduate of Centennial High School in Bakersfield and St. Thomas Aquinas College with a degree in Liberal Studies. While a college student, Ashleigh was an intern at our Museum's Curatorial Department in 2021 and the Arkelian Research Fellow in the summer of 2022. "I look forward to continuing the expansion of our Museum's Research Center and working with other members of our team," she said. "There is a lot of work to be done and it is an exciting time for our Museum."

Education Station

Leadership Bakersfield is a 30 year old program sponsored by the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce. Each year 32 community leaders are selected to learn about the community through guest speakers, site tours and panel discussions. An important part of the program has been the service project requirement.



Members
of the
Bakersfield
Leadership
Team and
the new
concession
shop

This year a team from the program led by Amy Travis selected the Lori Brock Discovery Center for their project focus. The group restored an existing storage building in the playground area and converted it to a concession stand and mini gift shop. The repurposed building will enhance the school tour experience and the expanding programs held on Saturdays for children. Leadership team members also included Katy Houchin, Shontay Smith, David Manning, Syleena Perez, Rick Dossey and Lori Pesante.

School Tours

In other news from the Lori Brock Center, the Museum is in need of history docents and volunteers for the fall school tour season. We have doubled the number of students touring Pioneer Village and the number of specialty tours for Native American Life, Norris School, Black Gold and Historic Homes. With the new Owtsan House moving toward completion for Native American tours, the number of school tours will increase again. Also due to popular demand, we are hosting a Fall California History Days for local schools on Friday October 20th.

If you are interested in signing up to be a historic docent or volunteer in Pioneer Village, contact maria@kerncountymuseum.org.

Be a Volunteer or Historic Docent



Maria
EDUCATION
COORDINATOR



www.kerncountymuseum.org



It's Happening AT THE Museum!

THE PEGGY DARLING BOOK CLUB

In honor of the late community museum patron Peggy Darling, the Kern County Museum will host a free book club in the Fall of 2023 and the Spring of 2024. Just buy your own copy of the book, download the study guide from the Museum's website the month before and show up to discuss. Guest facilitators will discuss for 45 minutes with time for socializing, refreshments and libations in Historic Standard School from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. No charge thanks to David Cole! Spring schedule TBD



The Other California by Gerald Haslam

September 14th : Mike McCoy will look at Haslam's chronicle of Central California penned by a Kern County native. Farms, oil fields, and the hard working culture of the San Joaquin Valley.



The Bakersfield Sound by Robert Price

October 12th : Writer Robert Price tells the tale of that hard driving country music that was created by the Dust Bowl immigrants that came to California.

UNDOCUMENTED LIVES
The Elsie Rosales Migration



Undocumented Lives by Ana Minian

November 9th : Professor Oliver Rosales shares the story of the Mexican migrant workers that moved between two worlds and trapped by changing immigration policies.

Kern County Museum

Fall Lecture Series



Sept 13th

Wiley and Grace Dorris

Speaker **Robert Peterson**

The creator of Notorious Bakersfield tells the tale of the Dorris Couple. Politics and legal maneuvers in early Bakersfield.

Oct 11th - Red Lining : Housing Discrimination in Kern County History

Speakers **Donato Cruz and Chris Livingston**

Two researchers from CSU Bakersfield lay out the case for institutional racism in California real estate.

All lectures are at
6:00 PM in Historic
Standard School



Nov 8th - The Manongs of Delano

Speaker **Alex Edillor**

Heartfelt tale of the immigrant Filipinos who worked the fields while starting a revolution in Delano.



Dec - 13th A View from the Ridge Route

Speaker **Bonnie Ketterl Kane**

The story of one of the most traveled roads in the world by local writer and historian.

When Garces student Colby Hughes called the Museum in the Spring of 2023, he was looking for a project to complete the requirements for his Eagle Scout rank. He knew he wanted to do something hands-on and outdoors. Colby also wanted a project that would involve other scouts from Troop 13.

Members of the Kern County Historical Society had recommended that the Museum honor the contributions of the Krauter Family in Pioneer Village. Krauter Nursery and their tree farm in Arvin California had been a 60 year fixture in the community with three generations of nurserymen literally greening up Kern County. Started by farmer John Wesley Krauter in Arvin in 1921, he established the largest retail nursery in the San Joaquin Valley.

Krauter's Nursery was located in East Bakersfield in the area of Kentucky and Lake Streets and later east 18th Street. J.W.'s son Carl Edwin Krauter joined the business, and in addition to the botanical inventory, he provided a home to a menagerie which included raccoons, chipmunks, doves, snakes, and desert tortoises.



Members of BSA Troop 13 on Arbor Day



Colby Hughes Planting a Vesuvius Purple Plum

Howard, Carl's son also entered the business. In 1957 the Cooke Co. of Visalia sold some flowering plum trees to Krauter's. Howard noticed a rogue branch on one tree. It held the purple foliage color longer into summer than other branches. He asked Cooke's to bud for him a tree from that limb. That single limb grew into strong trees with showy purple leaves. So, in 1958, was born the Krauter Vesuvius Flowering Plum, one of the most popular ornamental trees in the world.

Colby and Troop 13 planted six of the Vesuvius Purple Plums on Arbor Day this spring. The new grove of trees is a welcome living exhibit that tells the story of a good idea that became an international sensation.



Viva VOLUNTEERS



ALUMNI

Thank You!

The local Chapter of the Stanford University Alumni are committed each year to complete a hands-on community service project that benefits a local non-profit. This effort is coordinated with all of the local Stanford Alumni groups as Beyond the Farm Alumni Day of Service. Lucky for the Kern County Museum, we were selected for the 2023 project!



The Ellen Baker Tracy Guild had just restored one of the main restroom facilities in Pioneer Village. Now painted a bright vivid green, the other Village restroom looked very drab in comparison with its brown paint. The Stanford crew agreed to paint the large main restroom on Main Street the same bright green.

Armed with rollers, brushes and masking tape, the Stanford alums showed up early on May 6th and went to work. Our maintenance staffers are usually wary of volunteer painters and the quality of work. Maintenance Manager Eddie Valdez was suitably impressed with the final result from the Stanford Cardinals. "They can come out and paint anytime," he said. "No drips on the cement and they even cleaned up."

The Stanford Alumni Crew was led by Museum Business Manager Susan Hamilton and included Mike Blaine, Judith Chase, Valari Lee, Susan Hamilton, Dave Teeten, Glen Lagerstrom, Patrick Dunn and his daughter Michelle.

Join Us



2023

VILLAGE FLEA

AT THE KERN COUNTY MUSEUM



SUNDAY

OCTOBER 15TH

8-3pm



WWW.KERNCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG

MUSEUM HOURS

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

CLOSED
MONDAY & TUESDAY

2023

CLOSED OCCASIONALLY FOR SPECIAL
EVENTS AND PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

ALL EVENTS RAIN OR SHINE. PROGRAMS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

WWW.KERNCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG

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