

Remembering Benzie



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REMEMBERING BENZIE:

An Oral History Project

May 2020 Update

A note from Benzie Central Senior Melia Lorenz, intern with the Remembering Benzie Oral History Project:

Throughout my senior year at Benzie Central High School, I have been working on the Remembering Benzie Oral History Project along with three other interns, Finn McLaren, AuSable Kriener, and Reeve Katt. For me, this opportunity was the highlight of my senior year unlike anything else because it was exactly the push I needed to decide on my college major: journalism.

When the Coronavirus hit and the world was virtually put on pause, I was very fearful that the project would have to come to a close much sooner than we all anticipated. As we began to contemplate our options, it soon became clear that we are quite literally experiencing history in the making. After a couple meetings via video chat, we decided to move forward with the project with a few adjustments.

Originally, this time of year was supposed to be dedicated to conducting our final Legacy interview and creating our 20 minute short film about our experience with the project. Our short films are still going to be made, but instead of including another interview for the Legacy portion of the project, we are now each interviewing a student and a teacher from Benzie Central High School. The interview will be about their real-time, history making quarantine experience. Thanks to technology, we are able to conduct these interviews over video chat so we can adhere to the social distancing guidelines and stay at home orders. Although I was very much looking forward to the original plan, it makes me so proud that we aren't giving up on this project, even in these circumstances. This just solidifies that the team of people who have worked on the project so far truly care about showcasing our community.

I am so excited that all of the work that's been put in since the fall is going to be showcased eventually. It won't be as originally planned, and it's not the exact project we were expecting, but our short films are still set to be shown. We will have updates with the date and location when available.

I can't express how excited I am for myself and my fellow interns to be able to showcase our experience with this project. I hope members of the community will be able to safely come out and see our work being shown on the big screen. We have put in so much work for the sake of this community, and even a global pandemic can't change that. I hope it serves as a lesson to all of us that even in wildly unusual circumstances, we are capable of adapting and creating. I'm so glad to be a part of a project that offers a glimmer of hope in these terribly uncertain times.



Finn McLaren, Melia Lorenz,
AuSable Kriener, and Reeve Katt.

Please watch for the group's updates in newsletters, their YouTube channel, and

www.benzonialibrary.org.