

PRESTON COMMUNICATOR

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Preston Castle Haunt October 2018

The 2018 Preston Castle Haunt was a screaming good time.

Planning started in January and it took several months of prop construction as well as the entire month of September to build the walk through. The props had to be put in place along with setting the mood through lighting and sound. The walk through we created was the longest haunt to date. We were proud that this route even confused veteran volunteers in not knowing where they were in the castle. We took you up and down several flights of stairs as well as taking you outside where most victims thought it was the end of the end, however we brought you back in the Castle for the finale.

There were six full nights of the Haunt that victims could subject themselves too. The Haunt ended up raising (net) just under two hundred thousand dollars for the foundation.



Each night of the Haunt took a total of 120 volunteers working together to make the experience the best ever.



Each volunteer was extremely important to the success of the Haunt. Our volunteer opportunities include acting, security, parking, gate/ticket sales,

and clean up. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us. Training starts the end of July.

We are already planning for a better Haunt in 2019!

Olde Tyme Christmas December 8

Our 2018 event and tour season ended in style with the Olde Tyme Christmas holiday faire at the Castle on December 8. The Castle never looked prettier, decorated inside and out in holiday finery. 35 arts and craft vendors were on hand to meet holiday shopping needs. Even Santa was on hand, to bid everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.



Self-guided tour tickets were sold out well in advance of this event. The 450 people who were fortunate enough to get tickets enjoyed the last self-guided tours of the year. Tours will start up again on April 6, 2019. See the article on page 2 for details.



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If anyone wishes to add or change anything in the newsletter, or would like to get copies of past issues, please let us know at info@prestoncastle.com or at the next meeting. We always enjoy hearing from our readers!

Public Tours

Saturdays, April 6 thru August 31

With the opening of the beautiful spring flowers in Amador County also comes the opening of Tour Season at Preston Castle. The Historic Docents have had a few months to rest up and get ready for another amazing season. Tours will run Saturdays, April 6 thru August 31. Our public tour days will offer both self-guided tours, 10 am to 12 pm, and 3 guided tours starting at 1 pm, leaving at 30 minute intervals. Self-guided tours give our guests the opportunity to view the Castle at their own pace. Informed docents are placed on each floor to help guide our guests through the three available floors. Guided tours add a more personal touch and usually take an hour to complete. We also offer a virtual tour for those with mobility restrictions. Last season some of our volunteers adopted rooms to be staged. These will be dusted and ready to welcome visitors. Each room has been furnished and decorated to emulate an era when the Castle was at its grandest. As you move through the Castle you will get a sense of what it was like to live and work at the Preston School of Industry. The Foundation has also added several historic pieces to our ever growing museum for history buffs young and old. This season we will proudly be celebrating the Castle's 125th anniversary with a Quasiquincentennial Ceremony. The offering of several events along with Saturday tours makes for a fun and exciting summer. Please come visit, fall in love, and if compelled, become a part of our amazing team of volunteers.

Don't Miss Our 2019 Events

Join us for one or all of the Preston Castle Foundation's events in 2019. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.prestoncastle.com, or call 209-256-3623.

Photo Day

Sunday, April 14, 5 am to 11:30 am

Sunday, June 9, 9 am to 3:30 pm

Sunday, August 18, 2 pm to 8:30 pm

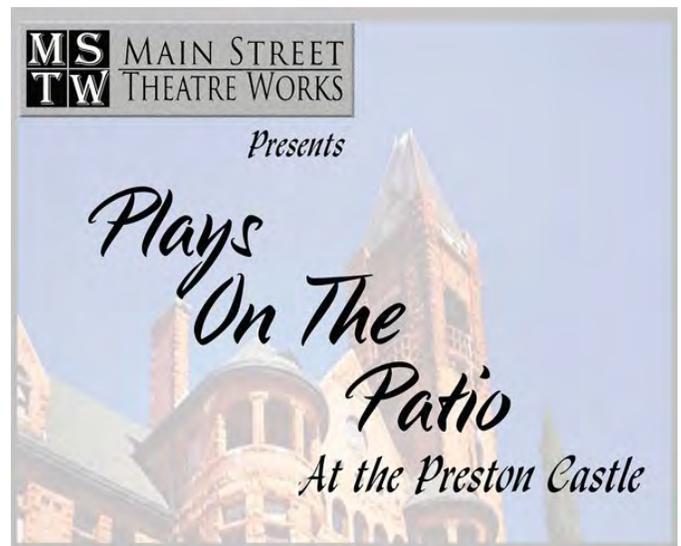
On Photo Day, you can roam the Castle and grounds on a self-guided tour. New this year, we are offering 3 separate 2 hour sessions on each Photo Day, limiting the number of visitors to 30 per session. Note that the April 14 date includes early morning light, and the August 18 date includes twilight/evening light. Prices are \$30 for one session, \$50 for two consecutive sessions, and \$70 for all three on any one of the Photo Days. See our website for details and schedule of the sessions.

Events continued

Plays on the Patio

Saturday, May 18, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

For the past five years, Main Street Theatre Works has produced their One-Act Festival as a spring fundraiser for the company. This year, they're expanding their efforts to produce Plays on the Patio at the Preston Castle in Ione. Tickets are \$40, which includes wine and dessert tastings from some of Amador's best restaurants and wineries, plus a wine glass to commemorate the event. Tastings begin at 6:30, and at 7:30 guests will be treated to a series of one-acts, scenes and monologs performed by both MSTW company actors as well as local Amador high school students. Tickets for this event can only be purchased on-line at mstw.org.



Preston Castle Yard Sale

Sat., May 25, and Sun., May 26, 8am to 4 pm

The 3rd annual Preston Castle Community Yard sale will be held on May 25th and 26th 2019 from 8 am to 4 pm. Spaces will be available for the community to purchase: \$40 for a 10x10 space. We are limiting it to 10 spaces to leave room for parking, etc. Please no appliances or large electronic items. Any items that are not sold are to be taken with you after the yard sale is over. All proceeds will go towards the preservation and rehabilitation of the Preston Castle. To purchase your space please visit PrestonCastle.com, spaces must be reserved and paid for by May 1st, 2019. Any questions, please call the Preston Castle at 209-256-3623

Events continued

ParaCon at the Castle

Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15.

Be sure to Save the Date!

We are so excited to announce our Fifth Annual Preston Castle Paracon! And this year it coincides with the 125th Anniversary of the Castle! In 2019, we have some amazing activities planned for our guests. Of course fantastic speakers, authors and the foremost experts in the Paranormal field will return to present their most current research and fascinating experiences with YOU. Take a class or two to brush up on your investigative techniques, or shop for unique and handmade treasures from vendors from the metaphysical and holistic community. Psychic and energy readers will be on hand to astonish you with their accurate assessments and predictions.



But wait, the star of the weekend, the Castle herself, will enchant you as you investigate her hallways and many rooms during the evening investigations. We have a few surprises planned as well. For more information (as it becomes available), please visit www.PrestonParacon.com

Movie Night on the Patio - Saturday, July 20

Preston Castle Haunt

**Friday, Oct. 11, Saturday, Oct. 12,
Friday, Oct. 18, Saturday, Oct. 19,
Friday, Oct. 25, Saturday, Oct. 26,
starting at 7 pm each night**

The Haunt will be even bigger and better this year, details forthcoming, at www.prestoncastlehaunt.com

Christmas at the Castle - Sat., December 14

President's Message

It will soon be spring and the Preston Castle will reopen for another amazing season of events and tours. The Castle is officially on winter break, giving most of our fantastic and dedicated volunteers a bit of a rest from the busy 2018 season. However, there are a number of volunteers that work through the winter doing maintenance and improvement projects in the Castle. There have been window repairs, electrical upgrades, fire alarm system expansion and upgrades and many more projects. One such project has been replacing most of the hand rails to make the stairs safer for our volunteers and guests.

Saturday historic tours will resume on April 6, 2019 and continue most Saturdays through August. Training for new tour docents and refresher training for returning docents is on Saturday, March 23, at 9:00 am. If you are interested in becoming a tour docent please contact Sybil Griffith at sg4pcf@yahoo.com.

This summer will mark the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Preston School of Industry in 1894. The Foundation is planning a "Quasquicentennial Celebration" for Saturday, June 29, 2019. It will be a grand day of ceremony, free tours, food and celebration. More details will be released as the planning committee confirms their plans.

There are many other special events planned for 2019. Information will be posted on the website and in the newsletter. As this edition goes to print the various event committees are working hard on planning all of the special events for this exciting year. We look forward to seeing all of you at the many events and tours planned for 2019. Remember all of this is about "Saving the Preston Castle".

Karl Knoblauch

President, Preston Castle Foundation



New handrails on main staircase