



**KEEPING THE BEST OF THE PAST  
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**

February 2012

Members and Supporters of Visalia Heritage,...Greetings

We have completed another year of projects! And we've participated in several exciting discussions of possible future projects.

We recently awarded a grant to the Friends of the Fox Theatre, underwriting the efforts of that group to have the theatre added to the National Registry of Historic Places. When the year-long process is completed, the Fox becomes eligible for further funding from both public and private sources.

Homebuilders Addition No 1 will be presented before the City Council in the coming months. We have been working for many years to see that this tract of authentic California-style bungalows is added to the list of properties included in Visalia's Historic Preservation District.

We also worked with the City of Visalia and The Habit Burger Grill to ensure the preservation of the landmark we fondly remember as Mearle's. Habit Burger proved to be absolutely sensitive to the concerns of the community. The company honored us with a September 4, 2011 pre-opening charity event, in which 100 percent of that day's proceeds were donated to Visalia Heritage.

We continue to award the \$1000 Annie Mitchell Scholarship to a deserving COS graduate whose continuing education will result in a teaching career, as well as maintain arbors 14 and 15 at Mooney Grove. This year we worked with the Board of Supervisors and Tulare Co Parks & Recreation to renovate the restrooms near our arbors. The interior fixtures have been updated and doors lockable entryway doors installed so the facilities may be locked when the park closes each night.

After 18 years as a solid fundraiser for Visalia Heritage, our famous Visalia Afghans are completely sold out. But we continue to sell copies of *Visalia - a Pictorial History*. These books can be purchased downtown at Link's Men's & Women's Wear and at Valhalla, at the Book Garden in Exeter, or through any Board Member.

Two very long-range projects that have piqued our interest are the re-creation of Fort Visalia on land acquired by the city, and the establishment of a Visalia Historical Museum.

As you all must already know, 2011 was marked by the passing of our most loyal member, Jane Nash. It is fitting that Jane's last official act was to nominate three of our newest supporters to sit on the Board of

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Directors: Michael Kreps, Susan Kreps, and Steven Cullen. Steve sits on the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee as well as the General Plan Update Review Committee, and has purchased the former home of Annie Mitchell, located in the Homebuilder's tract. Michael, a Visalia architect, and his wife Susan are active in Visalia Arts Consortium and Downtown Visalians. Michael is also Vice-Chair of the North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

WE INVITE any Supporters or Friends of Visalia Heritage to attend any of our Board meetings, and to present your ideas for future Community Projects. Meetings are held the third Wednesday, most months of the year, in board members homes.

We will continue to honor our supporters with Works of Preservation, benefiting our beloved community of Visalia.



Gladwyn Burris,  
*President*

John Bianco  
Ron Burris  
Steve Cullen  
Michael Kreps  
Susan Kreps  
Joseph Vicenti  
D'Anne Williamson

*Honorary Members*

Brian Lewis  
Tom Link  
Bob Link