Fall 2016 Newsletter

President’s Message

As we see the end of summer and a new season beginning, the museum looks forward to a final quarter full of events and outreach in the Tri-City Area.

In October we are collaborating with the Country Club of Washington Township as they celebrate 120 years of commitment to community. Join us on October 22nd, as we honor 8 women who have been a part of the club for over 50 years.

In November we are hosting our first ever cemetery tour! Caroline Harris will be leading the group at the Pioneer Cemetery in Irvington. Refreshments will be provided afterward at The Dragonfly Market, located at the historic Rix house on Bay Street.

In December we are excited to once again host a night of the Las Posadas procession – a Mission San Jose / Fremont Cultural Arts Council event that has been taking place for 35 years! Through this event we remember our fearless leader, Lila Bringhurst, who we continue to miss in both our daily and large scale activities.

Additionally, we continue to have 3rd and 4th grade tours every week at the museum and at Rancho Higuera Historical Park. Thanks to Dianne Holmes and her small band of volunteers, we are able to make an impact on children throughout Fremont Unified School District.

For more information on all of these activities and more, I encourage you to continue on and read through the rest of our newsletter.

History is alive today and every day! You would be hard pressed to take a step anywhere in the Tri-City and not discover something exciting, and that is a very good thing.

With fall greetings to all; thank you for reading!

Kelsey Camello, Interim-President

Board Members

Interim-President: Kelsey Camello
Vice President: vacant
Secretary: Timothy Swenson
Treasurer: Gerry Curry
Board: Alan Nagy
Board: Patty Lacy
Board: Harry Avila
Alternate: Gil Garza
Alternate: Stuart Guedon

Calling all Potential Volunteers!

We are so lucky to have our small band of volunteers, but we sure could use more. If you have 3 or 4 hours that you can spare a month, we have a fun place for you. You will get to work and play with 3rd and 4th grade students, meet excellent teachers, and work with interested parents. If interested, please call Dianne at 510-673-4813 or email her at mdholmes2@comcast.net. No experience is needed, just a love of history!
Additions to Collections

Lawrence Smith donated a hat from the Mission San Jose Sesquicentennial (May 30-31 & June 1, 1947). It was worn by Mary Smith during the celebration.

Michelle Minor donated a large format drawing of Lillian Ladigas as a child, posing with her brother.

Kelsey Camello donated two baseball caps from the 1970s or ‘80s. One is from the Dale Hardware / Fremont Police Golf Open, and the other is from the Mission Peak Optimists Club.

Mike Andrade donated three photos of fire department #4, once located at 190 Anza St. in Fremont. Mike’s father was a fireman at this location. He also donated a leather belt from the Mission San Jose Hose Company.

Rancho Higuera Historical Park to Receive New Floor

MSJ Rotary has agreed to put a decomposed granite floor inside the adobe. This type of material is often used for driveways and patios. Decomposed granite was chosen because its look and feel comes as close to the original packed dirt floor as possible. We’ve been assured that it will stand up to many 4th grade feet, as well as the adult feet that accompany them. Finally, we will not breathe that fine dust that puffs up when we walk inside. Larry Anderson is heading up this project; he and his band of merry men have already done many wonderful things for both the museum and the park. Thank you MSJ Rotary!
Tours, Tours, and More Tours!

We are beginning our school year tours of both the museum and adobe much earlier this year! Almost every available Friday now through December is booked with either a museum or adobe tour. All but two Fridays from January through May are booked. Volunteers are constantly needed to help with these tours.

Circle of Independent Learning (COIL) to Team Up with Museum

We hope to have a couple of high school students from COIL (Fremont’s independent study program) at each tour working alongside us. Through working with the museum these students will help with the activities, learn about the history of our area, practice their leadership skills, and share in the fun! We look forward to forming partnerships with COIL and their high school students!

Passport to Adventure Launches Program at Historic Mission Museum

Alameda County is full of historic sites, and nine of Fremont’s own have come together to form the Fremont Museum Group (FMG). On September 10th, the FMG launched Passport to Adventure, an ongoing program designed to showcase the history of Fremont.

You are invited to join the program and become a Passport to Adventure Historian! To begin, visit any one of the nine sites, pick up your passport postcard, explore the history of each location, and have your passport punched. After you have completed your passport, you will receive a personalized certificate of completion, which is yours to keep.

Everyone is excited about this unique program for families and individuals who want to learn more about local history and have fun. Let the adventures begin! Visit www.museumoflocalhistory.org/passport-to-adventure to learn more.
Luncheon Recognizes Volunteers and Donors

On July 9 we held our annual volunteer lunch at the St. Joseph Parish Hall in Mission San Jose. Over seventy guests turned out for the event, all contributing to a special day.

This year’s lunch honored two longtime patrons of the museum - volunteer, Sister Loretta Marbach, of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and donor, Mr. Lionel Goularte of Fremont. The late Lila Bringhurst, who was the museum’s active president before she passed away this May, was remembered as well. In addition, longtime member, donor and volunteer, Mr. Eilif Andersen was mentioned, as he was unwell at the time and therefore unable to attend.

Interim-President, Kelsey Camello spoke about all that has been accomplished in the past year by the many hard-working volunteers; Dianne Holmes, dedicated volunteer, spoke about school-age programs at the museum and adobe; Gil Garza, Development Director, introduced and gave some background information about Mr. Goularte, who spoke about his time living at the Higuera-Adobe ranch from about 1923-1945; Patricia Schaffarczyk, longtime volunteer, spoke about Sister Loretta and her service to the museum; and Al Nagy, Mayor of Newark, outlined the many exciting things the museum had planned for the remainder of the year.

The event included a wonderful potluck lunch, photographs of recent events and volunteers hard at work, and a display of items that had been donated since January 2015.

All of us at the museum would like to publicly express our thanks for all of the hardworking volunteers who keep the museum open, looking beautiful, and running smoothly day-to-day.
Walking Tours Continue to Excite!

We have had three walking tours since our last newsletter. In early August, we teamed up with David Kiehn and the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum for a walking tour of Niles. About 30 people attended the tour. Later that month, Tim Swenson conducted a bike tour of the Decoto area of Union City. The tour was not well attended, so we will be thinking of some creative advertising ideas for next year. In mid-September Tim also directed a tour of downtown Centerville, and about 25 people attended that tour.

Walking tours are fun, community building activities. Many people tell us that the first time they heard about the museum through a walking tour. If you are interested in conducting a tour or would like to help with the research for a new tour, please contact the museum!

Volunteer(s) of the Quarter

Every museum volunteer is valuable, no matter the skills or time committed to helping out. This quarter we would like to put a special focus on three specific volunteers. First, we want to thank C.K. Lim for always finding the time to aid us with any computer and technical issues. He is our go-to tech dude! Second, we’d like to thank Tom Heater and Doretta Schuyler. These two have become indispensable workers at the museum, and both of them have been immensely helpful with covering the museum on our open days, especially when regular “volunteer staff” have been out of town. Thank you all so much!!

Ohlone to Celebrate 50 Years! #OHLONE50

In 2017 Ohlone Community College will be celebrating 50 years since the beginning of classes. The celebrations are in process, and will be slated to begin next spring and continue into the fall. The museum is working alongside the Ohlone 50th committee to help in any way that we can. As details surface we will update our website, Facebook and upcoming newsletters accordingly.

As part of Ohlone’s 50th anniversary next year, the committee would like to reconnect with former students. If you attended Ohlone, please go to https://ohlone.formstack.com/forms/shareyourstory to let them know what you have been up to and to share some Ohlone memories. Additionally, if you know someone who went to Ohlone, please send them the link.

If you have memorabilia or items related to Ohlone from over the years that you feel would be of significance for future generations, please contact us via phone or email, or stop in during open hours.

Well Wishes for Lionel Goularte

Early in August Lionel took a fall that put him in the hospital for recovery and physical therapy. As of mid-September he is doing better and in good spirits. He is hoping to be released shortly. We can all wish him a speedy recovery and to return home soon!
California Audiovisual Preservation Project (CAVPP) Works with Museum

In February, we submitted 69 audio tapes and one movie to be digitized and published online through the California Audiovisual Preservation Project. With the help of several volunteers, Patricia Schaffarzcyk completed the process of previewing and writing short summaries for the tapes, many which have been sitting in our archival storage since the 1970s. To view/listen, go to [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) and type in the search line, "Washington Township Museum of Local History". You will see the titles of the original talks and interviews. The quality is not always the best, but you may recognize the names of some of the "old timers". Many of the tapes were recorded and collected by two of our most prominent historians, Dr. Robert Fisher and Philip Holmes. For a quality sample, listen to Raymond Copeland or Margaret Overacker, as they tell stories of days gone by. Enjoy!

Country Club of Washington Township Celebrates 120 Years

During the mid to late 1800s and the early 1900s women across the country, especially in cities, began forming social clubs *en masse*. Some of these clubs were dedicated toward social life, while others tackled the pressing issues of the day. Despite Washington Township’s more rural locality, women of the area did not escape this trend. The year was 1896, when two prominent ladies (Laura Tilden Thane of Niles and Mary C. Allen of Centerville) decided to merge their separate women’s clubs into one. Together they formed the Country Club of Washington Township, an organization founded upon the principles of unity and togetherness, helpfulness, logic and reason, social justice and morality. This year, the club celebrates 120 years of continuous work in the local community.

Since its founding, the strength of the club has been determined by the quality of its members - energetic women who are dedicated to making a difference in their community. Club members have tended to be the busy-bee type – women who find meaning and purpose in their club work, who are able to strike a balance between domestic and civic duties, and who delight in the forging of lifelong friendships.

Hundreds of women have been a part of the club’s history. Most of them joined as young mothers in their 20s and 30s. For some of them, Washington Township was their birthplace, and for others, it was their adopted home. For all of them, one cause led into the next, as club work - community outreach - became a part of their personal identities. Eight of these committed women continue to serve today, and have done so for over 50 years.

To get a sense of what the club has worked for and accomplished over the years, one must simply ask these women about their time in the club, and treasured projects.

Bernice joined during World War II, while her husband was away in the service. In her first few years in the club she assisted in the war effort through countless hours of community work. She went on to become very active in the local Little League and the Washington Township Business and Professional Women Association.

Virginia recalls working with children with special needs, as she was instrumental in opening a nursery school and acquiring funds for playground equipment. Additionally, she remembers fondly the fun of fashion shows, garden parties, speaker luncheons, plays, dance clubs, and card games. She enjoyed being a part of the club during a time when its membership was near 200!

When Corinne became a member of the club she first joined as a member of the Junior Women’s Club. Many women joined as juniors and later “graduated” to become members of the Country Club, when they turned 35. Once she moved up, Corinne joined the Hobby section, which was responsible for decorations at events and meetings, as well as fundraising for the group and other charities, many of which benefited greatly because of her work. She recalls working on the reprint of the book *History of Washington Township*, alongside other members.

Like Corinne, Catherine joined as a junior and later became involved with the Hobby section of the group. She was also instrumental in the raising of funds for and the restoration of the historic Shinn House, including doing hands on work herself! Additionally, she fondly recalls working with at-risk females who resided at the Serra Center and that for years afterward they would approach her with gratitude.

Gwen’s early years in the club were spent staffing polio clinics around Fremont, where vaccines were distributed on sugar cubes. She also aided in the eye testing that took place in the elementary schools for many years. Like Corinne, she worked hard on the Shinn House restoration, both in fundraising and elbow grease. She is also a founding member of the Candlelighters, an organization that continues to run the Ghost House and Halloween Carnival at Williams Historic Park every October.

Joy recalls the fun of fashion shows, twice-monthly meetings, card playing marathons, and assisting with eye testing and the work on the Shinn House. She was instrumental in the fundraising for many local charities, including; The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, The Salvation Army and the Serra Center.

Jean’s original motivation for joining the club was to make social connections and to become involved in the growing community that was to become Fremont. Far from simply making friends, Jean soon found herself busy as she took the lead in many projects over the years. Her most proud accomplishments include her work on the opening of Ardenwood Historic Farm and her development of the Early American Antique and Craft Museum at the Alameda County Fair.

Mary Jane recalls the charitable work of leading story time for children at the Newark Library, advising high school truants, and helping the club win the distinguished District Federation of Women’s Clubs Award for “Building a Better Community”.

All of these women should be praised for their tireless devotion to community and service, as a part of an organization that has continually been at the forefront of progress in Washington Township, now the Tri-City Area, for 120 years.
The club continues to meet regularly, and this month the museum is excited to recall the long history of the club and to honor all current and past members, their hard work and accomplishments, in a signature memory lane event.

The event will be held on Saturday, October 22\textsuperscript{nd} from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the IOOF (Odd Fellows) Hall, located at 40955 Fremont Blvd in Irvington. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP to 510-623-7907 or info@museumoflocalhistory.org. Join us as we celebrate 120 years of the club’s dedication to community, and honor eight members who have been a part of the group for over 50 years.

An exhibit highlighting the club will also be on display at the museum from mid-October through the end of the year.

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**Remembering Tony Keihl: July 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 1940 – May 9\textsuperscript{th}, 2016**

Tony Keihl, museum donor and past resident of the Tri-City passed away in May. Over the years, Tony told many stories of the Geary sisters who grew up in Sunol and later lived in Mission San Jose. The sisters’ parents, Patrick and Mary Ann Geary, homesteaded in Sunol in 1865.

Tony was born in Niles and in his early life lived on ranches in Irvington, where his father worked for Willis Brinker. He has returned to the museum many times to share stories and information about the Gearys, Don Dias, and ranch days with Brinker. Additionally, his wife Lynnet authored a booklet entitled *Sunol Ranch Days*, which can be found in the museum store.

His full obituary can be found on www.legacy.com under “Anton Tony Keihl”.

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**Las Posadas Set for December 21\textsuperscript{st}**

Las Posadas, a ceremonial celebration of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, has been co-sponsored by the Fremont Cultural Arts Council and the Old Mission San Jose annually since 1982. Join us as we celebrate the advent season and 35 years of this fine tradition.

There will be a procession each night from the front porch of the Old Mission San Jose Museum, located at 43300 Mission Blvd. in Fremont. On Wednesday, December 21\textsuperscript{st} we will meet at 6:00 p.m. and leave for the Washington Township Museum of Local History by 6:15 p.m. Please dress warmly and bring a light to help you read the song sheets.

Refreshments, music and holiday cheer will be provided at our museum that evening. We hope you can join us! If you would like to help with refreshments or decorating the museum, please contact us via phone or email. Thank you!
Ways to Donate

Wondering how you can donate to the museum? Donations can be made with money, by becoming a member, increasing your membership contribution, gifting a membership to friends or family members, by giving a general donation, or by donating to a specific project. Donations can also be made in-kind, by giving items to the museum. These items can be either historical, or useful for the day to day operation of the museum. A third way of donating is by giving time, energy, and skills – volunteering! We can always use another helping hand. Finally, the newest way that you can give to the museum is by donating stock.

Save your taxes and money by donating appreciated stock to the Washington Township Museum of Local History!

You can now give appreciated stock to the WTMLH which you have held for more than one year and you may take a charitable tax deduction for the market value of the stock. Neither you nor the WTMLH have to pay capital gains taxes when the tax is sold!

- The combination can result in a bigger deduction (and more tax savings) for you and a bigger gift for the museum.

- This is a tax planning tool derived from the IRS general rule that the deduction for a donation of “property” is equal to the fair market value of the donated “property”. What the stocks have gained in value, the donor does not have to recognize the gain.

- This allows you to double up on your donation to the WTMLH by a charitable deduction and avoid tax on the appreciation in value of the stock.

- Your tax advisor is your best source for information on how you, personally, may benefit from this gift of appreciated stock to the museum.

If you are interested in receiving an easy to use form to be taken to donate your appreciated stock, contact the museum at info@museumoflocalhistory.org

Attention All Members!

Here is your opportunity to help the museum and Rancho Higuera Historical Park! Do you have something to donate? We are in need of the following items:

A tall butter churn, someone to sew children’s size pioneer clothing, a free-standing mirror, serapes / Mexican blankets, barrels, burlap bags, punched tin lamps, and VOLUNTEERS!!

Call Dianne @ (510) 673-4813

Volunteers Needed for Galindo-Higuera Park Maintenance

Do you have 1 or more hours to spare each month? We are in need of students and/or volunteers who can help with park maintenance. Hours will be on Saturdays between 9am and 12pm.

No experience is necessary – just a willing, helping hand for mowing, weed abatement, and other small tasks.

Call the museum if you or someone you know is interested! Thank you!
On September 15th, the museum was privileged to attend a presentation at the Dominican Sisters campus here in Mission San Jose. This was an opportunity to meet the artist - Andrew deLory, who restored several Dominican Sisters 1907 images, and to see some real local history. Andrew carefully restored images using high resolution scan methods and modern digital techniques. The images were not of the highest quality from the start. These were 5 x 7 inch proofs that were yellowed and faded. A proof is a low cost print produced on coarse paper to allow the photo purchaser to select from the images taken. The selections would then be produced on higher quality, more expensive photo paper.

The photographic presentation beautifully showed the Dominican Sisters in daily life in 1907. After the 1906 earthquake the Dominican Sisters Mother House, which was founded in 1891, moved from San Francisco to Mission San Jose. The photographers were clearly very talented and brought an artist’s eye to the Sisters’ daily activities and work. Mission San Jose was a small village with few modern conveniences, so this was a time when everything was done in-house – from baking bread, to making clothing and educational studies.

The proofs came from the Dominican Sisters community in rural Bavaria when they were closing the historic St. Peter and Paul Priory in 2014. The original images were sent to Germany in the early 1900s, inviting young women to consider a religious vocation. This would be a pioneering endeavor given the travel and conditions of the time. Andrew deLory was able to breathe life into these faded slices of history. Where it was once difficult to see much detail, you can now see faces and small text. For example, in the right lower corner of the photo of the Science, Geology and Anthropology room, you can see a projector that one of the sisters assembled and was used for instruction.

It was wonderful to see this history come back home, and to meet the artist who brought this history closer with his beautiful restorations. The restored photos are displayed in the hall gallery of the Dominican Center building. The cooperative efforts of Mr. deLory and the Dominican Sisters on this project are a great addition to our local historical resources.
Tri-City Health Center – Irvington Dave Facility Opens

In August, the museum was able to participate in the naming and opening of a new health center facility in Fremont – the Tri City Health Care – Irvington Dave Clinic. The location of the medical center at the intersection of Fremont and Washington Boulevards is of significant historical interest. If you’ve read about this location, “The 5 Corners”, in some of Philip Holmes’ history articles, you’re aware of this piece of local history. During the California Gold Rush, the “Corners” was the location of Irvington Dave’s Saloon – a crossroads on the path to the Gold Country. Irvington Dave is an elusive historical figure with little solid historical documentation. Unfortunately, this is not that unusual. It is often true of women, Native Americans, Asians, African Americans, and many others groups that tend to get left out of the documented historical narrative.

The Gold Rush period was a unique time in early California. This was true right here in our town – what was more of a village at the time. The normal conventions of the Southern States and East Coast America did not directly translate into California. Social interactions and relations with Native Americans, Europeans, Mexicans, Spanish and many other ethnic cultures had a level of mixing that in other areas would have been considered uncommon for the time. The Gold Rush was also a unique period in that it allowed things to occur that would not otherwise have taken place. California land had transferred from Native American control to Spanish conquest, to a Mexican republic, to a U.S. territory under U.S. military control and eventually the State of California. The State of California was formed on this constantly shifting terrain of land ownership.

The context of the time created an opportunity for Irvington Dave. There was much activity in this area, with people travelling to and from Gold Country and circulating throughout much of the Bay Area. Agriculture, businesses and services of all types were in demand. Irvington Dave saw an opportunity and had a vision for a business that would be successful and meet the needs of the time. This is the quintessential entrepreneurial spirit we so often speak of with pride today.

It is quite fitting to commemorate and associate this historical figure with a group that meets the health care needs of our community. The Tri-City Health Center provides a wide range of health services, including health education, social services, and dental care, without regard to financial position, ethnicity, language, culture, or sexual orientation, and we have already found them to be a charitable neighbor and contributor to the community, as they have provided our museum with a very generous grant. Thank you Tri-City Health Center!
### New Members and Renewals

Thank you to all of our members who are paid up for 2016! Your contributions and involvement in the historical community are highly valued by everyone at the museum.

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**Tour of Pioneer Cemetery Set for November 5th**

All are welcome to meet at the entrance to the cemetery at 11:00 AM. Join Caroline Harris as you wander through the graves of the pioneers that came west and settled the flatlands between the San Francisco Bay and the hills. Learn about the generations of families as settlement grew and people prospered, from the California Gold Rush through incorporation as the City of Fremont. The tour duration will be about an hour and half. Visitors will leave with a respect for our history and a renewed knowledge about the people that our streets are named for.

After the tour we will be treated to drinks and snacks by The Dragonfly Market, located at the historic Rix house on Bay Street.
**OCTOBER**

10/07 – End of 2016: Exhibit, Celebrating 120 Years of the Country Club of Washington Township – At the museum, 190 Anza Street in Fremont

10/22: Memory Lane, Celebrating 120 Years of the Country Club of Washington Township – 2PM – 4PM – At the IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) Hall, 40955 Fremont Blvd in Fremont

**NOVEMBER**

10/07 – End of 2016: Exhibit, Celebrating 120 Years of the Country Club of Washington Township – At the museum, 190 Anza Street in Fremont

11/05: Cemetery Tour – 11AM – Led by Caroline Harris - At the Pioneer Cemetery, 41001 Chapel Way in Fremont

**DECEMBER**

10/07 – End of 2016: Exhibit, Celebrating 120 Years of the Country Club of Washington Township – At the museum, 190 Anza Street in Fremont

12/02 - End of 2016: Exhibit, Winter Holidays in Washington Township – At the museum, 190 Anza Street in Fremont

12/21 - Las Posadas Visit at the Museum, led by Stuart Guedon – Meet at the Old Mission San Jose Museum, located at 43300 Mission Blvd. Procession will lead to our museum at 6:15 PM

**MUSEUM CLOSED DURING REGULAR HOURS 12/21/16 – 01/04/17**
190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539

Detach and return to the museum:

Name: ________________________
______________________________
Address: ______________________
______________________________
Email: ________________________
Phone: ________________________

Yes, please renew my membership!

- Regular □ $35
- Family □ $40
- Trailblazer □ $50
- Pathfinder □ $100
- Pioneer Patron □ $500
- Lifetime □ $1,000
- Senior/Student □ $10
- Senior Couple □ $20

Yes, I would like to donate to a special fund:

Donation □ $________

Total Contribution □ $________

Please make checks payable to Museum of Local History. Mail to 190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539.