Afternoon Tea Party at the Clarke

Join us on February 12, 2017 for a Sunday afternoon tea party, and take in our new 1960s exhibit. Delight in a service of tea sandwiches, scones, sweet treats and a choice of teas, while surrounded by vintage tea sets from our collection. Tables will be set up throughout the museum where guests will sip fine teas, nibble on fancy snacks, relax and mingle.

Our program will include a fashion and textile presentation, a discussion on historic hats, as well as live performances and other entertainment. Hats and gloves are encouraged. Tickets are limited and available at the museum and online until February 10. All ages are welcome! Tickets are $20 for members and children under 14 or $25 for adult non-members.

2017 Open House

The Clarke Historical Museum invites the community to a free day at the museum. Join us on Saturday, February 11, 2017 to explore the museum and how we are planning to fulfill our mission as we move ahead. This event kicks off the new year at the museum, and will showcase the newest exhibit, which focuses on the 1960s era. The museum is a part of this era, as it opened its doors in 1960, thanks to our founder, Cecile Clarke.

Whether you have never been to the museum, haven’t been here in a while, or are a frequent visitor, there will be something that interests you at our open house. Learn about the museum, view the collection, and experience the work being done here. Historical walking tours and oral presentations will be given by various docents throughout the day.

To boost early year memberships, we will be having a membership drive in the lobby. If you haven’t signed up as a member with the museum, this would be a great day to pledge your support to the museum.

A volunteer signup station will be set up to demonstrate volunteer opportunities and match potential volunteers to tasks which best suit their interests. Come learn about the benefits of membership. Door prizes, raffles, music, and tasty treats will all be a part of this fun event.
Current Exhibitions

Humboldt County Remembers the 1960s
February 1—September 3
This exhibit remembers, learns from, and honors this important time period. Topics covered are the Ruth Dam, the two pulp mills, College of the Redwoods, expansion of Humboldt State College, the nuclear power plant, many new highways, the creation of Redwood National Park, and the establishment of the Clarke Historical Museum. Co-curated by Carol Hale and Mariah Wellman, with items loaned by Diane Bowers, Wendy Wahlund, Janet Sorensen and Arlene Hartin.

Vietnam War Exhibit
February 1—September 3
The follow-up to our Korean War shrine, this exhibit features an assortment of photos, uniforms, medals, documents, weapons and posters from the Vietnam War era. Also known as the “Second Indochina War” more than fifty thousand American troops died in the Vietnam War, which spanned the years of 1955-1975.

Community Case: Novelty Tea Sets
February 1—March 1
An exhibit featuring the collection of local resident Cheryl Pekar. Many of these teapots are hand-painted, and represent a variety of different manufacturers. Featured are a pair of humorous teapots produced by John Groth.

The Hover Collection
A “living memorial to the Karuk basketmakers,” this collection of Karuk basketry and dance regalia is on permanent display. Featuring artifacts from master basket weavers such as Elizabeth Hickox and Nettie Ruben.

Bohmansson Pharmacy Exhibit
This showcase of a turn-of-the-century drug store includes hundreds of authentic apothecary bottles and jars. Also discussed in the display is the soda fountain, a driving factor behind the popularity of the local pharmacy as a place for social gatherings.

Upcoming Events

Open House
February 11, 2017
12:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Come down to the museum for an all day celebration with prizes, snacks, activities and entertainment for the whole family. Our newest exhibits will be on display. This is a free, all-ages event.

Afternoon Tea Party at the Clarke
February 12, 2017
1:00—3:00 p.m.
Join us for a preview of our new 1960s exhibit. Delight in a service of tea sandwiches, scones, sweet treats and a choice of teas, while surrounded by vintage tea sets from our collection. Our program will include a hat and accessories presentation by hatmaker Spring Garrett. Hats and gloves are encouraged. Tickets are limited and available at the museum. All ages are welcome! Come down to the museum or call (707) 443-1947 to purchase tickets.

Highlights of Humboldt History
February 18, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Local historian Jerry Rohde offers “Highlights of Humboldt History,” a PowerPoint program that is part of the OLLI Chautauqua spring series. Admission is free.

Lentell Map Discussion
March 18, 2017
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Local historian Jerry Rohde teaches an OLLI historical geography class (for persons 50 or better) using the Clarke’s huge Lentell relief map of 1915 Humboldt County. Check the HSU OLLI website for course registration information.

Speaker Series: Lori Dengler
April 15, 2017
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Come join HSU Emeritus Geology Professor Lori Dengler as she breaks down the information every local resident should know regarding earthquake and tsunami preparation on the North Coast.
The Eureka Woolen Mill

During the years from 1890 to 1920, Humboldt County had a very prosperous and rapidly expanding sheep-raiseing and wool-producing industry. Thousands of sheep were herded in the great ranges in the southern part of the county, the Bald Hills area east of the redwood belt, and in the Eel River Valley. It is safe to say that fully a third of the area of Humboldt County was devoted to the industry with the county exporting 500,000 pounds of wool a year.

To capitalize on this booming industry, the Eureka Woolen Mill were constructed in 1901 west of Broadway at the southwest corner of Broadway and 14th Street. Led by A.W. Berr, and backed by John Vance, William Carson, Joseph Russ, and J.W. Henderson, the mill manufactured blankets and flannels, and was able to complete the entire process from wool to finished product and was known for its fine quality. This was a four-set mill powered by two large steam boilers and employed 100 people.

In the early 1920s there was a change in ownership and the mill began producing brown army blankets, gray prison blankets, auto robes, and thousands of yards of woolen cloth, which were shipped out of the county to go along with a retail office for local sales.

The Eureka Woolen Mill reached its peak from 1930 through the 1940s with the mill employing 225 workers broken into 3 shifts that worked around the clock.

In April, 1949, Victor Egan, who was in charge of sales and shipping departments, left the Eureka Woolen Mills and built a new mill at 4300 Broadway, naming the plant the California Woolen Mills.

With the advent of many new synthetic fabrics, such as polyester and nylon, along with cheaper foreign products from Korea, Taiwan and other countries, the demand for woolen products fell off drastically. In addition, the cost of freight became very high and local wages were increasing. All of these factors forced the local mill to close their doors for good in 1966. With no local outlet to sell wool to, many sheep ranchers were forced to sell off their flocks.

Included in the exhibit are blankets and spools of thread which were made at the Woolen Mill, photos of the mill over time, and images of some of those who worked there—most of these items come from the Starkovich family, who had many family members employed there.

Also on display are brands from a few of the many local sheep ranchers, as well as some of the equipment they used (from Cecile Clarke's sheep ranch near Laytonville).
Humboldt County Remembers the 1960s

The 1960s represented a decade of great hope, change, and despair in the country. Fashion shifted from the perfectly tailored suit dresses and white pearls of Jackie Kennedy to the tacky, cheap, bold, and even silly Brigitte Bardot, the first person landed on the moon, political and social icons John Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., rose to prominence and were later assassinated, young people marched in the streets to demonstrate their support for civil rights and disapproval for the Vietnam War. These and other issues strained communities and challenged beliefs.

Humboldt County experienced growth and new construction, including Ruth Dam, the two pulp mills, College of the Redwoods, expansion of Humboldt State College, the nuclear power plant, many new highways, the creation of Redwood National Park, and the establishment of the Clarke Historical Museum. This region lived through the devastating 1964 Christmas Flood, the closure of the Eureka Woolen Mill, and the loss of at least 52 local men in the Vietnam War.

This exhibit remembers, learns from, and honors this important time period. It was co-curated by Carol Hale and Mariah Wellman, with items loaned by Diane Bowers, Wendy Wahlund, Janet Sorensen and Arlene Hartin. Come see this exhibit, which will be on display until September 3, 2017.
NARM/ROAM Benefits Now Included in Patron Level Membership

The Clarke Museum offers membership in two reciprocal museum associations, which together will allow you to access over 1000 museums at no charge to you. Offered as a perk of our Patron Level Membership, which starts at a $100 donation level, gets you a membership in both the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM) and the Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums. When attending a partner museum, simply present your current membership card validated with accepted NARM or ROAM identification to any participating NARM institution to receive free admission during regular museum hours, as well as member discounts on merchandise, concerts and lectures.

NARM is one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world with members in the United States, Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador and Mexico! NARM has 880 arts, cultural, and historical institutions along with botanical gardens, children's museums, science and technology centers and more that offer their individual NARM qualified members reciprocal benefits. Guests are not included unless they present a current membership card validated with the accepted NARM identification.

ROAM provides access to 299 different museums, 52 in California alone. It is a free reciprocal network that connects world-class institutions for the benefit of patrons. Formed by a group of Museum Membership professionals, ROAM is built to work for everyone, museums of all sizes and types. ROAM allows members to take their benefits with them when they travel to other participating museums, including Member general admission for two and Member discounts in stores and restaurants.
The Humboldt County Community Case

Over the last two years, and for the foreseeable future, the Community Case has functioned as a vehicle to showcase local businesses, non-profits and individual collectors throughout the county. So far, we have featured several different exhibits, with a different community group planning an exhibit for every month this year.

In the last two years the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce, Fern Cottage, Humboldt County Historical Society, and the Daughters of the American Revolution curated exhibits for the case. The Community Case is presently exhibiting a novelty teapot display from the collection of local resident Cheryl Pekar. Coming within the next several months are an Emma Freeman exhibit assembled by Bruce Pettit, the 30th Anniversary of our local disc golf club, Par Infinity, and a tribute to the Carnegie Library building assembled by the Morris Graves Museum of Modern Art.

Reminder: it has been decided that, in order to save money and reduce the burden on the environment, the Clarke Museum quarterly newsletter will be sent via email beginning in 2017. Please be sure to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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