

News Release



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CONTACTS:
Pati Brown 916-417-1159 or
Traci Rockefeller Cusack at
916-213-4373

Find Hidden Treasures & Often Nostalgic Holiday Gifts While Supporting Your Favorite Historic Park, Too!

Collectibles & Unique Gift Items Available at Local Museums & Historic Parks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – When searching for holiday gifts, local shoppers often think of malls and neighborhood retailers. However, hidden treasures and unique items are available at various museums and historic parks throughout the Sacramento area as well. Outlined below is a sampling of some of the unique, quality items waiting to be discovered at a few favorite historic destinations around town.

California State Railroad Museum

- **California Poppy Necklaces & Earrings** -- Made exclusively for the Railroad Museum Store, fashion necklaces and earrings are available that showcase an elegant floral design taken from the Santa Fe Railway's "California Poppy" china pattern. This china pattern was used for decades on many Santa Fe passenger trains traveling to and from California. The necklace comes with a 30" chain that can be shortened. The earring wires are hypo-allergenic.
- **Polar Express Merchandise** -- Of course, the Museum Store sells difficult-to-find and crowd-pleasing Polar Express merchandise, all officially licensed. Gift items include water globes, picture frames, throw blankets, mugs and holiday ornaments.
- **Gift Memberships** -- The gift of membership to the California State Railroad Museum makes a wonderful gift with many benefits such as free entrance into the museum, free excursion train rides, special discounts, invitations to members-only events and much, much more!

Huntington & Hopkins Hardward Store (located next to Railroad Museum)

- **Wooden Toys & Puzzles** -- Reminiscent of an earlier time, wooden puzzles and time-tested toys spur imagination and hands-on creativity for kids of all ages.
- **Local History Books** -- Wonderful and thought-provoking books are available about Sacramento's role in the Gold Rush and the Pony Express.

Governor's Mansion State Historic Park

- **California or State Parks Branded Merchandise** -- Perfect for California lovers, the Governor's Mansion SHP store has California branded merchandise such as mini flags, California bear mugs, t-shirts, books, pins and more. Plus, a variety of State Parks branded merchandise is available, too.
- **Period Popular Jewelry** -- Affordable yet tasteful costume jewelry (that represents the period of interpretation 1903-1967) is available in the Mansion store and includes necklaces, bracelets, brooches, pins and earrings. Great conversation pieces!

**For More Information About the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks,
Visit www.parks.ca.gov/capitaldistrict**

Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park

- **Books About 19th Century Life** -- Appropriate for the restored Mansion, two popular books are available at the on-site store, titled "Essential Handbook of Victorian Entertaining" and "Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette." Both books provide guidance for properly conducting oneself in an era where social norms differed materially from those we are familiar with today.

State Indian Museum*

- **Native American Artwork** -- Unique and original artwork made by talented Native American artisans from all over California is available in the Museum Store.
- **Soapstone Kits** -- Wonderful for children with active imaginations who love to explore and enjoy hands-on activities, soapstone carving kits are available in a variety of figurines such as a bear, wolf, sun disk or dolphin.

*Special note: the State Indian Museum is hosting a special "Indian Arts & Crafts Fair" on Friday, November, 26 and Saturday, November 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for shoppers interested in memorable hand-crafted items such as artwork, jewelry, dolls, soapstone and elkhorn carvings, decorated gourds, holiday ornaments and more.

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park

- **Corn Husk Doll Angels** -- Traditional corn husk dolls bring the magic of Christmas as charming angel ornaments. Available handmade by the artisans at Sutter's Fort or as "do-it-yourself" kits.
- **Hand-Dipped Beeswax Candles & Pine Cones** -- Made on-site, Sutter's Fort SHP has its very own line of beeswax candles and pine cones that range in shapes, sizes, scents and prices. Beeswax candles lit the night during the cold winter of 1846. Now everyone can enjoy the beauty and scent of hand-dipped candles.

The items listed above are merely a sampling of holiday gift items available now at the various museums and historic parks. No admission fee is necessary to browse through the various on-site stores. More information and hours for the various sites is available online at www.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict.

About the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks

The Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks encompasses seven State Historic Parks and Museums located within the Downtown and Midtown areas of California's Capital City: California State Capitol Museum, California State Indian Museum, California State Railroad Museum, Governor's Mansion State Historic Park, Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, Old Sacramento State Historic Park and Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. Additionally, two units are in outlying areas: the Woodland Opera House in Woodland, California; and Railtown 1897 State Historic Park located in Jamestown, in the heart of California's Gold Country about 100 miles southeast of Sacramento. Collectively these facilities preserve and interpret the heritage of California's Capital City, and illuminate the many forces that have shaped Sacramento and the Golden State.

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