



The Center for Art
Culture & History
EXETER

A newsletter on
the Art, Culture,
and History
of California's
Heartland

THE Exchange

JUNE 2023



'CACHE Benefit' to celebrate Grand Opening June 10

An evening of dinner, art and entertainment are planned to benefit CACHE operations

(EXETER, CA) - The CACHE Benefit might become one of Exeter's top-tier annual charity benefits if organizers' vision comes to fruition. Event co-chairs Patty Spott and Laurie Hamilton have an elegant evening planned with dinner catered by _____, live entertainment by _____, and a number of other offerings.

"CACHE has quickly become a go-to place in Exeter for art, culture and history, and our community has rallied around our newly-articulated mission to _____. We the The CACHE Benefit will reflect our community's support for the cultural life and livability of our vibrant town."

Tickets can be purchased via the QR code below or by calling CACHE at _____.

The CACHE Benefit...A Grand Opening!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER, DRINKS, AND ENTERTAINMENT
June 10, 2023 | 6 O'clock p.m.

125 South B Street | Exeter, California

Tickets \$50 Per Person

or Sponsored Table of Eight \$500 beginning at
5 O'clock p.m. includes:

- pre-dinner drinks
- charcuterie boards

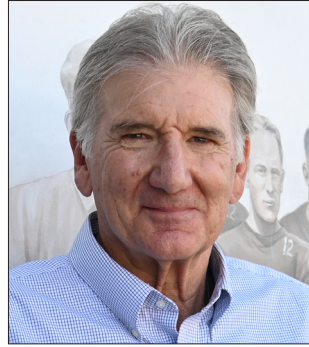


QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS,
or this URL:

<https://cach-exeter.org/product/grand-opening-celebration-tickets/>



The
Center
for Art
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EXETER



A Word from our PRESIDENT

DWIGHT MILLER

Greetings Friends of CACHE,

This month will be our biggest yet with The CACHE Benefit: A Grand Opening on June 10th. Many deserve recognition for an immense amount of time, effort, money and thought in preparation for this event.

Our volunteer CACHE Board of Directors has been especially diligent: Treasurer **Laurie Hamilton** and Secretary **Patty Spott** have been doing the heavy lifting for planning and details that will make that day special. Vice President and Art Selection Director **Robyn Stearns** has been amazing. Member **Kelsey Gilles** has put her considerable talent and skill to work to completely change the look of CACHE with the new signs and the new door into the North Wing. Member **Jim Tyler's** ability to make things will be on full display when you get a look at the new Mt. Whitney Wing. Jim built new partitions creating four separate galleries for storytelling and implemented new lighting that will transform the room.

Two other special people deserve recognition. **Amie Rangel**, College of Sequoias Art Instructor and COS Gallery Curator has lent her considerable talent and time advising on how to best display items to tell our stories. Amie engaged COS students who contributed much to the final exhibitions' ideas and look. We are indebted to her.

In addition, we have been blessed with the time and talent of another friend of CACHE, **Aaron Collins**. Aaron is an Exeter native, an artist, a son of an Exeter artist and currently serves as Marketing and Communications Director for Sequoia Riverlands Trust. He has offered CACHE his experience in the art world and marketing fields to further our mission of "bringing to life the art, culture, and history of California's heartland." A published arts & culture writer, he even drafted our mission statement. Aaron designs and edits The Exchange, and the design of all CACHE logo and rebranding efforts have been under his guidance. He has elevated us in so many ways and we are grateful.

Kelly Pierce, our new Executive Assistant, has jumped into her role as the coordinator of the docent team of volunteers and assisting with whatever comes up. Her regular job as the Coordinator of the Volunteer program at Kaweah Health has put her in a great position to assist us. We are fortunate to have her on the team.

Finally, I would like to highlight three of our many docents. CACHE is only open on Friday afternoons, Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from noon to 4 pm. We have a list of over 20 docents who volunteer to give up their time on weekends to open CACHE for visitors. It is often a lonely afternoon. We are SO appreciative of our volunteers. We are always looking for more. Without them, it would be impossible to operate a program with an art gallery and a museum.

This month, I'd like to shine a spotlight on three of our most faithful docents: **Cherri Southworth**, **Debbie Sherer**, and **Barbara Sally**. All three have been so helpful and accommodating whether taking shifts or often jumping in to cover a time at the last minute. Each brings a positive attitude and cheerful countenance to greet visitors and are such great ambassadors for CACHE. Thank you!

Warmest Regards,

Dwight Miller

President

CACHE: The Center for Art, Culture and History-Exeter

Headline here

ABOVE: A new banner now flanks CACHE's historic Mt. Whitney Power wing, part of the rebrand for The Center for Art, Culture and History-Exeter. (PHOTO: Aaron Collins)



ABOVE: Artist Betty Berk gives an artist talk during the opening reception for her solo show at CACHE. ABOVE RIGHT: Reception guests enjoy the Berk opening. BELOW: Betty Berk leads a discussion about her art and process (PHOTOS Dwight Miller)



Betty Berk: Neo-Expressionist opening draws community

Valley artist and instructor brings work to CACHE for vibrant May-July solo exhibition

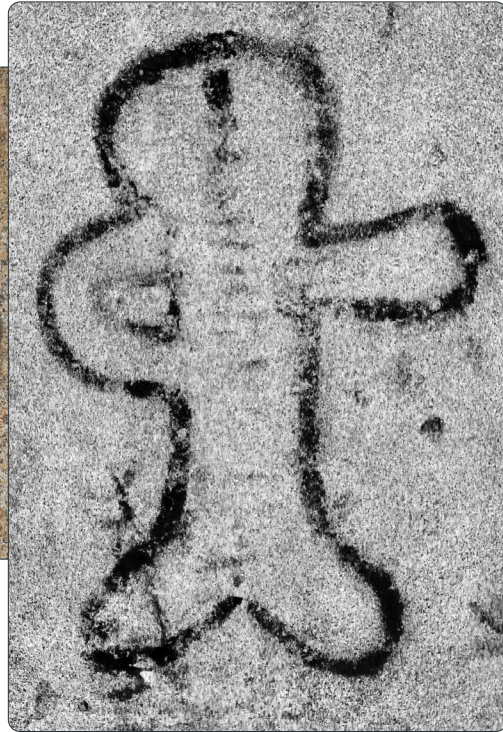
(EXETER, CA) - Drawing on 20th Century Expressionism traditions, artist Betty Berk's art is currently on exhibition at CACHE through July.

The Tulare County artist was recently in attendance for her opening reception which drew community members from around the region. Berk spoke to reception attendees about her work and process, offering insights into the thinking behind the imagery.

Among the notables in attendance were photographer-Ron Holman and wife Carol (Britten) Holman (EUHS '79); Don Holzem and Traudell Angeles; and a number of other Berk supporters.

NATIVE NOTES

Area Native history among emerging CACHE focal points



ABOVE: A pictograph found in the Sierra Foothills of Tulare County depicts a condor cape.

(PHOTOS: Dwight Miller)

ABOVE: A pictograph found in the Sierra Foothills of Tulare County depicts human form. RIGHT: This pictograph's meaning is anyone's guess, though it perhaps represents a human figure. (PHOTOS: Dwight Miller)

Area's abundant pictographs are enduring remnants of an otherwise ephemeral culture, lasting sentries of a former civilization

By The Exchange Staff

(EXETER, CA) - Because CACHE's mission is "to bring to life the art, culture and history of California's heartland," focusing on that middle C in CACHE means that Native American culture is a natural fit with our programming and research. CACHE's purview is the diverse culture that defines life in our region, past and present.

Spring 2023 has featured tours of our area foothills to view ancient Native American paintings on rocks: Pictographs.

Locally, the national Archeological Conservancy (<https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/>) has purchased some Central California foothill properties, including one near Exeter, to preserve these remnants of a culture that thrived in Central California until the 1800s.

Chris Kalashian, a guide with considerable rock painting knowledge throughout California, served as our personal instructor on a recent foothills visit. Tour attendees Linda Gill, Laurie Evans, Devon Green, and Dwight and Barbara Miller were all treated to a number of these cryptic and fascinating images.

As ancient as the imagery's origins is, it was a high-tech experience; new technology, a camera app called iDStretch,

enhances the paintings beyond what is visible with the naked eye.

These rock paintings are very old and little is actually known about them, but they cause one to wonder. They are worth study and an important reminder of the people that made their lives and culture in this area so long ago.



LEFT: A pictograph found in the Sierra Foothills of Tulare County features a human form. (PHOTOS: Dwight Miller)

NATIVE NOTES

CACHE leaders connect with local Wukchumni tribe at Go Native!

Go Native photo essay here

GO NATIVE!
A Native American Cultural Celebration
FUN • FOOD • NATIVE CRAFTS DEMOS • YOKUTS HISTORY • DRUMMING
SAT • MAY 27
2023 • 10AM-3PM
KAWEAH OAKS PRESERVE
FREE ADMISSION

29979 ROAD 182, EXETER, CA • FOR MORE INFO: (559) 280-0712



LEFT: Once a hospital, this Exeter Craftsman-style residence has seen many incarnations and families under its roof in its 110-year history. (PHOTO: Submitted)

From operating room to ballroom: Tracing the lives of a century-old Craftsman

Once a hospital, the Exeter Camilleri home remains a fine Craftsman specimen nestled in the Loma Vista Park addition

By Victoria Camilleri

Like many searching for a new home, meeting basic criteria such as a good school district and quiet neighborhood are critical in the process. For my family, character was paramount; the house we chose (or chose us!) had to be well-built and have a story behind it.

The house we eventually purchased in Exeter came with character and history in spades. To my disappointment, hopes of unveiling the mystery of the gorgeous turn-of-the-century two-story were quashed as the pandemic shuttered libraries and government offices. Realtors, neighbors, and one of the town's historians agreed that my house once served as a hospital. But I knew there was more to the story.

Enter my friend Valerie and the Facebook community "You know you're from Exeter when..." that weighed in on the house's 110-year-old origins.

As a newcomer to town, a few things stood out among their responses. Mainly, Exeterites are a friendly bunch AND lovers of history. Over 175 people claimed the house originally served

as Exeter's first hospital. A few were convinced that the house was haunted. Though the comments were helpful (and some funny), I had to dig deep to unravel this house's significance to the community.

Lot 1 and the north half of Lot 2 in block 3 of Loma Vista Park Addition Exeter—or 244 Crespi Avenue—was sold to C.F. and Gwnyedd Balaam (nee Carnall) by C.A. Beinhorn in 1912. C.A. Balaam Realty Company was the developer of Loma Vista Park, "The Park that made the County Famous" in promotional speak. Balaam's vision was to develop the "most modern residence district in Tulare County, with graded streets, cement sidewalks, electric lights, telephone, city water, gas, large villa lots, governed by the proper building restrictions."

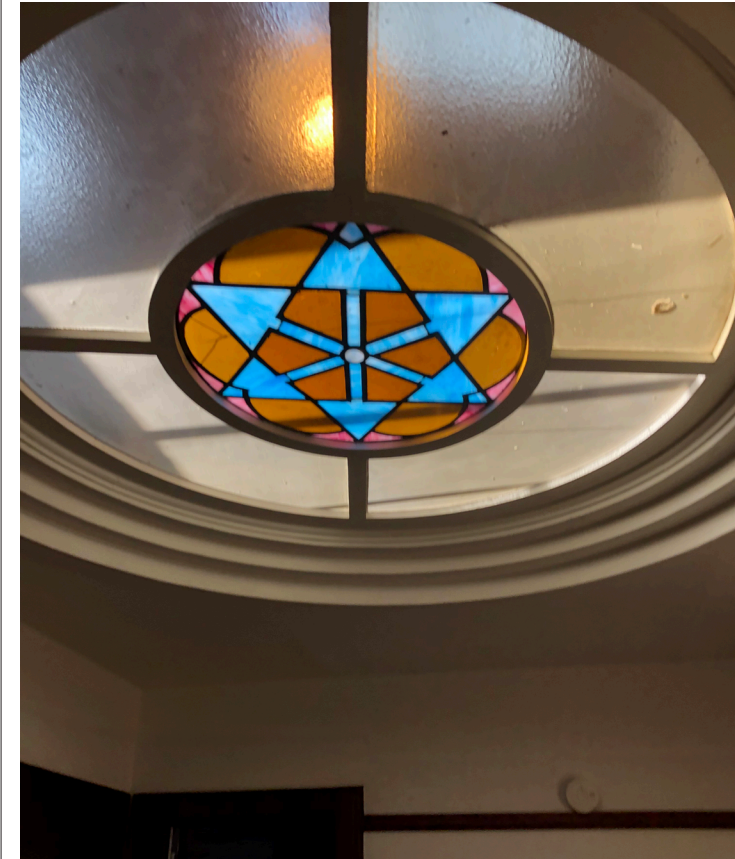
There were eleven residences ranging in value from \$1500 to \$15,000. Indeed, Crespi Avenue residents (mostly doctors and real estate developers) often hosted poshy, newsworthy entertainment; think Exeter's version of Netflix's *Bridgerton* with Pall Mall, tea, and crumpets.

The house was built especially for Balaam and designed by architect A. Merrill Bowser of Oakland, and said to be "one of the finest homes in the county." The Balaams occupied the house until 1915, when Mayor Allan Davis and his wife Gladys assumed residence.

The transition to a hospital came on the heels of the closure of Exeter's 14-room sanitarium then located at the east end

Continues

of Pine Street (current site of the Shell Station) and run by Dr. Pernier Mix and Dr. Isaac Saylin. In fact, Saylin was a friend of famous revolutionary Emma Goldman and was once arrested in Chicago in connection with the assassination plot against President McKinley. When the sanitarium closed in 1924, 244 Crespi was converted to the town's hospital. Dr. Ruben Chandler Hill of San Francisco assumed residence and



converted the interior to serve as a hospital for eight years before the title transferred to Security First National Bank in 1938.

Mr. J. W. Tucker and his wife Hazel E. Tucker, well-known ranchers in the area, bought the house in February 1938 and converted it back into a residence. Outdoor porches were enclosed, and two bedrooms added. They lived in the house until the death of Mr. Tucker in 1964 and sold to Dr. Ward, a physician, and his wife, Sali Evans. Taking advantage of the sprawling hardwood floors, Ms. Evans converted the main floor into a dance school where locals enjoyed several types of dance lessons, including ballet and jazz.

Gus and Beverly Gulmert, President of the EUHS Board of Trustees, owned the house for 21 years (1970-1991) and has since changed hands at least four times with Dr. Mike and Julie McLaughlin (8 years), John and Karlene Stivers (10 years) and Brett and Anne Grimm (10 years).

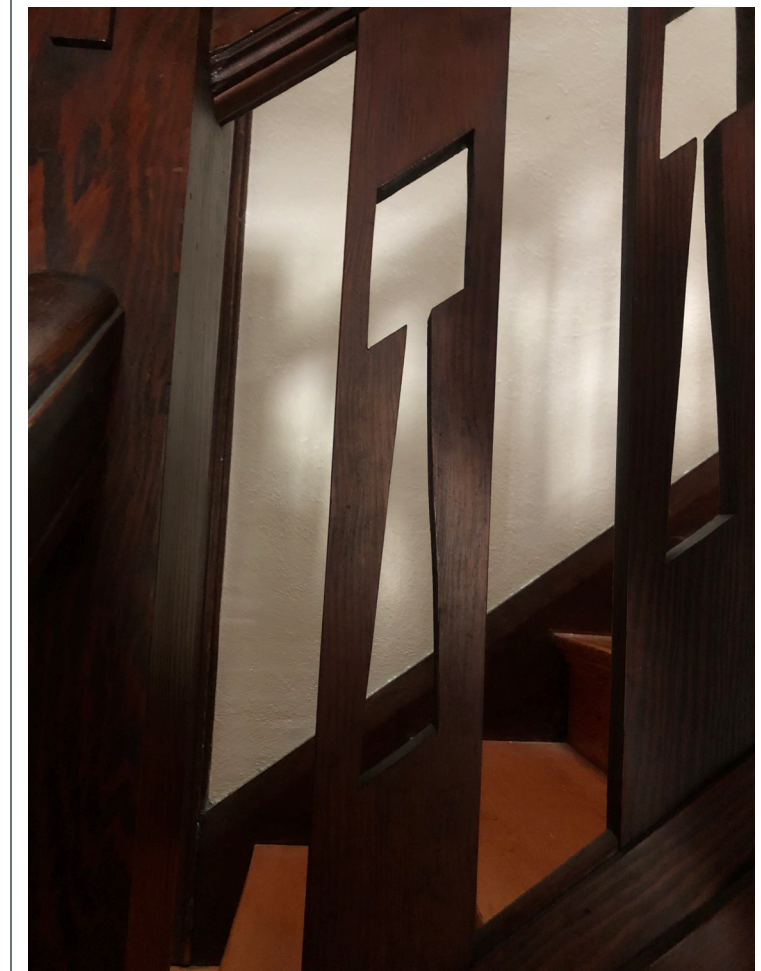
Overall, 244 Crespi has been well cared for and in recent times updated to respond to the growing scarcity of water and

energy in the Central Valley: solar panels, modern electrical circuitry, energy efficient windows, and exterior paint were added features in the last several years.

With all the upgrades and updates, two lovely stained-glass windows remain untouched: a stunning landscape of the Kaweah reservoirs and a magnificent Star of David. Although we've had great success in uncovering the history of this 110-year-old beauty, two mysteries remain: balusters carved with the Hebrew letter Zayin (looks like a T in the Roman alphabet) and the star of David at the apex of the staircase. We're certain there is more to these symbols than mere decorative accents, so if you or someone you know has information, please contact me at vickicamilleri@yahoo.com.

LEFT: A stained glass Star of David motif adorns the Camilleri home. BELOW: A Hebrew letter forms the bannister of the Camilleri's Craftsman-style home, which once served as the Exeter Hospital.

(PHOTOS: Vicki Camilleri)



Beginnings for Endings:

A place replete with history, local cemetery offers an interesting origin story of its own

This is Part 2 of our three-part series on the founding of area cemeteries and the cemetery districts that run them.

In 1875, Erasmus Maxon was living with his eight children on his ranch north of what would thirteen years later become the town of Exeter in 1888. He farmed on what is now Marinette Avenue east of Kaweah Avenue: Well known to locals as the current Exeter District Cemetery site.

Erasmus and wife Hannah were travelling to Three Rivers in their horsedrawn wagon when Mrs. Maxon suffered a heart attack and died. Erasmus turned around, brought her body home and buried her on their property, a common practice in that era. Seventeen years later in late December 1891, Erasmus, too passed away and, in his will, deeded half an acre to Tulare County to serve as a cemetery where both he and Hannah could remain in perpetuity. A few years later, in 1894, many Exeter citizens came together and officially formed Exeter Cemetery Association (ECA). The initial half-acre section is now known as “the Maxon Plot” by EPCD staff and contains another eleven Maxons along with members of their extended family.

One of the Maxon sons, Fred, decided to move his family to Three Rivers and approached the cemetery formation group.

He offered to donate an additional 1.5 acres and sell them another two acres. The deal was consummated and [by what year] the new cemetery district had amassed four acres, with room to sell 2000 grave sites to community members. Among the early Directors of the ECA were Dr. J.F. Dungan; S.W. Ferrill; Hugh Hamilton; H.R. Stephens; Grant Kirkman; James Kirk; John Firebaugh; and Thomas Baker.

A group of volunteer board of directors operated the Exeter Cemetery for 28 years. In September 1924, the board voted to turn over control and operation to the City of Exeter. Four years later, the Exeter Public Cemetery District (EPCD) was formed and began oversight of this newly-formed tax collecting district which now included the Hamilton Cemetery northeast of Exeter. EPCD’s first Directors in 1928 were Charles Glaze; Myrt Pruner; and James Jordan, who served until their deaths. The Deep Creek Cemetery was annexed into the EPCD in 1939 at the request of the Deep Creek and Farmersville communities. (which The Exchange will cover in Part 3 of this series)

Over the years the district has been led by a long list of civic-minded individuals. Many board members served for multiple decades, overseeing the operations and setting policy. The board has the legal power to expand to more



than the current three and are considering such a board expansion in 2023.

About 7,700 people are now interred on the now 20-acre property. The cemetery’s eternal resident with the earliest birth year was born in 1812, [NAME]. Many veterans of

various wars find their eternal rest there as well: The Civil War, Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars are all sadly represented. The Exeter American Legion Post 94 continues to place flags on all veteran grave sites in honor of their service.

In the past, the district was staffed with a Superintendent, an assistant, and three full time grounds people to manage the properties. The current staffing consists of Superintendent Rick Martinez, one full-time and two part-time groundskeepers.

California’s 253 public cemetery districts include roughly 3000 individual cemeteries. In Tulare County, 13 cemetery districts house its 21 cemeteries. Porterville Cemetery District has six cemeteries while Exeter and Visalia have three each; Tulare and Woodlake two. Public Cemetery Districts are supported by a variety of sources including property tax funds, sales of grave sites, and burial fees. Exeter Public Cemetery District (EPCD) current boundaries were formed in 1939 when the Deep Creek Cemetery Association asked to be annexed into the EPCD. All it took for the annexation was a vote of the Farmersville and Deep Creek School Boards and then approval by the Tulare County Supervisors and the EPCD board. Those boundaries include the areas around Farmersville, Exeter, Outside Creek, Yokohl, Venice Hill, Lemon Cove, and Lindcove.

A map is available on the website: <https://exetercemeterydistrict.org/locations/>



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559-592-5900 • info@cach-exeter.org www.cach-exeter.org
Open Fridays 1:30-4 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sundays Noon - 4 p.m.



MEET OUR BOARD of DIRECTORS



CACHE is governed by a volunteer nonprofit Board of Directors established by its bylaws, reflecting our desire to create transparent and accountable governance. These hardworking board members seek to bring quality programming and professional oversight to our organization. Above: Dwight Miller, President; Robyn Stearns, Vice President; Laurie Hamilton, Treasurer; Patty Spott, Secretary; Kelsey Gilcs, Member and Jim Tyler, Member.

SIGN UP to receive The Exchange!

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