

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Haunted Mendocino Walking Tour

October 31, 5pm-7pm

\$25 adults, \$15 under 12

Rob Hawthorn, our newest board member and beloved Gallery Bookshop staffer, created a new tour just to give you goosebumps. He's telling ghost stories! The first one sold out, but we added another date on Halloween. We have a limited number of tickets, so book in advance to secure your spot.

GET TICKETS



THE GHOST IN THE STAIRWELL AND OTHER TALES

by Rob Hawthorn

When I moved to Mendocino in 1995, I lived in a fantastic two story Victorian with a water tower, built sometime before 1880. I was already a history buff and a fan of ghost stories, so when my mother-in-law started talking about sensing a “mysterious presence” at the top of the stairwell, I was over the moon. The stairwell was steep and narrow and had a door at the bottom that separated it from the

living room. Every time I’d head up to the bedroom, I’d stop at the doorway, look up the painted wooden steps, and declare that I was coming up. I didn’t know if there was a ghost in the house, but I saw no harm in making sure I didn’t surprise it.

Mendocino is full of old houses and scary Gothic yarns. There are stories of loves lost at sea, lumbermen killed on the job, even jealous lovers seeking revenge. In the early days of Mendocino, living was hard and staying alive was also hard. I wanted ghost story details. To establish myself in town, I met with almost everyone who worked or lived here. I made friends with Kelley House docent and gardener, Martha Wagner, and we'd talk for hours about the history of the town.

One day, Martha handed me a copy of an article from *The Mendocino Robin*, a piece written by Laura Hopper Sankey about a phantom horse and rider that were once part of a coastal tribe until warriors from a valley tribe chased them into the ocean. The horse and rider vanished, only to be seen a week later, riding the crests of waves. Martha explained that she questioned the idea that local tribes went to war with each other, but she said that it might very well be the earliest ghost story told in Mendocino. That's when I started to collect ghost stories.

[READ MORE](#)

50th Anniversary Exhibit at the Kelley House Museum



VOLUNTEER STORIES WANTED

The Kelley House Museum and Research Center wouldn't be here without the help of so many volunteers. We put up a special wall in the museum to share your



50th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT "Building a Home"

Thursday - Monday, 11am- 3pm

Our current exhibit pays tribute to the people who had the vision and determination to turn a dilapidated

stories and memories. Come visit and add yours, or send us one by email and we will print it out and put it up. We would love any photos you want to send with your story.

[EMAIL US](#)

old house into a research center and museum. Meet founders Dorothy Bear and Beth Stebbins, who moved to Mendocino, fell in love with local history, then galvanized a community to establish a research center in order to preserve the town's many stories and artifacts.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Upcoming "Murder, She Wrote" Walking Tours

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2:00pm

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1:30pm

"Murder, She Wrote" fans will enjoy this walking tour of the landmarks that appeared in the hit TV show starring Angela Lansbury, including the 1888 Victorian residence of her

mystery-solving character Jessica Fletcher and the hotel that was home to many suspects and actors. \$20, 1.5-2 hours.

[GET TICKETS](#)

The museum and office will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Join us for a walking tour, which are offered throughout the holidays, including one on Thanksgiving.

[TOUR SCHEDULE](#)

**THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

OFFICE UPGRADE
Power, water, heat, technology, and ergonomic support!

Sometimes changes to the Kelley House aren't visible to the naked eye, but they affect our quality of life immensely. Thanks to a generous grant from

the Jack and Chatter T. Bishoff Foundation, administered by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, we have made some long overdue improvements to the office.

Electrician Dave Gealey upgraded electrical panels at the Kelley House, installed many new floor and wall outlets (no more tripping over cords!), put outlets outside (so we can power that popcorn machine on July 4th), and installed a smart thermostat to help us regulate heat more efficiently.

Our computer expert Chad Johnston set up a new research station and fine-tuned our computers, while the folks at MCN switched our phones over to VOIP (voice over internet protocol), which should alleviate static. We purchased new point-of-sale, hand-held devices which work outside as well as inside the museum, so we were able to retire our antiquated credit card machine (although I suppose it would be perfect in an exhibit on outdated technology!). We are just about to replace the leaky sink in the office bathroom, and get two new office chairs (our backs are happy).

We are so grateful for the funding and to all those who worked on this project.

Kelley House Museum &
Research Center
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