

KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

JOIN TODAY



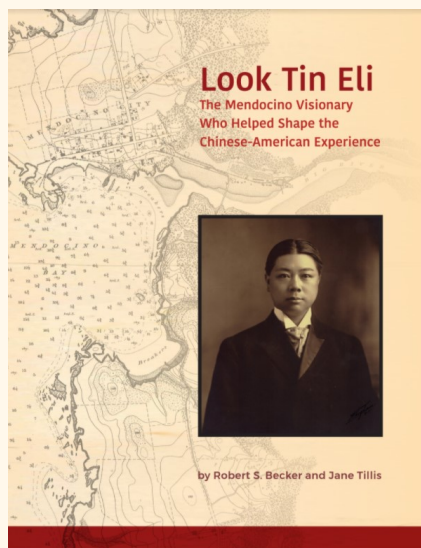
FOR THE LOVE OF A PICKET FENCE

Gorgeous weather and a full pond make for stunning views, but take a closer look at the new white picket fence in the background of the top photo and you'll see one member's Valentine to the Kelley House. Benefactor Alida Morzenti (shown with her dog Trinket in front of the new fence) generously funded the replacement of a large section of the fence fronting Main Street with more historically accurate pickets. What inspires someone to endow a fence? Says Alida, "I had been a regular visitor to Mendocino since the '60s, at various times seeing family or staying at the old Sears House Inn

(now Sweetwater Inn) to grade papers when I was a lecturer at UC Davis. I'd walk past the Kelley House and admire the white picket fence, so gracious and

in keeping with the style of the house. But when I got to the pond it was just a plain ugly board fence. Once I decided to get more involved with the Kelley House, my first wish was to replace that fence!" In the process, she learned how rare the "Mendocino picket" has become and worked with Curator Karen McGrath, who found a company called Blue Ox Millworks in Eureka to custom-mill the pickets. Scanlon Contracting built it. Alida is interested in helping execute an educational landscaping project next, so stay tuned. In the meantime, take a stroll down Main Street and admire this beautiful new fence. Thank you, Alida!

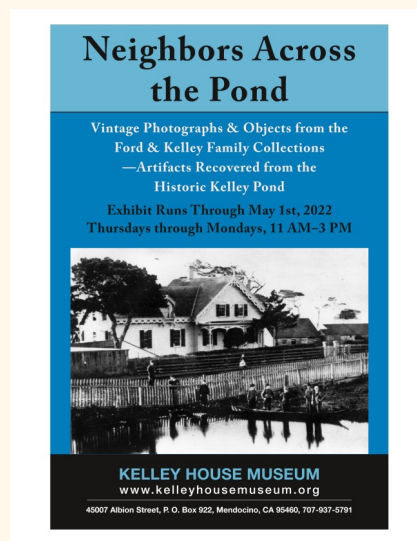
DONATE



BOOK OF THE MONTH
Look Tin Eli: The Mendocino Visionary Who Helped Shape the Chinese-American Experience

By Robert Becker and Jane Tillis
\$25

Discover the fascinating story of Mendocino-born Look Tin Eli, who, as a teenager in 1884, set the legal precedent for birthright citizenship. After the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, he was instrumental in establishing Chinatown as a business center and tourist



NEW EXHIBIT
"Neighbors Across the Pond"

Vintage photographs from founding families, and glass bottles, dolls and clay pipes from the historic Kelley Pond. Runs now through May 1st. Thurs-Sun 11AM to 3PM.

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

destination. He founded the first Chinese-owned bank and started a steamship company that carried goods and people between Asia and the Americas.

**BUY
BOOKS**

thank you, you will receive your choice of a beautiful digital photo from our archives.

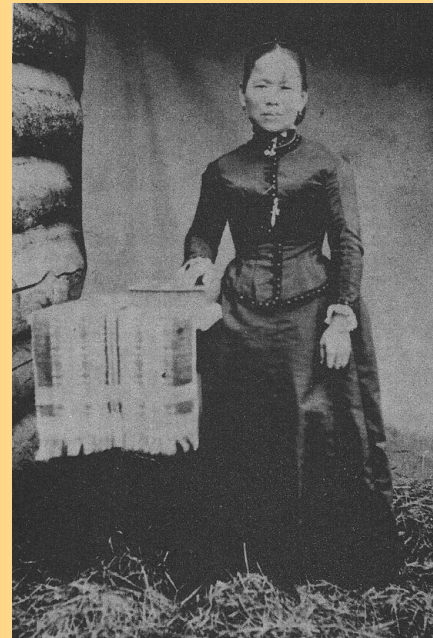
**JOIN OR
RENEW**

A PEEK INTO THE PAST

HISTORIC POSTCARDS FIND A NEW HOME

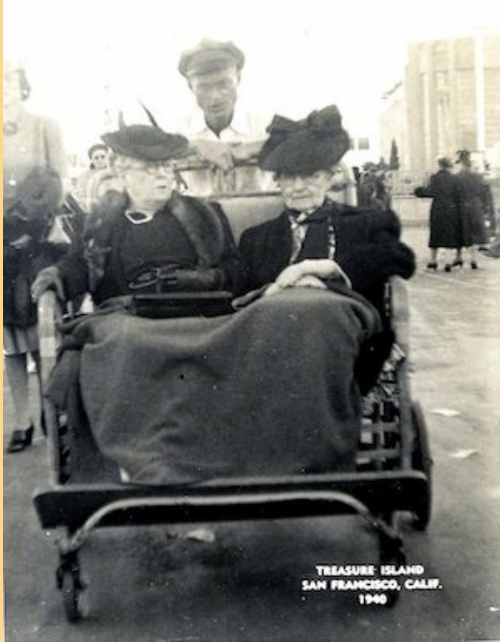
The chatter in the Kelley House archives sounded something like this: "Does anyone know where this pile of postcards came from? Who gave them to us? They're OLD! This scenery is not local. What should we do with them?"

Volunteer Katy Tahja solved the mystery of the postcards thanks to clues like the word "SALMON" written in pencil, a boat called a wanigan, and a photo of a Chinese-American pioneer in her wedding dress. Katy's efforts and talents resulted in the postcards being sent to a sister museum, prompting a warm thank you note and donation from them to the Kelley House. [Learn more](#)



COUSINS IN A BIKE TAXI, 1940

In case you missed it, our most popular post on social media last month was this photo of cousins Jennie Blair (l, 71 years old) and Daisy Kelley MacCallum (r, 81 years old) riding in a pedicab on Treasure Island during the 1940 Golden Gate International Exposition in San



Francisco. The fair commemorated the completion of the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges and involved the creation of the artificial island with 19,000,000 cubic yards of fill! [Read more.](#)

[READ THE BLOG](#)

MEET THE VOLUNTEER: KATY TAHJA



Katy is a regular Kelley House museum docent; visitors are lucky to show up on her shift as she is a fountain of information and resourcefulness. She has been a tireless researcher, writer, and presenter for the Kelley House over many years.

What is your favorite thing about being a Kelley House museum docent?

Linking people and history...especially if their family had ancestors in Mendocino. When I explain what our family files are and that we have the history of hundreds of them, including theirs, they are thrilled and awed.

What piece of history in the museum do you most like sharing?

The giant Polyphon Disk Music Box, in the Library, will blow most people away, especially children.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a Kelley House volunteer?

You don't need to be a walking encyclopedia of Mendocino history to be a docent. We ALL have occasion to say "Well...I don't know the answer to that question, but I'll bet our curator Karen does!" We assure them, if

they are not local, we'll try to find the answer and e-mail or mail them the facts. You meet people from all over the world without leaving Mendocino.

Why did you decide to become a docent?

A dearly beloved now-gone-from-us volunteer, Marty Simpson, got me involved more than a decade ago, when the museum hosted a "Booze, Broads and Bordellos" event. I got hauled up to the microphone when we had an unexpected glitch in timing and needed someone to fill in 10 minutes of talk. That was when I started "Madam Kate's" public career and I've been performing her ever since.

Curious about becoming a volunteer? It's fun and rewarding! Click on the button below and we can tell you more about it.

VOLUNTEER

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Research Center**
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