



Three Tours, Three Stories

If you've ever seen a woman in a bright, fashionable outfit leading a group of people through town, you've likely spotted volunteer tour guide Juliet Way. Juliet is the only guide who leads all three of our [walking tours](#), so we asked her to share some of her insights with you.

Every storyteller has a journey. Mine began thousands of miles from the California coast, in Calcutta, India, where I was born to British parents. I could never have imagined that one day I would be leading visitors through a tiny village called Mendocino, sharing stories that make people laugh, think, and occasionally wipe away a tear. People often ask whether I

prefer history, ghost stories, or *Murder, She Wrote*. The truth is, I love them all because they share one essential ingredient, a good story.

On the Haunted Mendocino tour, one ghost story silences every group. It is the documented account of a shipwreck in which no one was expected to survive. Before the vessel was smashed into a cave, an unknown person strapped an infant into a wooden bowl and lowered the child into the sea. We do not know their name. We never will. But that final act of courage and compassion reminds us that history is not only about dates and places. It is about humanity at its very best.

During the *Murder, She Wrote* tour, we laugh over one of television's most memorable bloopers, the mysterious driverless car rolling into Cabot Cove. Behind that brief scene lies an assortment of filming tricks and happy accidents that prove even television magic doesn't always go according to plan.

As we cross Lansing Street on the Historic District tour, I ask people to look upward. High above the street is an extraordinary sculpture carved by a master mason. Hundreds of visitors pass beneath it every day without seeing it. Once they understand why it is there and what it represents—that with time, patience, and perseverance you can accomplish all things—they never forget it.

Over the years I've learned that people rarely remember every date or every name I mention. They remember how a story made them feel. They remember laughing at a blooper, quietly reflecting on the unknown person who gave an infant a chance to live. If I can send people home with one unforgettable story, one new discovery, and a smile on their face, then I've done my job.

(Juliet's photograph is by Nik Zvolensky)

Take a Tour!

Huge Gratitude for Our Fill-In Docents

In our last newsletter we sent out a plea to the community to help us cover some of our museum shifts. We were overwhelmed by the response and would like to thank these folks for pitching in during the last few weeks. We hope you'll stick around!

Tobin Hahn, Gintare Minelgaite Duchin, Heidi Sheehan, Monica Steinisch, Phil Maloney, Meghan Durbin, and Alida Morzenti.

We'd also like to thank our tour guides Jane Tillis and Juliet Way for covering extra shifts. We are incredibly lucky to have a community that is always ready to roll up their sleeves and help. We are always seeking docents, tour guides and board members, so [contact us](#) if you'd like to help. At this moment we are looking for someone to help out 5-10 hours per month with docent scheduling. It can be done remotely, so reach out if interested. We can offer a stipend.



Murder, She Wrote Fest Tickets

Tickets to the general public go on sale September 15th.

Kelley House members get access to an exclusive presale on September 10th. If you became a member over the summer you should receive your confirmation letter by mail soon. You can also [email us](#) to confirm we received your membership. You may purchase two tickets with membership.

Not a member?

Join Now

Exhibits and Candles



New Exhibit Coming Soon!

Art of Resistance

Exhibit runs September 3, 2026 – February 28, 2027

Think activism in Mendocino started with the hippies in the '60s? Think again! Mendocino boasts a long history of political and social activism, and the Kelley House Museum's next exhibit showcases the powerful art that has demanded change across the eras. Marvel at the artistry behind historic posters for women's suffrage, the Whale War boycott, and the Peace Fair. Have a laugh at the anti-war napkin art of the '60s or feel the raw



New!

Historic Mendocino Candle

\$40

Light this candle and curl up with one of the Kelley House Museum's history books so you can time-travel to yesteryear and the rich and varied history that built Mendocino. Notes of pipe tobacco, weathered wood, the warmth of an old leather armchair, a glass of whiskey and the coziness of a wood-burning fire. This candle is hand poured and available in both black and white Nordic ceramic tumblers. Locally made by Mendocino Candle Company.

BUY

weight of the hand-drawn signs from today's protest marches.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Bye Bye Brides

Our summer exhibit on bridal fashion, "Tying the Knot," runs through the end of August, so if you haven't seen it, come on down! We are open Thursday - Monday, 11am - 3pm.

A PEEK INTO THE PAST



Tenez in Mendocino

by Karen McGrath

Kelley House has documented five tennis courts in town, starting in 1892 at the Morgan residence on Little Lake Street. At present, this is the site of the Art Center, but from 1890 to 1956, the town's only bona fide mansion occupied most of this site. It had a glass conservatory, an elaborate, enclosed water tower and windmill, and enough flat lawn in front of a small barn to set up a net. By 1896, enthusiasm had grown large enough to organize the Lawn Tennis Club with 17 members, and Mr. L. A. Morgan as president.

The next court we know about was down the hill at the mill superintendent's house, once the home of the Ford family on the south side of Main Street, but occupied in the early 1900s by John Ross. This one was improved with a tall surrounding fence through which you could watch the ships coming and going at the Point. Frank Peirsol, son of physician James Peirsol, describes the scene around 1909 in his wonderful memoir:

"On Saturday afternoons, if the weather was favorable, the more athletically inclined members of the Mendocino Social Set would play tennis on the clay-court in back of the John Ross home. Those who did not care to play got all dressed up anyway, the men in their white flannels and straw boaters, the women in colorful organdies and huge garden hats. They would sit on the sidelines sipping tea and lemonade and always applauded politely when one of the players made an exceptionally fine shot."

Today, the Mendocino Music Festival puts up its tent right where the tennis court stood. [Read More.](#)

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