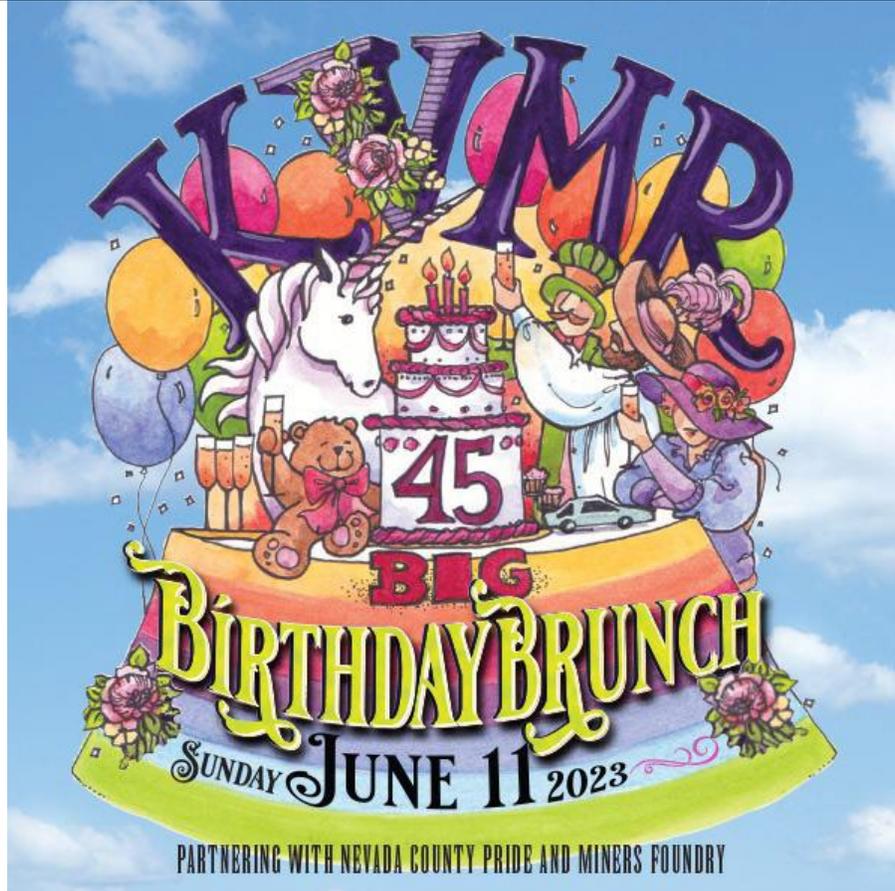


*It's a Birthday Party! It's a Brunch! It's a Slice of Nevada City History! It's a Party Y'all, Hope You Can Make It!*

*Buckle up, it's the story of why Nevada City is so cool*



**Sunday Brunch at the Miners Foundry  
June 11, 10:30 AM- 2PM**

**In June, for Pride Month and a week before Father's Day, we're celebrating our 45<sup>th</sup> birthday by paying our respects to two of KVMR's founding fathers, Charles Woods, and David Osborn. KVMR is hosting a brunch at the Miners Foundry with mimosas, a full bar, piano music, and luxurious raffle prizes, and inviting the whole town to join in. Come celebrate Nevada County history with Pride, in solidarity with LGBTQ+ folks who make up the rich tapestry of our town. We all have a place at the table. Happy Father's Day to two of KVMR's original dads, **Osborn/Woods**, and happy birthday to KVMR—**45 years of making our community better, more informed, more inclusive, and more fun.****

**Sunday, June 11**

**10:30AM- 2PM**

Miners Foundry—325 Spring St, Nevada City CA  
\$45 brunch & entertainment/\$65 add 2 mimosas

KVMR has partnered with the Miners Foundry & Nevada County Pride for this event. This is a fundraiser for KVMR.

[Get Your Tickets!](#)



***Charles Woods (seated) and David Osborn (standing) had a vision for Nevada City to make the transition from mining town to cultural center and regional destination, and KVMR was a big part of that plan.***

Photo borrowed from The Union, from the Bob Wyckoff collection.

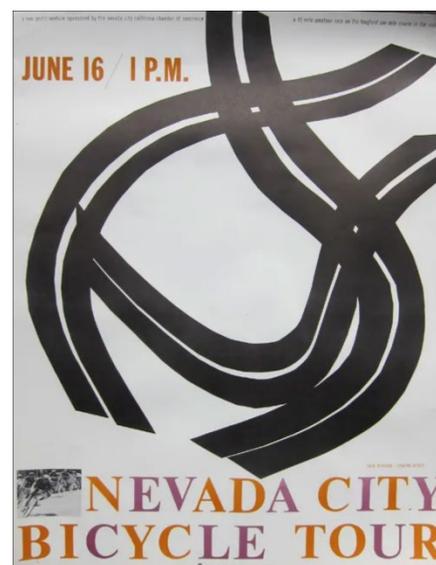
**As KVMR turns 45, we reflect upon our original mission of bringing the community together and sharing our unique frontier-bohemian perspective with points beyond.** Not everyone knows two of KVMR's founders were artists who made revitalizing and protecting Nevada City's Victorian architecture their life's work. **Charles Woods and David Osborn** came to Nevada City in the 1950s from Berkeley, California, where they earned master's degrees in art history. **They knew a cultural renaissance could only happen where there was infrastructure to support it.**

#### *Two California Poster Designers*



**Osborn/Woods** were successful graphic designers and poster artists. They created whimsical cards,

#### *Nevada City Classic Art Posters*



**Charles Allert**, the "[undisputed father of Nevada County Bicycle racing](#)" was a friend of Osborn/Woods. Allert was a lithographer from the Bay

wrapping paper, maps, art posters and graphic designs for commercial projects, in a distinctive bold style. Here, they are the cover story for American Artist, c 1969, "Two California Poster Designers." They were often referred to as "friends from college," which was true, but they were also life partners.

Area, and fell in love with the twisty hills and trails of Nevada County. He started the **Nevada City Classic** in 1961, and Osborn/Woods did the detailed program, map, and inaugural poster. They designed a poster for the event for over a decade after, and an art-poster remained an element of the event through the years. This poster was from 1963. **Fun fact: Lance Armstrong won the Nevada City Classic in 2009!**

Among their many achievements:

- **Osborn/Woods purchased the defunct Miners Foundry and converted it into a cultural center, the American Victorian Museum (AVM), beginning in 1972.** The AVM (now Miners Foundry) housed Osborn/Woods' collection of all things Victorian. It was (and is, an available venue for the whole community. **They also hosted a weekly Sunday brunch at the AVM for decades,** with post-brunch classical and chamber music concerts.
- **In 1978 Lee Amundsen brought the idea of community radio KVMR to Osborn/Woods, giving a megaphone to Nevada City.** KVMR was born under the American Victorian Museum's umbrella, and Osborn/Woods wrote KVMR's first grant for the **California Arts Council** in 1980, allowing the station to train more than 80 volunteer broadcasters and invest in microwave equipment to broadcast from museum headquarters (instead of from a shack connected to the tower with wires). **Weekly post-brunch concerts—more than 600 of them!—were broadcast live from the AVM on KVMR's airwaves, putting Nevada City on the map for miles around.**

**Fun fact: KVMR was originally intended to be a classical station but quickly took on a life of its own, reflecting our frontier-bohemian personality.**



*Inside the Stone Hall. The American Victorian era was from about 1830s to 1900. Osborn/Woods had a passion for the artifacts, architecture, and ephemera of the period.*

- They invited artistic friends, and many fell in love with the area and its burgeoning arts scene. **Paul Perry** played piano at many brunches and would often perform the concerts afterward with **Terry Brown** on vocals. Paul and Terry ultimately formed **Music in the Mountains**. **Howard and Peggy Levine**, fellow artists, and poster-makers from San Francisco, moved up at their urging. Howard eventually became mayor of Grass Valley and was executive director of **the Grass Valley Downtown Association**. Peggy was instrumental in saving the **Northstar House**.
- As founding members of the **Liberal Arts Commission**, Osborn/Woods helped the community purchase the **Nevada Theatre** from United Artists, and reopened it as a live theater. They were integral to helping **Dianne Fetterly** start the **Foothill Theatre Company**, which performed at the AVM and Nevada Theatre for decades.
- Over the years, they were involved in local politics and hosted community workshops at their loft on Commercial Street to create **Nevada City's Historical Ordinance**.
- They hosted an annual **Victorian Christmas Crafts Fair** at the AVM and launched the **Teddy Bear Convention** and **Fright Night**, to name a few.

**MINERS  
FOUNDRY**  
CULTURAL CENTER



KVMR has partnered with the Miners Foundry & Nevada County Pride for this event.

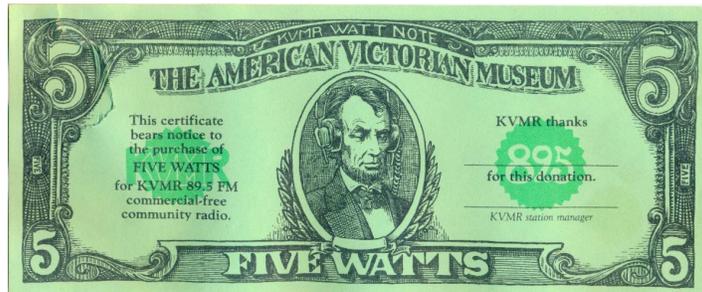
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From top left to right, on stage at the AVM, maybe 1980: **Bill Wilhelm, Ron Jones, Vic Merth, Jima Abbott, Ken Crow, Arthur Cohen, Roger May, Sadashiv**, guy with white beard unknown. Next row: **Grandma DJ (Ruth Guinan), Bobby Angel, Susan Seneft, Allison Allen (Miller), Nanci Clinch, Merrill Erikson, Charles Woods, Ethlie Ann Vare**, two kids are Leslie Gillette's children Seated: **Terry Marquez and Laura Miller**

**Jima Abbot** and **Bobby Angel** were the first voices to broadcast a test from the tower, on July 14, 1978. In a recent phone interview, Bobby said of Osborn/Woods, **“They were real pioneers. Nevada City would be nowhere without them.”**

As time goes by, fewer and fewer people know about their many contributions to the culture, flavor, and success of our area. Aside from being openly gay when many people hid it, they were outspoken, had grandiose purpose, and were not great at handling money. Their longtime friend Paul Matson explains, **“Their lack of concern for financial realities was key to allowing them to accomplish so much. While it caused some big bumps along the road, they were dreamers to the end.”**



***From the very beginning, listener-support and volunteer-power were KVMR's biggest asset. We're here because you turn us on.*** This AVM five-watt buck was perhaps drawn by KVMR Music Director **George Parsons**, maybe 1990?

**We've had a few people ask, why mix LGBTQ+ Pride with KVMR's 45<sup>th</sup> birthday? Because sometimes controversial people's contributions are left out of history.** David Osborn & Charles Woods' long view of our cultural landscape proved visionary. **In recent years, when June rolls around and the**

country erupts into rainbow banners and pride parades, some of us recall their lavish, inclusive brunches at the American Victorian Museum and think, "Where's the pride parade for *them*?"

KVMR has been making local space on the airwaves and serving our community for 45 years now. Last decade, we partnered with the Nevada Theatre to build our own facility adjacent to theirs, and included a 1,600-square-foot backstage and an elevator to the stage from KVMR. The Nevada Theatre has seen a revitalization, with a new interior mural and new patrons. The Miners Foundry is going strong, and has partnered with KVMR to host the brunch honoring Osborn/Woods. **The kids are alright. Can we finally thank them, publicly and proudly? Yes, we can.**

Join Us at the



*American  
Victorian  
Museum*

for our famous  
**Sunday Brunch**  
from 10:30 till 2 pm

featuring  
GREG GAVIN on piano

**SUNDAY CONCERTS 4 pm**  
Broadcast Live on KVMR

Cameo performances by distinguished artists each Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. These offer you a wonderful opportunity to attend and participate in a live broadcast. Each is followed by a High Tea Reception in the Museum's Old Stone Hall.

Dec 13th, 6:30 pm  
Madrigal Feast  
with the Silver Swan Singers  
Traditional Feast includes Wassail and Figgy Pudding.

Reservations 265-5804

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& EVERYTHING**

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— Before the Concert —  
— Before the Dance —

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AND NOW JONATHON MEREDITH  
PLAYS GUITAR SATURDAYS!  
AS WELL AS FOR OUR FAMOUS SUNDAY BRUNCH

If you want beautiful food and a fabulous atmosphere at affordable prices you'll have to go back to the 80s, but if you want beautiful food and a fabulous atmosphere at "this-is-a-fundraiser prices," have we got the party for you. [Get your tickets HERE](#)

***Drama Queens Welcome!***

***Did Somebody Say, "This Brunch  
Deserves Drag Queens?"***

***Faith, Hope & Charity***



For entertainment we'll have **Miss Cloaca and friends** (that's her on skates!), a piano player, a raffle with posh prizes, an Instagram-worthy photo station, and a presentation on the future of KVMR. **It's all about fun for KVMR's 45th birthday, so if you hate fun stay home and make your own breakfast. Otherwise, see you there!**



Who remembers the weird square gangway entry at the Foundry for many years? It was specifically built so your first look inside the AVM was a crown jewel of their collection--this authentic stained glass of quintessential Victorian virtues Faith, Hope, and Charity. This magnificent piece was backlit on the floor, perfect for writhing around on. "Gothy B&W photoshoots were mainstays of the 80s highschool experience," said Grandma, to kids who've never heard of a darkroom. Photo of the author by Wendy Higgins, c 1986, enjoying the AVM like everyone else--*free from adult supervision!*

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*Seating is limited, so get your tickets early.*  
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[Get Your Tickets!](#)

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Discover more about Osborn/Woods:  
[Paul Matson's Article for The Union Newspaper 2016](#)  
[PRINT MAGAZINE 2011](#)  
[Jonathan Meredith Remembers the AVM](#)

If you have photos or stories to share, we'd love to hear from you. Finding photos of KVMR's early days has proven difficult-- all the pictures are paper, in a box in someone's garage! [membership@kvmr.org](mailto:membership@kvmr.org)

Many thanks to **Paul Matson, TJ Meekins, Sue Coziah, and Bobby Angel** for information about Osborn/Woods, the AVM, and KVMR's early days. Also thanks to **Warren D** and **Joyce Miller** for editing.

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