

# **Annual Report 2024**



Dear Friends,

Culinary Anthropology was a show-stopper and award-winner for the Cedar Lake Historical Association in 2024.

The program was conceived to incrementally introduce food service to museum visitors during special events. As its name suggests, guests were given an opportunity to connect historical context to an experience on the dining table. Chef Erik A. Hinds used the stories, places, and people featured in The Museum at Lassen's Resort exhibit gallery to provide his culinary inspiration. Our partnership was celebrated on October 5, 2024, when Tamara Hemmerlein of the Indiana Historical Society presented an Indiana History Outstanding Event or Project Award. You can relive the program on our YouTube channel.

We're not content to rest on our laurels. Chef Hinds has envisioned several new dishes for the 2025 season - beginning by paying homage to Midway Gardens "orange-ade" beverage during our May 2, 2025, Season Opening Celebration - when we'll also award the Beatrice Horner Cultural Award, cut the ribbon for the Summer at Cedar Lake exhibit, and enjoy music from the decades of Midway Ballroom with Jack Shellac, our gramophone DJ of Speakeasy Summer Social fame. Please celebrate with us at 6pm that evening - and ALL season long!

With anticipation of all that is yet to come, Julie Zasada, Executive Director

On behalf of my fellow Board of Governors

Jennifer Russell, President; Dean Dal Santo, Treasurer; Sherryl Reeves,
Secretary; LouAnn Miller; & Scott Bocock, Historian

#### **Rest in Peace Carol Oostman**

The author of our pictorial history book, *Images of America: Cedar Lake*, and chair of our annual Community Art Show, Carol Oostman, passed away on June 20, 2024. As an avid photographer, Carol passionately infused her love of Cedar Lake into every project she undertook for CLHA. She is deeply missed.



# Steaming Through History Resort History Cruises form our basis of growth

The trend of impacting the bottom line while we impact lives continued in 2024 aboard Steamer Dewey. On average, only 16 out of 130 days of operation are steamboat Wednesdays at Lassen's Resort. However, 46% of our annual visitors experienced the magnificence of Cedar Lake and our town's cherished history on those 16 days.

We have learned over the past 4 years that **people crave experiences** that will become lifelong memories. We will continue to provide opportunities for our citizens and tourists by expanding our Dewey Line operations in 2025.

We are proud to announce the arrival of Big Dewey to our fleet. Please join us for her christening on **Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 2:00 pm**. A free day of admission will be sponsored by the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority in recognition of her arrival in Cedar Lake. Learn more on page 3 and at:

## www.lassensresort.org/deweyline





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## 2024 Financial Summary

Grant expenses and award payments have made our financial summary increasingly complex as they cross multiple fiscal years. For a complete picture of our financial activity, please view our tax return on GuideStar.org or contact us for an appointment.

#### **FACTS & FIGURES FROM OUR FANTASTIC YEAR**

- **♦21** new volunteers joined our team on a project basis.
- ♦ Nearly **7,000** volunteer hours were logged. That represents \$234,430 at the national value of \$33.49/volunteer hour!
- More than 3,801 visitors toured the museum and attended special programs. \*Please, make sure you always sign in because every visit counts!
- ◆Special Programs: Debut of Culinary Anthropology, Dewey Line resort history cruises, 4th Annual Steam Through History Day, 4th Annual Speakeasy Summer Social, and 4th Annual Track the Past Family Train Day
- ❖ Affiliations/Memberships: AAM, AASLH StEPs Museum, Calumet Heritage Partnership, Cedar Lake & Crossroads Regional Chambers, Indiana Historical Society, Indiana Landmarks, Monon Railroad Historical-Technical Society, South Shore CVA Partner, and the national Time Travelers Reciprocal Program

July 2025: Visitors work alongside artist, Tom Liubakka, to color in an original chalk art design on the museum sidewalk as a program of the Indiana Arts Commission Project Support Grant.



# Gifts & Grants Further the CLHA Mission

<u>March 2024</u>: A **\$7,075** grant from the Crown Point Community Foundation was awarded to enhance the functionality of the museum kitchen to provide a safe and sanitary space for our culinary experiences.

March 2024: An Action Grant grant of \$3,000 was awarded from Indiana Humanities in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities to present our Taste of Potawatomi Heritage luncheon and install "The Moon is our Guiding Light" exhibit about Potawatomi culinary traditions.

April 2024: A \$4,868 INcommon Grant by Indiana Humanities in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities was awarded for guest speakers, book studies, an update to our cedarlakehistory.org resort map, culinary experiences, and to install a land acknowledgment in the museum garden.

<u>Legacy Foundation</u>: A sponsorship for **\$1,000** funded special programs related to Steam Through History Day 2024.

<u>Town of Cedar Lake</u>: Tourism funds of **\$1,000** were disbursed to sponsor Steam Through History Day 2024.

Indiana Arts Commission: A Project Support Grant for \$4,000 was awarded in support of the 9th Annual Vera Dines-Whitlow Community Art Show public programming and the production of a documentary of Vera's art and contribution to CLHA to be debuted on August 1, 2025 at our art show reception.

Free Admission Day\* Sponsors 2024: This partnership program with community organizations provides complimentary admission for citizens and tourists to experience The Museum at Lassen's Resort exhibit gallery on select days. Please join us in offering gratitude to South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority, Micic & Mutuwa Olympian Families, and GBI Outdoor Power (Gruel Brothers).

\*Sponsorship opportunities are available for 2025. Please contact us or read more at lassensresort.org/support

# Historic Supporters Registry | Gifts & Donations



Linda Abbott Sam Armstrong Artim Industrial Property

In memory of Ralph & Julie Artim

Mercedes Austgen

Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, P.C.

Sandra Bapple In memory of Don LaTulip, Sr.

Scott Bocock Michael Briggs Frank & Pat Brongiel Ron & Patsy Casassa

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Karen Egan In memory of Kevin Rab

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Lynette Estes

Fraternal Order of Eagles 2529

Marthann Gatlin

Joyce Gluth In memory of Henry Gluth

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Stephen Jones Dennis Keithley Brian & Lynette Kubal

In memory of Martha A. Kubal

Jimmy Laud, Jr. Nancy Lear Wade & Judy Lietzau John & Mamie Lilovich Marion LoVerde

In memory of Kevin Rab

**Dewey Line News:** The Lassen family operated the Dewey Line from 1896 to 1944. Today's fleet honors the Lassen's heritage. Big Dewey is our "new" vessel, a 26-foot Motor Whaleboat Mark 11 built in 1987 for the U.S. Navy. She spent the winter getting spruced up. The 2024 Innovation Fund donations supported Big Dewey's preparations for service on magnificent Cedar Lake. (At right: Miraculous Mechanic Mike & Captain Meg welcoming Big Dewey to her new hometown.)

John & Meredith Maranowicz

Mike McIntire

Alice & John Mick

Ralph & LouAnn Miller

Larry & Lorrie Nelson

Paul Nelson

Mary Oleksy

Dan & Sherry Pager

Helene Paros

Judith Petrou

Jack Pruzin

Nick & Kathryn Recupito

Sherryl Reeves In memory of Vera Dines-Whitlow

Jerry & Candi Reiling Lori Rosenbauer-Huff

In memory of Joseph & Armenia Rosenbauer

Thomas & Cecilia King-Ryan

In memory of Wroe King

Richard Shepherd Jethroe Smith

Mark & Nancy Speichert

In honor of Craig & Cassie Murrian and Chris & Laura Speichert

Belinda Stark

Frank & Sharon Strzelecki

Dorothy Tortorici Sharon Varga

David Villalobos & Greg Marquardt

Jean & Monte Watt

Don Wigley In memory of Barbara Wigley

**Thomas Williams** 

Eleanor Willy In memory of Ron & Pat Gracz

Sam Yacono

Todd & Julie Zasada Anne Zimmerman



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# **Historic Supporters Registry | Gifts & Donations**

Steamboat Sponsors 2024

State Farm Aron Schuhrke

Dick Henn

Jimmy Laud, Jr.

Centier Bank

Holiday Liquors / Kubal Properties

Carriage Court Pizza

Fred & Shelly Faber

Jeff Wells

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Town of Cedar Lake

John W. Anderson Foundation

Legacy Foundation

Paul Misch

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Marthann Gatlin

Sandra & Matthew Bapple

Iris & Yolanda Martinez

Kathleen Brunetti

The Zasada Family

Melody Hill Resort Marina

Hesston Steam Museum

Pine Crest Marine

#### **Dine-Out Fundraisers 2024**

Culvers - Cedar Lake Rosati's Pizza - Cedar Lake Morkes Chocolates Kelly's Kernels Carol Ann's Candies

## **Volunteerism Moves the Needle**

Since our founding in 1977, CLHA has been solely operated by dedicated volunteers. We look forward to welcoming and finding the best fit for YOU at The Museum at Lassen's Resort in 2025.

Teams and Committees are a great way to help in areas that align to your professional expertise or hobby enthusiasm. Meetings are typically on a Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm but frequency varies. Choose from:

Advisory, Building/Museum Restoration, Culinary Crew, Collections Care, Events, Finance, Guest Services, or Transportation

Read more online and then complete the volunteer inquiry form (electronic or download) to schedule your interview.

lassensresort.org/volunteers

#### **Unrestricted Donations 2024**

Jeff Angellotti

Cvnthia Ballou

Scott Bocock

Bradlev Brown

Robert Carnhan

Larry & Sue Coffin

Larry & Sue Com

Jeremy Coffman

Mike Conn/Sandbar Grill

Dean Dal Santo

Michael & Marilyn Dolder

Dan & Linda Engelmann

Anna Freeman

Fraternal Order of Eagles 2529

Marthann Gatlin

Bob & Mary Hogueisson

Indiana Extension Homemakers Association

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Nancy Lear

Wade & Judy Lietzau

Corey Liss

Midwest PGM

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Debbie Oborn

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Dennis Oostman

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Carl Sprehe

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Nancy Teutemacher

Deb Toth

Rich & Peggy Thiel

Vicki Vicari

Bob & Barb VanRamshorst

Monty & Chrysta Walker

Todd & Julie Zasada

In Memory of Regina O'Brien

By Jan Kolb

In Memory of Lynn Ernest Schade

By Gabriella Schade

In Memory of Ron & Pat Gracz

By Eleanor Willy

CatalogIt Software Subscription

By Sharon Adley

Archival Storage Shelving Unit

By Bethel Church

The Historic Supporters Registry lists gifts received from generous donors in the 2024 fiscal year. If you identify an error or omission herein, please contact us.

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## 2025 Season Events At-A-Glance

Friday, May 2nd | 6pm | RSVP Required Season Opening & Beatrice Horner Cultural Award

Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> | Noon-5pm Preserving History Networking Seminar

Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> | 2pm Christening of Big Dewey

Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> | Times Vary | All Summer Dewey Line Steamboat Cruises Begin...and continue every Wednesday through September. Choose from two routes. Full details available at LassensResort.org/DeweyLine

Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> | 6pm Guest Speaker: Kyle Malott

History & Evolution of the Potawatomi Language

Sunday, June 22<sup>rd</sup> | Noon-2pm

Annual Member Cookout on Museum Lawn. RSVP required.

Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> | 1pm-Until Supplies Last Ice Box Social during Cedar Lake Summerfest

Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> | 6pm

Guest Speaker: Cusi Ballew

Seeds of Change: Indigenous Principles & Climate Change

Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> | Steam Through History Day Rides aboard Steamer Dewey are offered with advance ticket purchase. Steam equipment will be on display and demonstrated throughout the day, including a steam traction engine, steam miniature train, and the Norman J, our sister vessel with a steam-powered calliope. Our special guests from Challenger Learning Center will demonstrate the science of steam in the space shuttles. Enjoy live music from the porch and the Cedar Lake Farmer's Market too!

#### August 1-3 | 2-6pm

Vera Dines-Whitlow Community Art Show Artists: Register by July 1, 2025. All mediums welcome.

Friday, August 15th | 7-10pm

Speakeasy Summer Social (Early-bird discount through 8/1)

September 27 & 28 | 2-6pm

Flavors of Fall Soup Festival

Saturday, October 11th | 10am-4pm

Track the Past Family Train Day

Dates are subject to change. Follow us online or on Facebook for full details. **Additional programs will be scheduled.** 

| 2025 MEMBERSHIP*  |   |
|---|---|
| ☐ New Membership  | ☐ Renewal   |
| Individual \$30   | Family \$60   |
| Senior/Student S  | •   |
| Senior Couple \$3   | 80 Patron \$250                                       |
| Name:   |   |
| Address:  |   |
| Telephone:  |   |
| Email:  |   |
|   | made payable to <b>Cedar</b> sociation and mailed to: |
| P.O. Box 421, (   | Cedar Lake, IN 46303                                  |
| Purchase or renew online using our membership portal at lassensresort.org |   |
| *Expires 1 year after date of purchase.                                   |   |

All of The Museum at Lassen's Resort memberships include:

- Members-only: Cookout June 22nd & more to come :)
- FREE museum admission all season long and 2 complimentary guest passes
- Discounted tickets for select steamboat cruise bookings and annual Behind-the-Scenes museum tour; free admission to guest speaker programs
- Time Travelers Program, a reciprocal membership network for historical sites and museums throughout the United States. Discover participating museums: http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/

Please contact us with questions at 219.390.9423 or <a href="mailto:info@cedarlakehistory.org">info@cedarlakehistory.org</a>

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# Heart Esoul®

# Guided by what matters most

Cedar Lake Heart & Soul is a local initiative powered by residents of Cedar Lake, funded by a grant from the Legacy Foundation. We are working together to strengthen Cedar Lake by actively engaging the entire population in identifying what we love most about the community, what future we want for it, and how to achieve it. The program follows Community Heart & Soul, a four-phase, step-by-step process that brings residents together to identify and honor the unique character of their town and the emotional connection of the people who live there.

The Cedar Lake project is being coordinated by Cedar Lake Historical Association's The Museum at Lassen's Resort in partnership with the Town of Cedar Lake.

Join us to kick-off our journey to engage all who live, work, and play in Cedar Lake Wednesday, May 14th at 6pm during Cedar Lake Farmer's Market WWW.CedarLakeHeart.org

# Thank You to our 2024 Volunteers

Bev Abbott, Tom Adams, Sharon Adley, Mercedes Austgen, Gary Babcoke, Jerry Beno, Scott Bocock, Bobby Blankenmeyer, Lori & Brad Brown, Claudia Carlson, Andrew Chittick, Kurt Cofran, Dean Dal Santo, Anne Durkin, Maria Fay, Jen Frazier, Allen Gold, Cole Gross, Mike Hilburger, Bill Hillegonds, Erik Hinds, Mary Hogueisson, Pam Howard, Meg Jehle, Art Jellema, Robert Johnston, Jim Kennedy, George Kester, Jim Kinkaide, Lucas Kirsch, Bill, Charlie & Bonny Kortokrax, Beatrix & Ursula Kostikov, Ross Kozora, Eric Labus, Jimmy Laud, Jr., Nancy Lear, Christopher & Jonathan Letcher, Deb Malloy, Iris & Yolanda Martinez, Nathan, Emma & Sarah Martin, Heidi Mees, Taylor Menke, Karine Mielczarek, LouAnn Miller, Connor Olson, Anna Ortiz, Cheryl Parker, John & Jan Piper, Jason Powers, Jack Pruzin, Rachel Randall, Robbie Randhan, Jr., Sherryl Reeves, Jessica Renwald, Vicki Rhoads, Ted Rita, Len & Richard Roesner, Christa Roszak, Sam & Jennifer Russell, Cathy Ryan, Bob, Lauren & Brendan Ryan, Wendy Sawyer, Ed Smith, Tammie Sopczak, Mark & Nancy Speichert, Carl, Diane & Eric Sprehe, Marie Sumara, Robb Thomas, Jackie Thorn, Joseph Tigges, Kevin Toth, Bob VanRamshorst, Nick Werley, Gary & Mary Williams, Dan & Joe Yearsich, The Zasada Family, Polar Star Battalion - Sea Cadets, and Bethel Church - Teen Youth Group

Current Volunteers: Find links to create your profile in the Volunteer Local portal, sign up for open shifts, and view your registered shifts at lassensresort.org/volunteers