



Museum of Local History Guild

190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539
www.museumoflocalhistory.org

W&F 10-4 & Every 2nd weekend 10-4
(510) 623-7907

Fall 2014

Board Members

President – Gil Garza
Treasurer – Lila Bringhurst
Board – Patricia Schaffarczyk

Vice President – Regena Dennie
Secretary – Timothy Swenson
Board – Kelsey Camello

President's Message

The Second Public Meeting to discuss options for the use of the California Nursery Historical Park site is on September 25th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Teen Center located in Central Park at 39770 Paseo Padre Pkwy in Fremont. This is an important meeting and we want to have a strong turn-out in order to show support for our interest in there being a historical component to the site's character. The following material provides a background on the activities and participation of the Museum of Local History with the City of Fremont on this project.

In January of this year the City of Fremont offered a Request for Proposal (RFP#14-008) to create a comprehensive Master Plan for the California Nursery Historical Park in Niles (CNHP). This is Fremont's first attempt to undertake the long term planning, preservation and enhancement of one of its richest historical assets. The landscape architectural firm, PGAdesign Inc. was selected to create a recommendation for the park's future. PGAdesign Inc. is locally known for its past work with the Alviso Adobe Community Park in Pleasanton, as well as its master plan for the Meyers Estate Garden in Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park in Fremont.

In February, the Museum of Local History Guild (MLHG) submitted a request to be a stakeholder in the Master Plan proposal. The request was approved, and in May we formed a committee to look into the CNHP proposal, and to determine if we wanted to play a role in the project. The MLHG group working on this is aptly named the California Nursery Historic Park project committee.

In June, our committee gave a presentation to both PGAdesign Inc. and Fremont's Parks and Recreation Department. We and many others believe that the California Nursery was a significant part of early Bay Area history, and that it had a wide state and national reach. Our committee has offered to give historical context to the Nursery, and to include how other local entrepreneurs, business men and technical innovators prospered in the tri-city area. As potential stakeholders we are interested in the possibility of a future space at the CNHP, at and in which we will be able to showcase the rich history that is a backdrop for the Park.

In July 2014, PGAdesign Inc. and Fremont's Parks and Recreation held a meeting at the Nile Nursery site to capture public input on potential use of the site. This information will be used to inform and to generate two conceptual plans that will be presented at second public meeting on September 25th. We encourage any historically-minded citizen to attend!

*Gil Garza
President, Museum of Local History Guild*



The poster features the City of Fremont logo in the top left. The main text reads: "Community Services Department invites you to attend a PUBLIC MEETING Thursday, September 25th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. 2nd Meeting California Nursery Historic Park Master Plan". Below the text is a photograph of a public meeting with a speaker at a podium and an audience. To the right is a logo for "The Legacy of CALIFORNIA NURSERY Historic Park" featuring a tree and the tagline "the root of an industry". The bottom section is a green banner with the text: "Teen Center in Fremont Central Park 39770 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA 94538 Turn onto Sailway Drive, parking is available at the third driveway on the left. For more information, visit www.fremont.gov/CaNursery".

Regena Dennie

We want to provide an update on our dedicated volunteer and board member Regena Dennie. Regena is still receiving medical treatment for ovarian cancer, though she has not been well enough for her second round of chemotherapy. Unfortunately, she is not at her best and is currently experiencing difficulty eating. Regena has been a huge part of making the Museum what it is, and she deserves our highest honors. If anyone would like to communicate with Regena, via mail would be best at this time. Her address can be provided upon request.

Clark William Redeker

It is with deep regret that we mourn the passing of one of our members: Mr. Clark William Redeker. He passed on May 30th, 2014, just shy of his 97th birthday. He was a longtime member of the Museum, and a devoted civil servant of the tri-city area. He will be greatly missed.



Collections

The Museum has received some very interesting donations this quarter. A sampling of these donations is below:

Among various items and photo images, B.J. Bunting donated headphones that his father, Lawrence Bunting used with his Ham radio set between 1919 and 1921. Interestingly enough, Lawrence broadcast from their Sycamore Farms home with the antennae on the tank house. His Ham call number was 6BJ, and he operated on a 500 watt station.



We also received many original photographs of the Benbow Family, which were graciously donated by Nelda Hammond Erlwein. Thomas and Sarah Benbow and family arrived by covered wagon from Utah in 1859. En route Sarah gave birth to their son Charles near Livermore at Brushy Peak, thus delaying their arrival. Tom and Sarah had six children, all of which attended Horner School. Their son, Oliver and his family continued to farm in the Irvington area. Oliver farmed various properties, eventually purchasing six acres on the corner of Cooks Road and Oakland-San Jose Road (now Fremont Boulevard and Blacow Road). There are still members of the Benbow family living in Fremont today. Nelda's brother, Wes Hammond wrote a book about living in Irvington from 1931 to 1943. We hope you will find time to stop by the Museum to read the fascinating history of this pioneer family, or to purchase Hammond's book, *Remembering My Life in Irvington, California*. Thanks to Nelda, we now have three generations of Benbow family portraits exhibited in the Museum. Stop in to check them out!



Finally, we received additional artifacts for our permanent Teddy Ruxpin exhibit. Recently, Clay Pimentel donated a scrapbook which documents the Teddy Ruxpin teddy bear, as well as the "hospital" for ailing bears. Clay (aka Dr. Clay) oversaw the Worlds of Wonder consumer department and served as the company's Goodwill Ambassador. Known affectionately as "Dr. Bearwell", Clay and his staff ensured that each WOW toy owner had a rewarding experience.



Alvarado Walking Tour

On Saturday, October 4th at 11AM, local historian Timothy Swenson is hosting a free historical walking tour of the Alvarado area. The tour will walk through old Alvarado, where the different historical buildings will be discussed. The tour provides information on forty-three buildings, some of which are long gone, and covers about one half mile of walking. The duration of the tour will be about an hour and a half. A walking tour booklet is available from the Museum of Local History Guild website. It is located under the 'Published Documents' section. Hard copies of the tour guide will also be available at the tour for \$3 per copy. The tour group will meet at the parking lot of Alvarado Elementary School. Remember, Saturday is also the Old Alvarado Farmer's Market, so tour-goers can attend before or after the tour. We hope to see you there!

New Exhibits for Fall – ACWD & “The Touchable Then & Now Table”

We are in the process of creating two new exhibits to run from October through December of this year. The first of these exhibits will focus on the Alameda County Water District (ACWD), and it will include photographs as well as the story of how the District was formed. Additionally, we will have various items on display from the ACWD.



The second new exhibit will focus on hands-on items, all of which our visitors may touch and play with. We are hoping this exhibit will excite all of our visitors, but especially school age children. This exhibit will be called the “The Touchable Then & Now Table”. Items will include an adding machine and a digital calculator, an old telephone and cell phone, and two view masters - an antique one and one from the 1950s (with view cards too)! It should be a fun and engaging learning display. As the exhibit remains in the Museum various items will be rotated in and out of it.

We also encourage you to stop in and see the new Sewing Corner exhibit. Did you know that we have one of the first ever patented Elias Howe treadle sewing machines, as well as a pattern dating back to 1889? We also have a beautiful piece of fabric art on display that was collectively created by members of the Peacemakers Quilt Guild and the Coyote Hills Girls Scouts. Come in with a friend and check it all out!

Philip Holmes

Phil is currently at home after a long recovery. He gets stronger every day, and we all send him our best wishes!

Flowers for Our Volunteers



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF OUR SUMMER VOLUNTEERS! We especially want to highlight Lizzy Johnson. Lizzy worked as an intern for the entire summer, working on various projects to help the Museum. She catalogued several collections, helped with organization, created signs, and worked the garage sale, among other things. Lizzy volunteered every day that we were open, including the second weekend of each month. She has returned to school now and we will miss her!

Several people with community service hours have also been helping us out at the Museum. Three of our star volunteers this summer were Ana, Elon and CK. Each of these people worked many hours to helping catalogue, work the garage sale, organize materials, and work us through computer and technical issues. Thank you again!

The summer is over and all of our seasonal volunteers are gone. Can you help us continue the work they helped us with, or do you know someone who might be interested? If so, please call Patricia at (510) 677-8461.



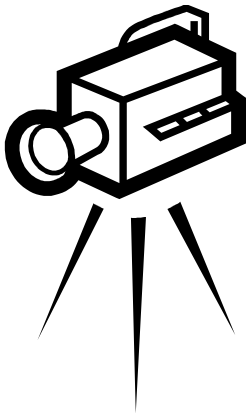
Day at the Museum

We are beginning a new event called "Day at the Museum", which will run the second Saturday of each scheduled month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., unless otherwise noted (see calendar in this issue). The event will include an open house of the Museum, as well as activities for children in the yard, such as roping a "steer", spoon races, bubble blowing, relays, bean bag tossing, and potato prints. Cookies and juice will be served. Entry is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children's activities, and \$1.00 for snacks.



In December the event will be holiday themed with warm cider, holiday treats, decorations, and music provided by the Silver Winds clarinet ensemble. This specific event will run from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Oral Histories from the Tri-City Area



The Museum is starting a new Oral History project using video, instead of audio, for recording. The Museum is seeking long-term residents of Fremont, Newark and Union City to participate in this project. Most of the recordings will be done with a single person-subject, but there are plans to record a few round-table type interviews.

The project is still in the early planning stages, and the Museum will be approaching some Museum members for the first interviews. After that the scope will be broadened. It is hoped that the interviews will be published on a DVD, or other format. At the very least, the videos will be available for viewing at the Museum.

New Members & Renewals

All member contributions help maintain the Museum as well as fund current and upcoming programs. To all of our current members we want to extend our warm thanks for your continued support! Welcome also to all of our new and renewed members:

Joan & John Ashton
B.J. Bunting
Betty McCoy

Harry Avila
James Griffin
Joan Serafino

John & Rose Barr
Brian Hatheway
Nancy Coehlo Margherita

Donald Barsi
David Kiehn

**A mistake was made in the last newsletter, which failed to mention that all board members are also paid members.*

If you are receiving this newsletter and you are not currently a member of the Museum we invite you to become a member using the attached form. The quarterly newsletter is complimentary for all members, and we encourage you to join by the end of the year to avoid dropping off of the mailing list in 2015.

Programs for 3rd and 4th Grade Students

We are continuing to develop our program for third grade students. In this docent-led tour students will become partners in discovery as they learn what life was like in the early settler days of Fremont. Students will also participate in hands-on activities such as wash day, doll making, needlework, and games – i.e. marbles and jacks.

We are also continuing to develop our program for fourth grade students, via the Higuera Adobe tour, in which students will discover what life was like on a California rancho. On this tour we will emphasize the daily lives of the people who occupied the ranchos, missions, presidios, haciendas, and pueblos, using both primary and secondary sources to help students understand the views of the native population, the Spanish settlers, and the missionaries. Activities will include a short video about the Adobe, a tour of the Adobe and lands, including a walk to the stream and a discussion of native plants that the Ohlone used, candle-making, adobe brick-making, branding, and roping a “steer”. We also plan to observe native trees and plants along the way.



Both of these programs are currently in progress and will hopefully be developed into a “travelling classroom” as well, so as to reach a wider audience in the tri-city area.

Memory Lane

Unfortunately, the Memory Lane Reception that was mentioned in the summer newsletter, which was set to take place on September 27th, will not be on the calendar this year. We do look forward to our co-sponsored potluck event with the Washington Township Historical Society, which is planned for November, and sincerely hope for a return of the original event next year! More information on the potluck will be forthcoming.

Museum of Local History -- Membership Form

Name _____ Home phone _____
 Address _____ Cell phone _____
 City/Zip _____ Email _____

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|----------------|----------|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Lifetime | \$1000 | Pioneer Patron | \$500 | Pathfinder | \$100 |
| Trailblazer | \$50 | Settler(family) | \$40 | Goldminer (single) | \$35 |
| Senior couple | \$20 | Fremonteer (senior/student) | \$10 | | |
| Added donation | \$ _____ | | | | |

We are a non-profit organization, established for public benefit. Monetary gifts and membership fees are tax deductible. If you are not already a member, please consider joining the Museum of Local History Guild. Please mail this form along with your payment to 190 Anza St., Fremont, CA 94539.



Calendar of Upcoming Historical Events

- September 22nd Washington Township Historical Society Meeting – 7:15 p.m.
sponsored by WTHS – located at the Museum
- September 25th Second Public Meeting for the CNHP - 6:30 pm
sponsored by the City of Fremont
- October 4th Historic Walking Tour of Alvarado - 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
sponsored by the Museum of Local History
- October 19th Paint Your Pumpkin & Costume Contest – 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
sponsored by the Mission Peak Historical Foundation
located at Shinn Park & Arboretum
- October 25th Higuera Adobe Historical Park Open
tours and activities from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
sponsored by the Museum of Local History
- November 15th Memory Lane Potluck with a Focus on the Depression Years
co-sponsored by WTHS & MLHG – located at the Museum
- November 24th Washington Township Historical Society Meeting – 7:15 p.m.
sponsored by WTHS – located at the Museum
- November 29th Holiday Wreath Making – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
sponsored by the MPHf - located at Shinn Park & Arboretum
- December 1st Decorate the Shinn House for the Holidays – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
sponsored by the MPHf - located at Shinn Park & Arboretum
- December 13th Day at the Museum - 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
sponsored by the Museum of Local History