

**Steve Russell, CFP®, AWMA®, CRPC®** Financial Advisors

Vice President - Investment Officer
CA Insurance Lic#0G78095



938 Tahoe Blvd. Incline Village, NV 89451 | 775-689-6469

Investment and Insurance Products: ▶ NOT FDIC Insured ▶ NO Bank Guarantee ▶ MAY Lose Value

# TABLE OF CONTENTS





6

8

11

12

14

15

16

A Note From the Chairman

2014 Winemakers' Dinners

2014 Flagship Member Events

Flagship Membership Program

2013 Contributors & Supporters

The Whittell Waterfalls

2013 Financial Report

Waterfall Cruise Winners

End-of-Year Give to Win

TLPS Board & Staff

Happenings

Historic Holidays

A Letter from the Chief Executive



JARVIS PHOTOGRAPHY





FRONT COVER PHOTO: CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

# A note from the chairman



Season's Greetings!

Te have so much to celebrate this holiday season. With thanks to Bill and Carol Meehleis, the entrance to Thunderbird Lodge is now graced with a beautiful new gate in the style of the historic Soletti ironwork. And we are grateful to all of

the contributors and Moana Nursery for the restored Whittell Waterfalls. What a thrill it is to hear and see the water thunder down those falls again after so many years. Captain George Whittell is looking down with a twinkle in his eye at the memory of Cal Neva showgirls frolicking in the cascade. With your help, Lake Tahoe history is coming alive!

Our Flagship program continues to move closer to our goal of 50 individuals, families, or foundations supporting Thunderbird Lake Tahoe with \$10,000 a year for 5 years. We are more than halfway there with 30 families signed up, and only 20 left to go. If you're not already participating in the program, I ask you to please join and help preserve our

treasures. If you are already a member, I thank you from the bottom of my heart and ask that you timely renew each year. Remember, Flagship members enjoy unique access to the programs and events of the non-profit Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society including Thunder Thursday cocktail receptions, members-only events, cooking classes, and more.

2013 was the busiest season yet for our wonderful staff and volunteers. Although we are exhausted from the public tours, children's education programs, research, interpretive programs, fundraising events, and more, we still have the energy for a hearty "Thank You." We couldn't do any of this without your generous support.

On behalf of the Preservation Society's Governing Board of Directors, I wish you and yours a safe and prosperous 2014.

With gratitude,

Joan Gibb CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.S. And please don't forget to book your holiday party, winter event, or family occasion at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe soon!

# A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



any of you as members and supporters know the social side of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe through summer evening and weekend fundraising events. What you might not appreciate are the charitable programs occurring the remainder of each day. For example, regional scientists check their

instrumentation located at Thunderbird Lodge, undertake studies in the surrounding forests, or collaborate here to solve Lake Tahoe's unique environmental challenges. During most mornings of the school year, the halls and grounds are filled with the laughter of schoolchildren as they complete assignments in history, science, and art. Scouting groups, youth groups, churches, and service clubs fill in the gaps during school holiday periods.

When the kids depart, we throw open the doors to our public tours. Each summer, thousands of families explore Lake Tahoe's Castle-in-the-Sky arriving by bus or tour boat. (In the spirit of environmental stewardship, we encourage more of our visitors to use self-propelled modes of transportation including kayaks, bicycles, and stand-up paddleboards.) These 90-minute guided tours share with

our guests a bit of the gilded age and educate them about George Whittell's conservation of Lake Tahoe's east shore.

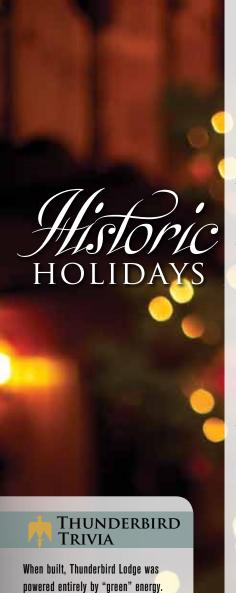
As the last shuttle drives off and the sun fades behind the west shore, the staff goes into high gear to raise the funds to pay for all of the aforementioned charitable and educational activities. Membership events, Winemakers' Dinners, Thunder Thursdays, *Thunderbird* Yacht cruises, and special events are how we fund preservation of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. In 2014, we will intensify our fundraising efforts to greatly enhance the educational programs that we offer.

On Sundays and Mondays, when the historic site is closed to public tours, preservation craftsmen are hard at work repairing masonry, restoring woodwork, tuning WWII vintage aircraft engines aboard the *Thunderbird* Yacht, and performing all of the mundane tasks required to keep the historic site and artifacts in good working order.

I look forward to winter, when I can reflect on past successes and future plans. I'm already thinking about how to fund next year's activities. And I'm excited to share 2014 with each and every one of you at Thunderbird Lodge.

Happy Holidays and thank you for your continued support.

Bill Watson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CURATOR



Hydroelectric power from Marlette Creek

and a wind turbine supplied the home's

electricity in 1937.

aptain Whittell experienced magical winter holidays with friends and family at his Thunderbird Lodge, and you can, too. A light snow blankets the dormant gardens and stone pathways. The late afternoon air is crisp with a hint of wood smoke on the nose. Thunderbird Lodge nestles against the blue lake with the snowcapped mountains in the background.

You arrive and are greeted with a glass of hearty red wine or some fine champagne. The knotty pine interior of the Old Lodge great room looks golden in the glow of Antonio Soletti's 1930s' era wall sconces and iron chandelier. A fire crackles in the stone fireplaces spreading warmth throughout.

As the rest of your party arrives, you hear excited voices as they marvel at the period setting. Friends greet each other and mingle amidst the festive holiday décor. The setting feels authentic, warm, and classy. A spread of generous appetizers is on the table: Italian meatballs, fresh corn fritters, blue cheese stuffed figs, and crudités with herb dip. As your guests sip and nibble, your host speaks about the colorful history of George Whittell's Castle-in-the-Sky and points out hidden panels, historic photographs, and architectural features.

Soft holiday music from the 1940s plays in the background as your group is seated for dinner. The table is stunning with rich winter linens, colorful centerpieces, sparkling candles, fine glassware, and elegant table settings. The Thunderbird chef moves tableside to describe the traditional dishes she has prepared using organic ingredients, quality grass-fed beef, free-range chicken, and farm-harvested vegetables. As she departs, delectable smells drift down the hallway in her wake.

A professional service staff serves a holiday meal to remember. Friends and family indulge in the tastes, and enjoy the privacy and non-commercial atmosphere of the Old Lodge which combines the glamour and luxury of a simpler time. After the main course is cleared, dessert and French-pressed coffee top off your delicious dinner. Everyone is relaxed and has relished the opportunity to connect and reminisce. Your guests depart amid laughter and hugs; they will be talking about this evening for weeks.

This is what the holidays are about: family, friends, fine food, connection, conversation, tradition. With your charitable contribution, all of these can be enjoyed in the Lodge's historic setting where our staff will see to the care of your guests. No worries, no cleanup, a magical night to remember. Sound tempting? Contact Thunderbird Lake Tahoe to discuss arrangements, and feel the holiday spirit knowing your charitable donation helps preserve this historic and unique setting. Then relax and enjoy the holidays.

For more information about unique Thunderbird holiday experiences, please call 775-832-8752 or visit www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

# WINEMAKER'S DINNERS

# Mark Your Calendars...2014 Winemakers' Dinners

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Reservations and details available January 2014 at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org

MARK C. PAGE









HEIDI HUBER PHOTOGRAPHY



# Clockwise, top left:

- The Page Family about to hear some Card House poker stories
- A bit of bubbly to welcome our guests at September's
- Visitors enjoying the beautiful Thunderbird pathways and gardens
- Passed appetizers in the Old Lodge for June's Members-only Jarvis Winemaker's Dinner
- First Course—Apple Buttercup by Executive Chef Jason Friendy
- August Winemaker's VIP Reception with Stuart and Suzanne Bryan of Pride Mountain Winery





# 2014 Flagship Wember Events

Thursday, May 8th Thunder de Mayo

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH Independence Day BBQ

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY GATHERING

THURSDAYS, JULY-SEPTEMBER
THUNDER THURSDAY RECEPTIONS

Flagship and Castle Club Members enjoy elite experiences from private tours to Members-only Winemakers' Dinners, and *Thunderbird* yachting events. Don't miss out on our 2014 Flagship Member Events.





MARK C. PAGE





 Entertaining and photographic 2013 Winemakers' Dinner moments!

# Flagship MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



rt and Joanne Hall use three important factors to guide their philanthropy. "These can be very simply summarized as 3 P's," says Art Hall. "Projects or Programs that relate to and benefit the community, People that are professional and well qualified for their tasks, and Performance with accountability for the results of activities we support."

Joanne adds, "Thunderbird is strong

in all three areas. It is a major Nevada historical site at Lake Tahoe and an educational resource for thousands of school children each year. Under the capable leadership of Bill Watson, the staff is very professional and well trained. In addition, nearly 100 volunteers perform docent, gardening, preservation, and other important tasks. The performance is obvious from the immaculate condition of the grounds, buildings, equipment, and particularly the *Thunderbird* Yacht—a priceless treasure. We are proud to support the charitable activities of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe."

These Carson Valley residents have helped fund Thunderbird's Hands-on-History program, a cultural education program for 4th and 5th graders serving five school districts in two states. From all of the kids, and from those of us who still act like kids, we extend a hearty "Hurray and Thank You" to Art and Joanne for all of their support!

# THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

A mounted Marlin once hung above the door to wife Elia's bedroom. Whittell caught the big fish while on a Tuna Club charter out of Santa Catalina Island in 1925.

Thunderbird's Flagship Membership Program was introduced in 2012 as a way to share access to the historic site and Yacht, and raise the revenue needed to maintain and preserve these gems each year.

We welcome our initial Flagship donors, and invite you to join us for the next five years on our quest to develop a permanent Preservation Fund. Your charitable gift will truly make you one of our partners in preservation. Call Chief Executive and Curator Bill Watson today to discuss how you can become a Flagship Member! 775-832-8752. Together, we will share good times for a higher cause.

# Flagship Members

### CASTLE CLUB

Tony and Bonnie Addario Ric and Mo Campo John and Jeanette Finney Clyde (Buzz) R. Gibb Joan Gibb Art and Joanne Hall John and Debra Iannucci Larry and Diane McComber Dean and Madylon Meiling Steven Merrill David and Lynn Olson Pete and Darra Sturtevant Ranson and Norma Webster The Wills Family Foundation 36 Pulte Homes D.W. Reynolds Foundation

### ADMIRAL MEMBERS

Tony and Bonnie Addario Gil and Jenny Amoroso Paul and Alice Baker Hal and Sue Bernheisel Nancy Binz Wally and Julie Brown Carol Buck Tim and Denise Cashman Terry and Carol Clapham Buzz Gibb Joan Gibb Stuart and Pattie Haldan Art and Joanne Hall David and Jan Hardie Steven and Sandy Hardie Dan and Dolores Holets Mike and Denise Hurst Bob and Anne Lee Bob and LaRue Maddox, III Bill and Carol Meehleis Mike Minor and Cindy Zollinger Richard and Judy Parker Bob and Eleanor Preger The Rudisill Charitable Foundation Fred and Maria Smith Pete and Darra Sturtevant Rich and Sue Stout Terry Underwood and Shirley Degenkolb Bill Yundt

## COMMODORE MEMBERS

Shai and Elyse Gut John and Debra Iannucci Bion and Barb Murphy Jim Thornton and Dana Mordini Lonna Wais

Our heartfelt thanks to all who share our passion and vision in support of Lake Tahoe's historic Thunderhird Lodge and Yacht. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!!

### CAPTAINS

Derry and Karen Bishop Paul and Carolyn Burkett Rob and Denise Freiheit Doug Graham John and Anne Isaacson Dick and Charlotte McConnell Dave Miner David and Charlotte Moore Rick and Gina Stephenson Brad and Barbie Witmer Joe and Polly Wolfe

FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS George and Harriet Agius Michel and Patricia Aiello Janice Alamillo Ken and Jo Allen Rod and Rita Alston **Grant Anderson** J. Robert and Carole Anderson Paul Anderson Rick and Lisa Andriano Nazir and Mary Ansari Peggy Armer Norman and Salita Armour Jim and Cheryl Bailey Mark and Deb Baldwin Robert and Alice Balfrey G. Douglas and Nancy Ball Carol Bandy Benjamin and Robyn Barnes Neil and Jill Barnes Gina Barth Bruce and Kathy Beamer Richard Bedell Diana Beggs Jared and Debi Beltramo **Bob Bennett** Gerald and Karen Berger Russell and Carol Berry Charles Bettencourt Michael Stone and Sharron Binfold Brad and Kim Bishop Bruce and Julia Black Robert and Pamela Black John Blomquist David and Erin Bogart Frank and Gayle Boitano Nicholas and Colleen Bolick Jim and Lani Bonar Erick and Trina Bonar Lvnn Booth Dave Bortner Joe and Sandy Bourdeau Norman and Nancy Bouton David and Natalina Bowers Tom and Polly Bredt Bill and Fritzi Briner James and Lorraine Brinton Jeanne Brower Stuart and Suzanne Bryan Donna Buchholz **Bob and Amy Buckley** Earl and Sue Burton Ray Busch and Maria Cook John and Cathy Butera Randy and Della Bynum Michael Campbell Mimi Case-Leibold David and Katie Cash Harry Chapman and Janet Faulkner William and Kathy Cherry Kevin Chiu Roger and Sarah Chrisman Charles and Grace Clark Michael and Linda Clement

Daniel and Carolyn Cooper

Franklin and Andrea Cooper

Frank and Susan Countner

Ronald and Faith David

Lance and Danelle Davidson

Peter and Inge Costa

David Coward

Todd Davidson Chris and Janet DeWitt Brandon Denman Chris Disney
Jim and Carol Dobbas Gregory and Kerry Donovan Tom and Lori Dovle Sherry Dumke Kurt and Susan Dunshee Bill and Penny Dupin Joe and Joan DuPuis Gary Dver Kenneth and Jane Eberle Bud and Lynn Eisberg Claes Elfving and Mary O'Donnell James and Missy Ellis Stacey Elmore David and Suzanne Etheridge Jane Fabian Lynda Faoro Lynn Fetter Byron and Daphne Fielder Michael and Janet Fischer Richard Fisher Bill and Sherry Fletcher Chris Floyd Blaine Foltz Kenneth and Sandra Forrer Valerie Forte Suzanne Forthofer Tom and Louise Fry Marilyn Fuetsch Greg and Irene Fuller Stephen Gajewski Ron and Barb Gallaway Justin and Jessica Garcia Fallon Gardiner Daniela Gasparini Fred and Annette Gellert Bruce and Christie Gescheider George and Marie Gillemot Preston and Marilyn Gilmore Kevin and Pat Goetz Sandra Gilmore Kern Ted and Linda Gomoll Scoti Gower Ed and Karen Grady Bruce and Tania Gray Charles Greene Randall and Jana Greer Edward and Sara Groenendyke Lewis and Susan Grove Tom and Sherry Grundy Kent and Elise Grusendorf Lorie Gunner Jean and Sandra Haddad Harlan and Barbara Hall Dan Hall James and Jo Ellen Hall Bud and Jean Hamilton Courtney Hamilton Cynthia Hamilton Mark Hanna Deborah Hansen Judy Harris Dennis and Kathy Hart Jim and Susan Hart Mike and Robin Hart Norma Hartquist April Harty Kerry Heckman Bernie Hittner Anne Hoffman Susan Holshouser Ray and Kathy Holstead Darin and Carrie Honey Nathan and Evaleen Horvath Ken and Rosie Huff Susan Hughes Tom and Linda Hunter Jim and Mari Hutchinson Chad Jellison Pete and JeanAnne Jensen David Jentho Gary and Sue Jesch R. Scott Johnson Douglas and Ann Jones

Jim and Caroline Kaplan Ellen Karlstad Richard and Laurel Katz Barbara Kay Kris Keesling William and Olga Keever Susan Kelley Richard Kern James and Mary Ann Kidder Charlie and Diane Kinney Ron and Denise Kirby Peter and Marilee Kovacs Dick and Alice Krautsack John and Mary Lahti Bob and Margaret Lamerdin Bill and Debi Larsson Allen and Carla Law Fiona Le Cornu Kirk and Debbie Ledbetter Leigh and Margot Leidig Phillip and Laurel Lembo Stephen and Phyllis Lerman Linda Lester Robert and Virginia Lewis Darryl and Jean Liang Stephen Lind John Lineweaver John and Connie Linneman John and Stacy Lippert Karen Logan Mitch Long Chris Lucchetti Dave and Tammi Lyon Ryan MacVoy Dave Marion John and Lynda Marren Reed and Nerissa Mather Pat and Tami Matthews Jon Mayer Bill and Judy Mayorga Rick and Nancy Mayrose Merilyn McClelland George and Sherry McConnell Jamie McCullough Joanne McGrail Darlene McNair Andrew and Cindy McNear Mike and Lisa Menath William and Judy Michelson Susan Jane Mickiewicz Dave and Carolyn Miclean Dave and Pat Miller Craig Miller and Beverly Yuke H. Jay and Lisa Miller Dave Miner Tracey and Betsy Miner Michael and Joan Mitchell Derik and Barbi Mooberry Elizabeth Moore Steve Moore Marian Morioka Philip Morris Dick and Nileta Morton Mark and Marlene Moser Gabriel and Tawny Nacht Robert and Lynn Nicholson Matthew and Jessica Nordby Dan Norem Keith and Kristen O'Donnell Ron and Cindy Olander Alan and Pat Oldall Molly Olson Gingell Stephen and Patricia Paddock Joe and Carol Page Mark and Liz Page Stephen Page Steve and Jenny Page Christian Palmaz Florencia Palmaz **Gregory and Bettee Palmer** Christine Pappas Dave and Andrea Parks Aaron and Mary Fllen Pearlman Kelly and Amy Peters Tom and Barbara Pfeiffer Jim Phelan

Nick and Sue Rinauro Myles Riner Ryan and Cory Ritchie Robert Rodde K.R. and Laura Rombauer **Grable Ronning** Linda Rose Frank and Sandra Ruacho Steve Rude Steve and Monigue Russell Paul and Linda Salsgiver Richard and Ann Sanders Philip and Jennifer Satre Julie Savage Rob Scafe Anthony Schirripa S. Geoffrey and Sharon Schladow Carter and Alice Schleicher Larry and Alice Schultz Ronald Seipel Kiersten Shaw Harry and Dee Sheffield Rod and Mary Ann Silveira John Singlaub Andy Skaff Dan and Shirl Slider Marjorie Smith Thomas Smith Albert and Dixie Snyder Lawrence and Barbara Soletti Dave and Elizabeth Sommerfeldt **David and Cindy Stanley** John and Cathy Stannard Robert Stoldal George and Diane Stone Richard and Sue Stout Barbara Stromquist Kevin and Claire Sullivan Nino Sutcliffe Steven and Loretta Swanson Manuel and Margaret Sylvester Vincent and Angela Tague Denise Taylor Owen Taylor John and Chris Telischak Frank and Elizabeth Tetz Christine Thompson Pat Thomson Richard and Joan Tice Michel and Kerry Tissier Lawrence and Gail Tomlinson Tom and Nancy Tornga Brita Tryggvi James Tucker Carter and Peggy Twedt Charlie Urata Mario and Marcia Valente Claudia Vecchio Francoise Verhoeven John and Judith Wade **Brett Wagner** Robbie and Julie Wambold Charlene Wardlow Rita Warren Ron and Meg Warren David and Carol Wasick Katrine Watson **Bill Watson** Janet Weaver Roy and Kate Weber Philip and Diane Weidinger Richard and Marilynn Weiher James Whalen Vincent and Marina Whelan **Edward Wicks** Sam and Mary Ellen Wiegand Dave Wilcox Jerry Williams Jan and Arlys Wisecup Al and Terri Wolf Joe and Polly Wolf Salome Jane Woodcock

Bruce and Caryn Renfrew

Jim and Kim Richardson

Ken and Gayle Riley

Betsy Rhodes

### **GRANTS & INSTITUTIONS**

Antique and Classic Boat Society Nor Cal/Tahoe Chapter

Donald W. Reynolds Foundation E.L. Cord Foundation Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Gordon and Melissa Egan Family Foundation Lake of the Sky Garden Club Lake Tahoe Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitor's Bureau Moana Nursery Nevada Commission on Tourism Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation Tahoe City Marina Tahoe Yacht Club Foundation The Charles H. Stout Foundation United States Forest Service Wells Fargo Bank

# GIFTS-IN-KIND

Action Water Sports, Gary Scott Tim Callicrate, Pianist Bret Cole Photography Campo Restaurant Mark Estee, Chef/Owner Chris Carnevale Terry and Carol Clapham Ciprian Photography Ciprian Cojoc Lester Dewall **Event Masters** Doug Graham Heidi Huber High Sierra Florist Joan Gibb Bill Hub Incline Big Tree Cleaners Mike Trute Jarvis Photography Jarvis Wines Mr. William Jarvis Kiley Howard Photography Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Tours Dave Lyon Mark and Pat Miller, Diamond Vault Moana Nursery Northstar at Tahoe Transportation Northstar California Resort Palmaz Vineyards Florencia Palmaz Christian Palmaz Peter Spain Photography Pride Mountain Winery Stuart Bryan Suzanne Pride-Bryan Ritz~Carlton, Half Moon Bay Ritz~Carlton, Lake Tahoe Ritz~Carlton, San Francisco Rombauer Vineyards KR Rombauer Julie Savage Season'd Catering ~ Tahoe Sierra Strings Silver Strings Sue Jesch & Laura Gibson Six Peaks Grille Andy Skaff Rick and Gina Stephenson Larry Stonebarger Sweet Peas Florist Tahoe City Marina The Entertainer Daisy Bankofier Triano Marine Design Vintage Carburetors, Inc. Whitehall Lane Winery Tom Leonardini, Jr. **Brad and Barbie Witmer** Jan Wisecup Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique Douglas Dale, Owner

We make every effort to maintain accurate membership files. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our apology and contact us so that we can make the correction and properly acknowledge your support in the next issue of the Thunderbird Preservation magazine.

Steven Zimmerman

Terrell and Ginny Jones

David and Sherry Kaiser

Bill and Deanne Kane

Diane Kageyama

Yann and Veronica Phung

Donald and Marilyn Reid

JT and Lindé Ravizé

**Catherine Pryor** 

Kathy Redfern

Marc Reisfelt



t's hard to believe that our magnificent Whittell Waterfalls started life as a mundane construction ramp. While building Thunderbird Lodge, construction workers staged material in what is now the parking lot overlooking the stone manse. They needed a quick means to deliver supplies to the house below and so they constructed an inclined ramp having an embedded railway. Carts operating on a windlass ferried men and material up and down. Other provisions were barged across Lake Tahoe and unloaded on a sandy beach in Thunderbird Cove. In 1936 and '37, all of this converged to become Lake Tahoe's Castle-in-the-Sky.

Once construction was complete, the inclined railway was left behind. We can only imagine Captain Whittell shaking his head in annoyance at the unsightly mess and then devising his waterfall. After all, this was a spontaneous undertaking as no plan existed for a water feature in any of architect Frederic Delongchamps's original drawings for the Thunderbird Lodge estate. We don't know if the falls were completed in 1937 or 1938; we do know they were flowing by 1939. Originally, Marlette Creek water was diverted through the property, cascaded into the water feature, then into moats surrounding the house, filled pools in what is now the lakeside lawn, and tumbled through a series of weirs into Lake Tahoe. In addition to the visual effect, this flow supplied irrigation for the grounds, domestic drinking water, and electricity via a penstock to a turbine plant generating hydroelectric power.

By 1940, the property was electrified by Sierra Pacific Power Company (now NV Energy), Whittell had constructed a reliable aqueduct and reservoir system on his property across Highway 28, and the water feature was leaking into the tunnels and the Lodge's basement areas. Whittell filled in the moats and lower ponds and restored the full flow of Marlette Creek to its original creek bed. The now purely decorative water feature was reconfigured with large pumps capable of recirculating 2,500 gallons of water through the falls each minute.

With the advent of the Second World War, Whittell brought some projects to fruition, abandoned others, and appears to have generally lost interest in many of the endeavors that were previously important to him. The waterfalls are no exception and most photographs from the 1950's and 1960's show the expansive feature unused and in disrepair. We have no evidence the lower pools were filled after 1942. When Jack Dreyfus acquired and occupied the property beginning in 1972, his team made minor repairs and re-enabled portions of the expansive waterworks. It was Dreyfus who installed the decorative iron water fountain aligned with the Old Lodge's front door. Meanwhile, the core infrastructure of this nearly half acre feature continued to decay. When the property conveyed to the public trust in 2000, the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society volunteers valiantly tried to keep portions of the falls operating but alas, in 2006, the last element of this grand cataract fell silent.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



# The Transformation...

The Preservation Society tackled an array of deferred maintenance on the old house (roofs, foundations, water penetration, etc.) and mostly ignored the falls. However, nearly every tour visitor added his or her voice to a steadily increasing public outcry to restore the waterfalls. Grants were applied for and declined because, in the words of many rejection letters, the falls are "entirely cosmetic". The subsequent grassroots fundraising effort really took off when Thunderbird Volunteer Coordinator Sue Bernheisel and husband Hal assembled the first round of donations. Checks then arrived small and large: \$50 from a Tahoe City school kid to \$80,000 from Reno's E.L. Cord Foundation. The Tony and Bonnie Addario Family, Rudisill Family Foundation, Joan Gibb, John and Jeanette Finney, Bill and Carol Meehleis Family, and Buzz Gibb, all chimed in with major gifts. By 2012, nearly \$250,000 had been raised but construction bids still yielded a project cost of between \$500,000 and \$900,000.

The intrepid Bill Dohrmann—architect, engineer, former Thunderbird board member, and long-time volunteer—stepped in as project manager and called for a second and then a third round of bidding. Hammering the vendors, Bill worked day and night to bring the costs into line. Partnering with Bill was Moana Nursery of Reno, a late entrant into the process. Moana owners, Christie and Bruce Gescheider, are passionate about preserving Nevada's cultural heritage and history and they elected to make their mark with this endeavor. Slashing their



previous bid, they crafted a restoration process that included dismantling the feature, building a waterproof underlayment, and employing an army of stone masons to reassemble the historic materials over a modern structure. The Moana team did so on time and on budget. Today, no one would ever know a 1930s waterfall is built on 2013 technology.

While cheerleading and fundraising for this project, Hal and Sue Bernheisel lost their beloved daughter, Amy, to a seizure at the young age of 37. Bill Dohrmann passed away of a heart attack on the first day of construction at age 72. It's only fitting that the Thunderbird Board of Directors has named the lower pond after Amy Bernheisel and dedicated the 2013 waterfall restoration to the memory of William S. Dohrmann. We miss you both every day.

Today, the Whittell Waterfalls is just one example of the projects the Preservation Society undertakes with your charitable contributions. In addition to ongoing maintenance, through its Hands-on-History program, the Society

is doing its best to develop the "next generation" of architects, preservationists, and curators to care for the treasures you have entrusted to their care.



There's no shortage of philanthropic seafaring families at Lake Tahoe; Rich and Sue Stout are no exception. Since their son, Christopher, first interned as a deckhand aboard *Thunderbird* Yacht, the Stouts have followed the progression of Thunderbird Lodge from private ownership, to research center, to a museum and educational program in the public trust. When *Thunderbird* Yacht was acquired in 2007, the Stouts engaged fully and helped fund the engines aboard *Thunderbird* Yacht. And the Stouts, through the Charles H. Stout Foundation established by Rich's father, also support the Preservation Society with grants to our maritime heritage programs.

From the Tahoe Yacht Club to the Tahoe Maritime Museum to the University of Nevada Reno, the Stout's generosity is educating children of all ages and preserving treasures on every shore of Lake Tahoe. As Thunderbird Flagship members at the

Admiral's level, we can't thank the Stout family enough for their sustenance of all things Thunderbird. Keep on cruisin' Rich and Sue!

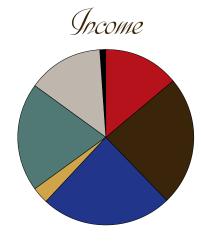


# 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

his year, we embarked on the second part of a 3-step plan to ensure financial solvency for Thunderbird Lodge and *Thunderbird* Yacht. For the first step, the Preservation Society had to obtain clear title to the historic structures. With help from Pulte Homes, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, and so many other friends, the Society received its unencumbered deed in 2009. In 2010, we momentarily diverted our focus to acquire the *Thunderbird* Yacht from Foundation 36 with a \$1.1-million note secured by mortgages on our employees' homes. (We would like to pay off this note as quickly as we can.)

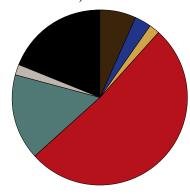
Our second step is to buy time until we can permanently sustain the Lodge and Yacht. Key are 50 families, foundations, or businesses who will each pledge \$10,000 per year for 5 years. Combined with tour revenue, museum store sales, renting the facility for special events, and Yacht cruises, these donors will keep Thunderbird Lake Tahoe afloat for the near term. Approximately 30 Flagship families have signed up as Admiral members with a 5-year pledge and enjoy unprecedented access and programs at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. We need only 20 more families or businesses to join. Might you be our next Flagship contributor?

As the final step, we must build a permanent Preservation Fund endowment to care for these historic treasures in perpetuity. We anticipate that, in normal economic times, a \$20-million fund returning 5% on investments will underwrite the nearly \$1-million needed each year to operate and maintain the Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. We are building this fund through your cash gifts, transfers of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, and end-of-life gifts through bequests and charitable remainder trusts. This Preservation Fund endowment is the future of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe.



■ Donations & Grants	14%
■ Fundraising Events	24%
■ Membership	24%
Museum Store	3%
Rentals	20%
Tours	14%
Other	1%

# Expenses



■ Yacht Expenses	7%
Tours & Rentals	3%
Marketing & PR	2%
Preservation/Maintenance	52%
■ Fundraising	16%
Museum Store	2%
■ General Operations	19%

# Happenings

# **FACILITY RENTAL**

Breathtaking and memorable, the Thunderbird Lodge provides the perfect setting for your Lake Tahoe event. Support preservation of this historic site by renting Thunderbird for weddings, rehearsal dinners, holiday parties, family reunions, or business outings. The estate accommodates indoor dining for parties up to 90 people, lecture seating for 120, and outdoor events for up to 150. Prices vary by event size and day.

# THUNDER THURSDAYS

You, your guests, and clients indulge in warm summer evenings strolling the grounds and buildings of the Thunderbird Lodge Estate. A dazzling array of hot and cold hors dóeuvres are served with refreshing beverages, beer, and wine. Make this delightful experience a prelude to your night out at Tahoe's North Shore. Thursday evenings 5–7 pm July through September. Available at no charge to our Captain, Flagship, and Castle Club level donors and invited guests.



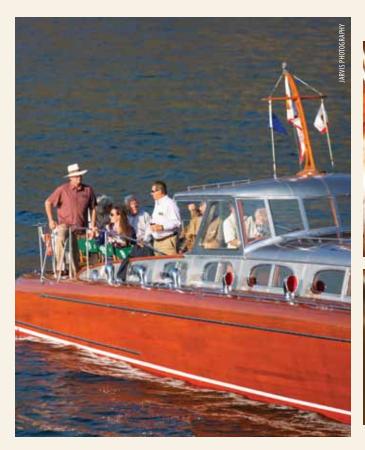
An array of 1930s era sensors detected a vehicle's progress down the Thunderbird Lodge driveway, and reported its position on lights within the various buildings.

# WINEMAKERS' DINNER SERIES

Sip California's best wines while you dine lakeside in Thunderbird-style at our Winemakers' Dinners. Now in its tenth year, the ever-popular series remains the highlight of Tahoe's summer social season.

Your memorable evening starts in the Old Lodge with select wines and appetizers. Tour the historic site, stroll the magnificent lawn and gardens, or soak in the sun while experiencing lakeside views from the spectacular stone terrace. Then enjoy a sunset dinner in our Lighthouse Room overlooking Lake Tahoe, participate in a lively auction of exclusive Thunderbird items and events, and take the opportunity to purchase some of the wines served during the evening.

Tahoe's celebrity chefs work closely with the winemakers to create a sell-out event. Mark your calendar to join our 2014 Winemakers' Dinners scheduled July 13th, August 10th, and September 14th. Our 2014 wineries and chef pairings will be posted on our website in January.







12









WEBSITE: WWW.THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG
E-MAIL: ASKUS@THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG
THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE: 775-832-8750
THUNDERBIRD VOLUNTEERS: 775-832-8753

THUNDERBIRD EVENT RESERVATIONS: 775-832-8752

### DINNER-AT-THE-CASTLE

For a nominal donation, 2–24 people may enjoy elegant, private dining at Thunderbird Lodge. These dinners are a popular way to celebrate a birthday, entertain clients, romance your partner, or commemorate a memorable occasion. Imagine a sunset in the gazebo with your friends as waterfalls cascade into the lagoon beside you, or feel the hearth warm you on a chilly winter's eve as you partake in an intimate fireside dinner for two in the romantic Old Lodge.

Our private chef will prepare your pre-ordered four course extravaganza from an array of menu options. This is a prix fixe dining package with your donation covering the cost of entry, docent-guided tour, parking, non-alcoholic beverages, commemorative program, dinner, service charges, and gratuity. Bring your preferred alcoholic beverages and we'll gladly serve them to you at no extra charge.

# **SCHOOL TOURS**

For a unique field trip, look no further than Thunderbird Lodge! Our Donald W. Reynolds Lake Tahoe History and Culture Program at Thunderbird is a Hands-on-History Tour. Tailored to 4th & 5th graders, these tours are interactive, educational, and an excellent source of local history.

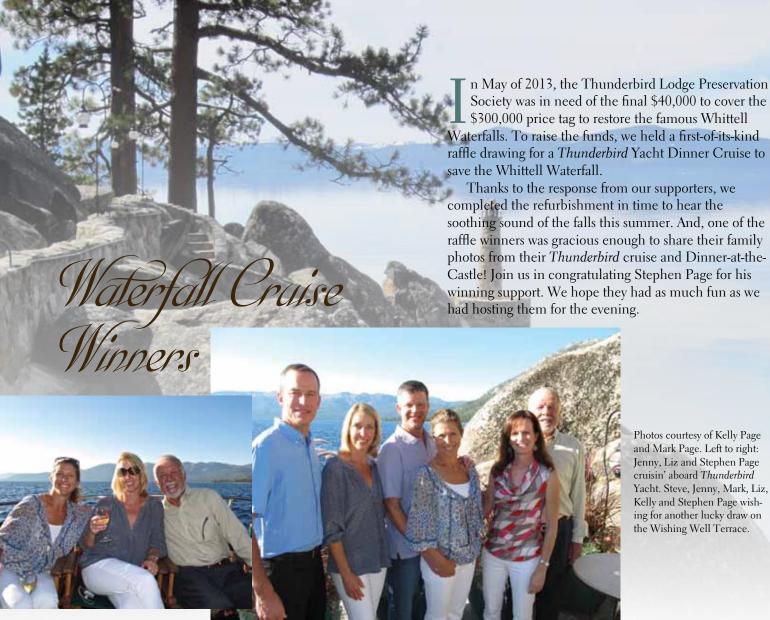
This program recently added a hands-on Thunderbird Activity Packet that students can complete during the tour. The packet includes cross-disciplinary activities such as "Using Maps," which strengthens comprehension of map reading, and fun artifact activities such as "Main Lodge Scavenger Hunt."

For additional information or to schedule a tour, please contact us at 775-832-8752.

# PUBLIC & PRIVATE GROUP TOURS

Thunderbird Lodge is open for public guided tours from June through October. Tours by land depart via shuttle from Incline Village Visitor's Center. Water tours are available from various points on the Lake by Woodwind Cruises, Tahoe Adventure Company, and Action Water Sports. Tours start at \$39, with children's rates available. For land tours—1-800-GO-TAHOE (1-800-468-2463) or www.gotahoe.com.

Private, docent-guided tours for groups of 15 or more are available year-round. Seniors and church groups, car clubs, and conference attendees all enjoy touring Nevada's only house museum estate National Register Historic District at Lake Tahoe. For group tour and event bookings call 775-832-8752.



Photos courtesy of Kelly Page and Mark Page. Left to right: Jenny, Liz and Stephen Page cruisin' aboard Thunderbird Yacht. Steve, Jenny, Mark, Liz, Kelly and Stephen Page wishing for another lucky draw on the Wishing Well Terrace.



Tony and Bonnie Addario have a family connection to the history of Capt. George Whittell, patriarch of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. So they couldn't resist exploring Lake Tahoe's Castle-in-the-Sky and getting involved with remarkable enthusiasm. As fundraising dinner attendees, board members, volunteers, Castle Club contributors, and so much more, Tony and Bonnie have been part of our Thunderbird family since the beginning.

When Bonnie was diagnosed with lung cancer, Tony stepped into her spot on the board of directors. Today, Bonnie is in remission and her Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation and Thunderbird Lake Tahoe enjoy a synergistic relationship in finding a cure. Several times each year, Thunderbird Lodge fills with medical luminaries to exchange news about the latest breakthroughs and, quite often, Tony and Bonnie are

leading the pack.

"There are some people and some heritage sites in our world that need to be showcased forever," says Bonnie Addario. "Tony and I believe the majestic Thunderbird Lodge is one of them and Captain Whittell should be celebrated for conserving Lake Tahoe's wide open spaces."

By the time you read this, the Thunderbird team will have been in San Francisco on November 9th giving back to those who give so much by attending Bonnie's fundraising event for lung cancer, the "Simply the Best Gala." Bonnie and Tony, we love you.

For more information about curing lung cancer, please visit www.LungCancerFoundation.org.

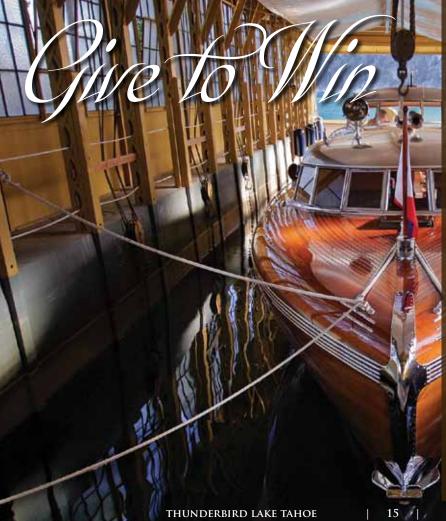
# IRA DISTRIBUTIONS AND APPRECIATED STOCK AS HOLIDAY GIFTS

ired of seeing too much of your hard-earned money go to taxes? Why not help the Preservation Society work towards a defined goal of building a perpetual endowment and enjoy a tax benefit in the process. You can accomplish both by directing your year-end gift of highly appreciated stock or by directing your Individual Retirement Account (I.R.A.) distribution to the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society's Preservation Fund endowment. By directing your highly appreciated stock to the Society, you will forego the tax you would otherwise pay on the stock's appreciation. Even better, through January 2013, you may gift up to \$100,000 of your I.R.A. distribution without incurring ordinary income tax on the proceeds. Each year contributors are helping



the Society build a permanent Preservation Fund endowment that will eventually care for Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht in perpetuity. While we have made great strides to preserve this historic jewel for the public, this endowment is a critical piece of the long-term equation. The Preservation Society uses only the investment income from our growing endowment fund for preservation purposes and never plans to touch the endowment's corpus. Over time, through generous donors like you, we can save these amazing treasures for generations to come.

Please also consider a bequest to the Society in your estate or trust. Leave a family legacy by helping grow the Preservation Fund endowment. The accumulation of funds from multiple sources is truly the only way we will build a substantial endowment that can save the Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht in perpetuity. Please make an appointment now to chat with us about planned giving options. We thank you for your continued and generous support. For more information, please call Chief Executive Bill Watson at 775-832-8755.



refurbished and once again flowing, we turn our attention to a new preservation project – the Thunderbird Boathouse. Home to the famous *Thunderbird* Yacht, the Boathouse is in need of a little TLC before she starts to crumble into the clear Lake Tahoe waters. To start this \$275,000 preservation project, the Society is offering a raffle drawing for a unique Thunderbird experience...a tour of the historic Thunderbird estate, a *Thunderbird* Cruise, and a private wine luncheon.

Raffle tickets are \$100 each and must be purchased by February 28th...or December 31st for your year-end gifting (2013 charitable contributions). The winning ticket will be drawn on Wednesday, March 5, 2014. A minimum of 100 tickets must be sold for the drawing to take place. The lucky winner will bring five guests for a "Secrets of the Castle Tour," followed by a *Thunderbird* cruise and private gourmet lakeside luncheon prepared by our chef, setup lakeside and served with wines from our Thunderbird cellars.

Visit www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752 to make a donation to purchase your raffle tickets. For tax purposes, raffle tickets have a fair market cash value of \$1 each. All ticket donations purchased prior to February 28th will be eligible. Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society will notify the winner following the March 5th drawing.











JARVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joan Gibb, Chairman
Tony Addario, Co-Vice Chairman
David Olson, Co-Vice Chairman
Steve Russell, Secretary
Pete Sturtevant, Treasurer
Anne Brockinton Lee, Director
Michael Fischer, Director

Bill Watson, Chief Executive and Curator

# **STAFF**

Lani Bonar, Financial Coordinator
Susan Grove, Lodge Manager
Dennis Maloney, Building & Grounds Manager
Dave Marion, Webmaster
Logan McDowell, Sales & Events Manager
Barbi Mooberry, Chief Operating Officer
Lindsey Pastrell, Administrative Assistant
Aaron Pearlman, Yacht Captain
Mindy Shaw, Finance & Technology
Anne Wiles, Chef de Cuisine

Graphic Design: Kunder Design Studio

Printing: CPC Solutions

# Cruise Like Capone Did... aboard Acania.

piece of natural history, the Acania has been restored by passionate craftsmen to her glorious 1930s opulent state. Discover spacious luxury and timeless elegance aboard this private setting while you cruise towards adventure.

The 136' Acania is available for private cruise excursions on the West Coast.

- Luxury cruising for up to 12 guests, 4 staterooms
- Crew of 6
- Available for day or weekly charters
- Cruising routes include San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California,
- Mexico and the Pacific Northwest
- Ask about out ultimate Vintage Land and Cruise packages from the Bay Area to Seattle

# 2013—2014 Charter Schedule

- November: Southern California
- December: San Francisco Bay
- January: Cabo San Lucas
- February—March: Southern California
- April: Southern California
- May—August: Pacific Northwest