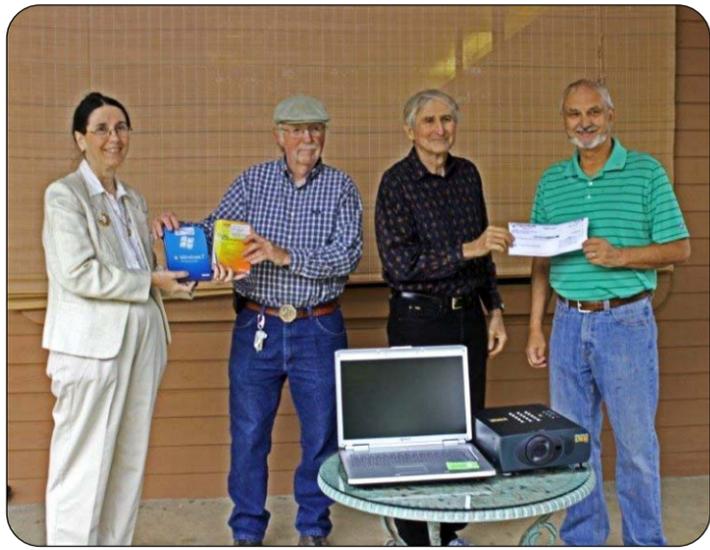


# M a k i n g A D i f f e r e n c e



L to R: Barbara Kreiss, IT for the Kennedy Mine Archive; Charles Campbell, ACUG board; Bob Devlin, President ACUG and owner New York Fitness; Marv Hampton, President of the Amador Council for Healthy Options. *Courtesy Photo*

## Amador Computer Users Group Makes Generous Donation to Local Non-Profits

After more than 20 years of providing free computer help to Amador residents, the Amador Computer Users' Group (ACUG) has dissolved. The club was started in the early 1990's on the third attempt at organizing at the now defunct Café Tazza in Jackson. Bob Devlin, coincidentally the first and last president of ACUG, explained that the availability of online help made personal instruction and meetings less useful.

In dissolving, ACUG decided to gift \$2,000 to the Healthy Amador Project and all of its equipment to the Kennedy Mine Archives. The ACUG Board presented the check and equipment to these organizations (see photo) in memory of Dave Butow whose support for ACUG spanned many years and included treasurer and secretary positions.

ACUG met monthly for many years at the Senior Center in Jackson and its meetings included speakers from Microsoft and other vendors. Each meeting also included a session to answer any questions members had plus a raffle to raise money and distribute some of the free software and equipment donated to the group. Past presidents included John Tinney and Barbara Kreiss who both spent many years leading the computer group. Frank Blauvelt was also a long time volunteer that served in various positions.

Recipient of the \$2,000 check was the Healthy Amador project that will kick off its campaign in March 2015 to encourage Amador residents to adopt a healthy lifestyle and diet. Marv Hampton, President of the Amador Council for Healthy Options (the administrative Board of Healthy Amador), accepted the check for the project. There will be numerous activities around the county for Healthy Amador members and a website for easy recording and tracking of their progress. More information on Healthy Amador can be obtained by sending an e-mail to bobkat211@comcast.net

The Kennedy Mine Archives, who now have a new building to store and protect historical documents, will utilize the donated computer and projector to record and display information. Barbara Kreiss, IT for the Kennedy Mine Foundation Mining Archive, was happy to receive the donated equipment: "I would like to thank the Amador Computer Users Group for their generous donation. The Archive will find a good use for ACUG's donated laptop, projector and sound equipment. It will help us in our mission to preserve the history of the mine and the heritage of the many people who worked there. It will be of real benefit to those who visit the Archive."

## Local Jackson Teen Awarded \$10,000 Scholarship

Kohl's Department Stores (NYSE: KSS) announced this summer that Dakota Brown from Jackson is one of 10 national Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program winners each receiving a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for higher education. In addition to recognizing Dakota for outstanding efforts through volunteerism, Kohl's will also donate \$1,000 the nonprofit organization of Dakota's choice.

"Kohl's is thrilled to recognize Dakota Brown as one of ten national winners of the Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program, and we applaud him for the time, energy and passion he has devoted to helping others and making a difference," said Bevin Bailis, Kohl's senior vice president, communications and public relations. "Kohl's is pleased to acknowledge the inspiring work that Dakota and the other national winners are doing in their communities every day."

After learning that Native American teens have the highest suicide rates and the highest high school dropout rates in the United States, Dakota, 15, created NERDS (Native Education Raising Dedicated Students), a positive peer-to-peer youth group dedicated to helping Native American high school students understand the importance of education and create a network of support. As part of NERDS, Dakota created the inaugural 2014 NERDS Youth Gathering, recruiting representatives from colleges, substance abuse and suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement agencies and U.S. Army and Navy programs to speak to more than 100 high school students from 15 different native tribes for a day of empowerment, unity and education.

Since the program began in 2001, Kohl's has recognized more than 22,000 kids, including the 2014 winners, with more than \$4.3 million in scholarships and prizes. This year, Kohl's recognized more than 2,300 young volunteers with nearly \$400,000 in scholarships and prizes. For more information or a complete list of Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program national, regional, and local level winners, visit [www.kohlkids.com](http://www.kohlkids.com) The Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program is part of Kohl's Cares, Kohl's philanthropic program focused on improving the lives of children. For more information, visit [www.kohls.com/cares](http://www.kohls.com/cares)

## Amador County 4-H Clubs

More than 6 million young people across the country are enjoying 4-H today! 4-H offers young people many new opportunities allowing them to make an impact on the community, and step up to the challenges of a complex and changing world. Amador County 4-H is a volunteer youth development program open to all youth between the ages of 5 to 18 years old sponsored by the University of California and the County of Amador.

Six clubs: Fiddletown, Gold Nuggets in Plymouth, Ione Community, Jackson Gold Wheels, Shenandoah Valley, and Willow Springs make up Amador county 4-H. Each of these clubs offers several club projects like gardening, cooking, photography and various animal projects for its members to work in. Research has proven that participation in 4-H has a significant positive impact on young people. Recent findings from the Tufts University 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development indicate that, when compared to their peers, young people in 4-H are:

- Nearly four times more likely to contribute to their communities,
- Two times more likely to pursue healthy behaviors like, and
- Two times more likely to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs in the out-of-school time.

4-H, the nation's largest youth development and empowerment organization, cultivates confident kids who tackle the issues that matter most in their communities right now. In the United States, 4-H programs empower six million young people through the 109 land-grant universities and Cooperative Extension in more than 3,000 local offices serving every county and parish in the

country. Outside the United States, independent, country-led 4-H organizations empower one million young people in more than 50 countries. In Amador County, more than 190 4-H youth and 50 volunteers from the community are involved in 4 H. To learn more about 4-H or to enroll today, visit online at [ucanr.edu/sites/AC4H/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/AC4H/) call Amador Office, 209-223-6484.

### BEFORE YOU SPEAK

- T – Is it true?
- H – Is it helpful?
- I – Is it Inspiring
- N – Is it Necessary?
- K – Is it Kind?

## Mountain Melody Makes Movie Magic and Holiday Fun with "Christmas at the Movies."

You'll hear songs from family film favorites and music with cinematic flair evoking the mystery and wonder of the Yuletide season. Holiday classics from such beloved films as *White Christmas* and *The Sound Of Music* come alive with the lilting harmonies of Calaveras County's premier women's chorus. "Joyful, Joyful" from *Sister Act 2* and the wildly popular "Let it Go" from Disney's *Frozen*. As always, you will be spellbound by the lush blended tones and powerful voices of this stellar vocal ensemble. Light refreshments following the free performance. Mountain Melody is a non-profit organization, and we gladly accept donations. For information, please contact Julia Shelby at 209-754-4783.

**Dec 6th**, Saturday Community Covenant Church San Andreas, 4 pm, 261 Treat Ave, San Andreas, CA (209) 754-3881

**Dec 7th**, Sunday, Union Congregational Church in Angels Camp, 4pm, 1141 S Main St, Angels Camp (209) 736-4171.

**Dec 14th**, Sunday, Outer Aisle in Murphys, 4PM, 164 Hwy 4, 209-728-1164.

## Keeping the Faith

*Continued from page 5*

Every time he had to lay aside his costume and mask, it was the proverbial end of the world with weeping and gnashing of teeth. It was as if he was losing himself, as if he didn't know how to live apart from that imaginary facade. Of course the real him was beneath that rayon spacesuit - everybody knew it - except him.

This is a common affliction. We build these dramatic images of ourselves, who we think we are, who we should be, what we should accomplish, and once constructed, they have to be maintained and protected.

We have to live up to our own billing, never letting a tear or a crack show in our veneer, and the mask to which we cling slowly becomes a prison. We go through life kicking and screaming every time a perceived threat begins to pull at the hem of our make-believe cape.

Here's a better way: Fulfill the roles that God, fate, or life has assigned to you. Fulfill them with gusto. But never accept the masks you must wear as a substitute for the person you really are; that's the trick to a sweet life.

*Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, blogger, pastor, and author of multiple books. Visit his website at [www.ronniemcbrayer.me](http://www.ronniemcbrayer.me)*



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
and  
**The Gold Country Times**

salute our military veterans of all wars this November 11 - and every day. The Legion supports our veterans throughout the year:

**3,000:** The number of veterans who received benefits assistance at Legion-led Veterans Outreach Centers since the VA scandal broke.

**\$1 million:** The amount raised for scholarships for children of active-duty servicemembers who died since 9/11.

We thank you for serving America with honor, courage and commitment.

**VETERANS DAY 2014**  
THE AMERICAN LEGION - AMERICA'S VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)