

# KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM



## GREETINGS

...to members, donors, history buffs, and beloved community. I hope you are well and staying safe. My name is Anne Semans and I am the Kelley House Museum's new Director. We have re-organized a bit: Karen McGrath will be working part-time as Curator while I work part-time on operational affairs. I am a 15-year-resident of Mendocino County, with a background in marketing, education, and hospitality, and a big love of Mendocino history.

As someone who has long admired the Kelley House Museum's work preserving our rich history—while also making it fun and accessible to locals and visitors—I am honored to be part of its next chapter. My daughters will forever wax nostalgic over the KHM cemetery tour we took years ago on Halloween when volunteers dressed up as townspeople buried in Evergreen Cemetery, then popped out from behind gravestones to regale us with their

stories.

And while coming aboard during a pandemic might sound a little crazy, I am inspired by the work of all those who have, and do presently, work so tirelessly to illuminate Mendocino's fascinating past. Upon hearing of my new job, a local friend expressed some skepticism about whether The Kelley House (or any history museum for that matter) would survive such a lengthy closure. "It's just history," he said. While I understand that we are in a health crisis that puts laser focus on organizations helping us meet our basic needs of food, shelter, and health care, we are experiencing a period of major social, political, and economic upheaval that begs for a historian's truth-telling. Just as volunteer Katy Tahja's [blog post](#) about the Spanish Influenza in 1918 revealed the caring acts of our small town, so too will our stories help future generations learn from, and appreciate, what is happening now. I have no doubt that this incredible work and the Kelley House legacy will continue to thrive.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Last March no one imagined the museum would remain shuttered this long. We do not expect the museum or public tours to re-open until late summer, and we are doing everything we can to stay afloat. By the end of 2020 we had experienced a 75% drop in revenue from admissions and tours. We reduced our staffing and expenses, and are relying solely on donations, memberships, and grants at this time. One way you can help is by leaving a legacy gift to the Kelley House through your will, trust, retirement, or life insurance. Please [contact us](#) if you need assistance.

To those of you who have made donations or renewed your memberships recently, our gratitude is immeasurable.

## **Renew Membership**

If you have already renewed, consider giving a gift of a membership to a loved one. Choose a membership level that suits your pocketbook. As our thank you, you will receive a beautiful digital photo of your choice.

**JOIN TODAY**

## **Make a Donation**

Maybe you want to turn that stimulus check right over to us?! We will gladly accept your contribution of any amount.

DONATE



## BOOK OF THE MONTH

What better way to get through the pandemic winter than with a good book? In honor of Chinese New Year, pick up a copy of [Chinese in Mendocino County](#) by Lorraine Hee-Chorley.

BUY  
BOOKS

## A PEEK INTO THE PAST

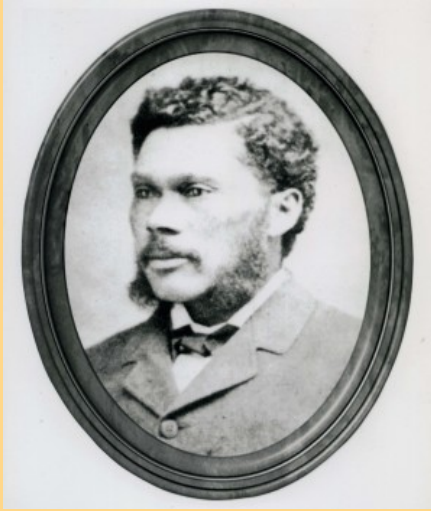
### DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Speaking of Chinese New Year, if you haven't seen the remarkable digital exhibit, ["The Story of Look Tin Eli: Exclusion and Citizenship on the Mendocino Coast,"](#) you are in for a treat. His remarkable story brings to life the struggle by Asians for American citizenship. Visually stunning (thanks to Karen's mastery of some marvelous new software) and well-researched, this exhibit is a sneak peak of the forthcoming book co-written by board member Jane Tillis and KHM tour guide Robert Becker.



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Did you know that Nathaniel Smith was



the first non-indigenous, person of color to put down roots on our coast? Nat arrived in 1854, and worked as a blacksmith, logger, saloon owner, and hunter during his many years on the coast. His daughter, Emma Smith, married Charles Tyrrell, and they lived in the Kelley House during the 1930s!

[Read more.](#)

### FROM THE BLOG

Kelley House curator and archival sleuth Karen McGrath relates the fascinating story behind a request to research an [Ocean View house](#) (off Lansing St., just north of the Agate Cove Inn). This haunting, bittersweet tale fills in yet another piece of Mendocino history.



[READ THE BLOG](#)

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## STAY TUNED...

Your patience is appreciated during the museum closure, but know that we are here to answer your questions, help with your research needs, and to plan for our future full re-opening. Our web site is a great resource for research and information, our blog and social media pages are updated regularly, and the Kelley House Calendar shows up in the Mendocino Beacon every Thursday.

We will be experimenting a bit with this newsletter (donor appreciations will be back!), so we'd love to hear from you.

**Help the Kelley House serve you, just answer**

**2 short questions!**

**TAKE THE  
SURVEY**

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Research Center**  
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