



JACK LONDON
STATE HISTORIC PARK

JACK LONDON PARK PARTNERS

For Immediate Release

January 12, 2024

Media Contact: Laurie Armstrong Gossy

larmstronggossy@gmail.com / 415-290-6830

Jack London's 150th birthday to be celebrated with events throughout 2026 at Jack London State Historic Park

Free park entry on London's birthday, January 12, plus the launch of the 11th Annual Young Writers Contest.



Jack London at his ranch in Glen Ellen, CA. Photo courtesy of the Huntington Digital Library.

The 150th birthday of writer, adventurer and rancher Jack London (born January 12, 1876) will be celebrated throughout 2026 at his Glen Ellen (Sonoma County, CA) home, now known as Jack London State Historic Park.

In his 40-year life, London accomplished an extraordinary amount. He became one of the world's most widely read authors, writing beloved works such as "The Call of the Wild" and "White Fang." He explored the world, reported on major events, pursued adventure across land and sea, and built his dream ranch in Glen Ellen.

"A century and a half later, Jack London's works and his life still engage and inspire people around the world. To celebrate his legacy, we are planning a variety of events and activities that people can enjoy throughout the year," said the park's executive director, Matt Leffert.

Details of the celebrations are available at <https://jacklondonpark.com/150th-birthday/>.

Celebrations planned for 2026 include:

Saturday, Jan. 10 - There will be a **free guided hike** (\$10/vehicle park entry fee not included). This approximately 3.5 mile hike will lead to the park's ancient redwood, an old growth coast redwood that stood here long before London arrived, watched over the land during his years in Glen Ellen, and still stands today. Reservations are available at <https://jacklondonpark.com/events/jack-london-birthday-hike-150/>.

Sunday, Jan. 11 – Purchases on this day at the bookshop in the House of Happy Walls Museum will come with a **free park pass** for a return visit in 2026. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 12 - **Free admission** to the park for all on Jack London's 150th birthday. The park will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entry fee is regularly \$10 per vehicle for up to nine passengers. There will be a **free guided Wolf House tour** beginning at 1 p.m. outside the House of Happy Walls Museum. Led by a knowledgeable volunteer guide, this storytelling walk brings to life London's dreams, challenges, and legacy. Reservations are not required.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 12 - The House of Happy Walls Museum bookshop will start tracking sales of the exclusive **Museum Edition of "The Call of the Wild."** The purchaser of the 150th copy sold will win a special park package.

Monday, Jan. 12 - The **11th Annual Young Writers Contest** will open on Jan. 12 with announcement of this year's theme. The contest closes at 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2026, and winners will be announced by April 21.

Created in 2014, the Young Writers Contest encourages middle school students (grades 6-8) to exercise their writing skills by creating an original 1,500-2,000-word story inspired by the works of Jack London. A new theme is provided every year on London's birthday.

This year's theme plus complete contest rules, and the entry form will be available at <https://jacklondonpark.com/annual-young-writers-contest/>. Links to the 2025 winning entries are also available there.

Saturday, Jan. 17 – "**Un Paseo por los Museos**" is a tour in Spanish of the House of Happy Walls Museum and the historic cottage where Jack and Charmian London lived, wrote and entertained. Guests will learn the history of Sonoma Mountain, Beauty Ranch and Jack London State Historic Park. The tour and park entry are free. Reservations are required and can be made at <https://jacklondonpark.com/events/paseopormuseos2025/>.

Thursday, Feb. 12 - "**An Intimate Affair**" at the Sebastiani Theatre in Sonoma will bring the love story of Jack and Charmian London to life. Charmian London (as portrayed by Sonoma-based writer, speaker, and performer Lynne Lancaster) will share stories of the passion and adventure of her life through intimate memories and personal love letters between the [adventurous writer](#) and his [convention-flaunting wife](#). Music by George Mieling and Josh Little will set the perfect tone.



JACK LONDON
STATE HISTORIC PARK

JACK LONDON PARK PARTNERS

The event is presented by Charmian's Circle, which raises funds to support educational programs at the park. Details and tickets are available at <https://jacklondonpark.com/events/an-intimate-affair-2026/>.

Sunday, May 17 - **Call of the Wild Day** returns for the fifth year. Park entry will be free and there will be activities, events and entertainment for guests of all ages. The event celebrates nature, education, family and the history of Jack and Charmian London's Beauty Ranch. Enjoy hands-on art activities, games, and guided tours that bring Jack London's world to life. With music, food, and plenty of opportunities to explore, it is the perfect way for families and friends to enjoy the park. Experience the historic ranch that London loved with a relaxed hay ride, explore the beauty of the land with a free guided hike, or join a tour to learn more about his life.

Saturday, Sept. 19 – Jack London will hold its **annual fundraising gala** at the park. Expect a birthday bash with outstanding entertainment, food and wine, and special tributes to those who keep the park alive and thriving.

Jack London Speaker Series - The [Jack London Society](#) will present a **series of quarterly lectures** with a variety of experts sharing insights into Jack London's life, work, and legacy. The lectures will be held in the House of Happy Walls Museum.

- Author and scholar **Aleta George** will discuss sea captains who inspired Jack London's writing and wanderings. She is currently working on a book about London's lifelong relationship with the San Francisco Bay and writes about the bay for publications including *Smithsonian*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Estuary News*. She is also the award-winning author of "*Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate.*"
- **Tarnel Abbott**, Jack London's great-granddaughter, will appear in an interview format presentation. Retired after 22 years as a librarian at the Richmond Public Library, Abbott has dedicated herself to preserving London's books and papers. She is also a longtime activist, involved in numerous local and international causes, and will share her insights into London's life and legacy.
- Retired pharmacist and pharmacology professor **Richard Rocco** will talk about Jack London and his medicine kit, currently on display in the House of Happy Walls. Rocco has photographed and studied all 22 drugs in the kit and will discuss London's use of these medicines in both his life and literature. With nearly 20 years of teaching experience at Samuel Merritt University, he has written and spoken extensively on artifact forensics and London's medical kit.
- Professor Emerita **Amy Tucker** of Queens College, New York City, will present Jack London's unpublished photographs from Molokai, Hawaii. An accomplished author and editor, Tucker brings her expertise in archival research and photography to explore this lesser-known aspect of London's life and travels.

Coming soon - A new online guide, "**Around the World on the Jack London Trail**," will debut this year. Visitors can follow London's travels as a gold-seeker, writer, reporter and explorer through the Bay Area, Alaska and the Yukon, the South Pacific, Asia and beyond.

Coming soon - In partnership with Strava.com, the **150 Mile Challenge** will encourage people to hike or walk the 29 miles of trails within Jack London State Historic Park, plus the scenic routes in surrounding areas.

Additional celebrations are being developed and will be posted at <https://jacklondonpark.com/150th-birthday/> as details are confirmed.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For information, contact Angie Escudero at aescudero@jacklondonpark.com.

###

About Jack London State Historic Park

Jack London State Historic Park, in the heart of the Sonoma Valley, is operated and funded by Jack London Park Partners, one of the first non-profit organizations to be entrusted with management of a state park on behalf of the people of California. Funding to keep the park going strong is received from visitors, members, and generous donors. Learn more about the park at <https://jacklondonpark.com/> and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

#JackLondonPark, #SonomaCounty, #Sonoma Valley