



Museum of Local History Guild

190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539 - (510) 623-7907

W&F 10-4 & Every 2nd weekend 10-4

www.museumoflocalhistory.org

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

Board Members

President – Gil Garza
Vice President – Lila Bringhamst
Treasurer – Gerry Curry
Secretary – Timothy Swenson
Board – Patricia Schaffarczyk
Board – Kelsey Camello

Fall 2015 Newsletter



Alvarado Sugar Beet Factory Talk

Saturday, October 17th from 1:00 – 2:30 pm, Timothy Swenson will be giving a talk on the history of the Alvarado Sugar Beet Factory at the Union City Library meeting room, based on his recently released book on the Factory. Tim will talk about the Dyer family and how they started the sugar beet factory, and he will discuss the major impact that they made on the sugar beet industry worldwide. He will also talk about the Alvarado factory itself, and how it succeeded despite the predictions of sugar beet experts. The factory was a core industry for Alvarado and its smoke stacks were icons in the Alvarado skyline. There will be a few copies of his book, *Alvarado Sugar Beet Factory, and the Dyer family that founded it* for sale, with signatures by Tim.

President's Message

As the school year starts and pre-holiday planning begins we look forward to a very active and exciting time at the Museum. On the 26th of September we will be celebrating our 20 Year Anniversary. This is a significant accomplishment that has taken the sustained effort of many friends, volunteers and the generosity of many, many contributors. The City of Fremont has been a consistent partner in helping us share this interest and passion for history. We are working on a fun and entertaining program for our Anniversary guests – please come and celebrate with us.

*One of the key pieces in sharing history is the research and publishing activities that come out of the Museum. The Museum is always looking for people interested in publishing and in doing historical research work. Tim Swenson has published a number of books and historical articles, the most recent being: *Alvarado Sugar Beet Factory, and the Dyer family that founded it* and *In Search of a Rainbow about the Paniagua family - from an oral history account*. Thank you – Tim! Our website has this material as well as more informative local research work. A number of these articles are available on our web site: <http://museumoflocalhistory.org/resources/historical-papers/historical-papers-union-city/>. We encourage anyone who is interested to help in this important work. Start your research project at the Museum. Tell your family story or share your experience in the area. Join us!*

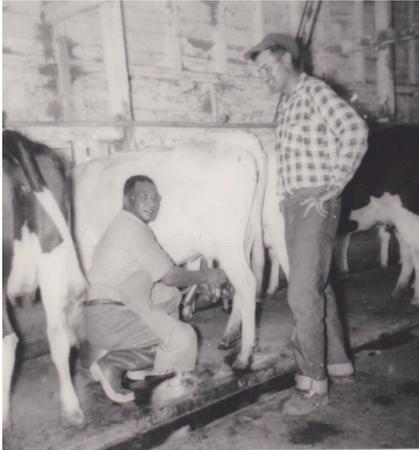
20 years ago the Museum did not have a “web presence”. The term wouldn't have had much meaning then. It is of great importance now and we encourage you to check out the Museum's website. The website allows us to put out more information and details of the many ongoing activities while keeping the information current. Patricia Schaffarczyk has led this project and it looks wonderful. The site is serving us very well and has great growth potential as a resource for history. This is important for our future historians and will give the information that we take care of and share a much wider audience.

As we work on the next twenty years of telling history, your help will be needed. This is very much a labor of love. Find a place to help us and become an active volunteer. Whatever your area of interest, come and help keep the Museum a vital and active place for history and community.

Thank you, Gil Garza

Collections

Mike Lee donated an Ivar H. Johnson Guitar, with a separate guitar case. The guitar was made in Japan and has a private label on the interior. Ivar H. Johnson was the proprietor of the Ivar H. Johnson Music Company at the Hub, here in Fremont.



Frank and Alvamae Borghi and Ellie Roche donated images of photographs as part of their oral history interviews, which were conducted in June and July of this year.

John Cardeniz donated a list of dairies, orchards/farms and businesses (Portuguese/Swiss) and lodges (Portuguese), and Portuguese dance bands in the tri-city area from 1940-1950. He also donated two aerial images of Fremont from 1955 and 1977, as well as a photo of workers assembling stoves in the Wedgewood Manufacturing Company in Newark, circa 1950. He also donated the union card for George Pimentel from 1935.



Items were donated from the Bob Garcia estate on Morrison Canyon Road in Fremont. The estate is on land formerly owned by the Blacow family - "Blacow Hill". Included among many other items

were the book, *Dominican Sisters: Mission San Jose, California - 1876 – 1926*; the cookbook, *Victory Binding of the American Woman's Cookbook; Wartime Edition*; various lapel pins from the Masons, Rotary, Red Cross, and the Order of the Eastern Star, and photos of the 1947 Sesquicentennial Play – “Build We Here A Mission”.

Christine McQuilliams donated the sign from the Cheese Taster Deli.

Anne Power donated several books about local and regional history, and a true copy of the original 1852 map of Rancho de San Antonio.

Patricia Schaffarczyk donated booklets about native plants in the bay area.



Sally Holmes and Betty Jennings donated photos of Mary Mendonca (1905-1997). Mary emigrated from the Azores with her family in 1908. The family settled in Centerville. Mary was a graduate of Washington High school in the 1920s, and was in the last class of students who attend the school on Peralta before it was moved to its present day location.



Docents Wanted

to help with student tours at the Washington Township Museum of Local History and at Rancho Higuera Historical Park. We are also looking for volunteers in the afternoons on the second Sunday of the month to welcome visitors to the Museum.

Do you have a couple of hours to spare?

Call Dianne @ (510) 673-4813

Attention All Members!

Here is your opportunity to help the Museum and Rancho Higuera Historical Park!
Do you have something to donate?
We are looking for the following items:

A tall butter churn, saddle, saddle rack, someone to sew children's pioneer clothes, free standing mirror, old trunk, branding irons, serapes, Mexican blankets, barrels, burlap bags, punched tin lamps.

Call Dianne @ (510) 673-4813

Recently catalogued in our library:

Historical documentation of demolished buildings at Ardenwood Historic Farm: Ardenwood historical package - Brown & Bettencourt Houses, and Mowry's Landing Schoolhouse

Our library is open to the public for research purposes. Stop by during our open hours!



Saturday, September 19th, we are hosting an **Open House at Rancho Higuera Historical Park from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.** Here is your opportunity to visit the park, tour the Adobe and see the new displays, view a video that narrates the history of the Adobe and its restoration, and walk down to the spring that was used by the Ohlone and the families that eventually came to live on the property. A crew of volunteers has worked hard to make the Park and

Adobe ready for visitors, and in January we begin our school tours for the fourth grade. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Park. Remember to park on the street and walk up the road to the Adobe. If you cannot make the walk, you may park up top. *Vaya con Dios!* And see you soon.

Day at the Museum

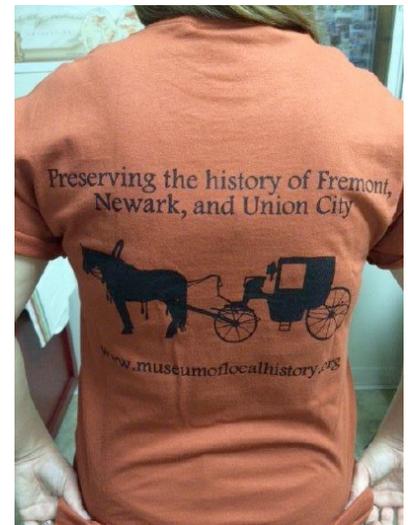
This quarter we have three lovely events planned for families to have fun at the Museum!

In **October**, families are invited to make a dried arrangement using a munchkin and dried weeds and flowers. The arrangement can be taken home to grace each person's home.

In **November**, the Museum will host "make a turkey day" using a pinecone, craft paper, and feathers. These are just charming and can be used to decorate the Thanksgiving table.

Finally, in **December**, the Museum will host Las Posadas, an annual event held in the Mission San Jose district. The date will be given out in December - watch for notice in the papers and on signs posted in stores, as well as our website.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Museum for these events. The October and November events will be on the second Saturday of the month, during regular open hours. Participation in crafts will cost one dollar. There will also be refreshments provided at no charge!



**T-Shirts
\$15.00**

Call the Museum to order!



HAVE A GHOST STORY?

To all residents and merchants of Historic Niles:

Ghost Explorers is a paranormal investigative group that wants to hear your stories of the ghostly kind! Do you have a haunted business or residence and have stories to share? We want to hear from you!

Email: Inquire@ghostexplorers.org or call: 1-800-350-5041

In Search of a Rainbow



In 1973, Florence Paniagua Sanchez dictated the history of her family's emigration from Spain. After being told how wonderful America was, her parents and their three children left their small town and came to California in 1921. Then they arrived, not knowing English, and realized that America was not as rosy as they were told. Hard work and frugality, however, allowed the family to grow and do well. After settling down, the children made their mark in Decoto and became well-known Union City residents.

Florence's oral history, entitled "In Search of a Rainbow", has been transcribed and published by Tim Swenson for the Museum of Local History and will soon be available from the Museum website. Besides the oral history, the paper also provides biographical information and photographs on all six of the Paniagua children.



New Members & Renewals

As we enter into the final quarter of the year we have found that there are still a few people who have not sent in their membership dues. We encourage all unpaid members to renew their membership before the end of the year. Please use the attached form, which has been included at the bottom of the newsletter for your convenience.

A big THANK YOU to all of our current members for 2015!

Philip Holmes, Harry Avila, David Kiehn, Diane Gomes Leys, Steve & Beth Armstrong, Tom & Gail Blalock, Dorothy Bradley, Lila Bringham, Bernie and Marlene Leal, Nancy Lorigan, Dan Mosier, Patricia Schaffarczyk, Paul & Berenice Sethy, Michi Yee, Dolores Rose, Mark Hirsch, Mollie Sinclair, Bruce Hevelin, Donald Barsi, Philip Henry, James Griffin, Anne Power, Sister Loretta M. Marbach, B.J. Bunting, Lionel Goularte, Donna Olsen, Tim Swenson, Ralph and Carole Bell, Jonathan & Kristine Sandoe, Stuart & Gilda Guedon, Robert E. and Margaret A. Davenport, Garth Smith, Phil Stob, Herman & Betty Hebel, Nancy & Robert Margherita, Gilbert Garza, John & Linda Croft, Nelda Erlwein, Doris Green, Louise Indig, Patricia Lacy & Robert Allan, Gordon & Anne MacLeod, Betty McCoy, G. Barton Mowry, Roeding Family, Elinor Smith, Ruthe Gomez, Al & Connie Nagy, Janet Cronbach, John Weed, Kelsey Camello, Marjory Begley, Dianne Holmes & Gerry Curry, Caroline Harris, Wally Betchart, Marilyn Wall, Joan & John Ashton, Brian Barlow, John & Rose Barr, Jim and Ginger Westfall, Kevin and Carol Quinn, Steve Burton, Tim Gavin, Lynette M Fraga-Weems, Garth & Robin Smith, Bob Greene, Janet E. Barton & Barry John Balk, Brian C. Moos, Glenn Jones, Michael De Unamuno

Remembering the Cheese Taster *by Gil Garza*

It is an old refrain that you don't know what you got till it's gone. Over the years, many Museum volunteers have enjoyed a lunch at the Cheese Taster nearby. In fact, the Cheese Taster was one of my favorite lunch spots. Besides the really great sandwiches, we all miss those opportunities to chat with Judy, Christine, Cody – the whole family and crew.

While we can no longer have the great food from Cheese Taster, the Museum did receive the infamous sign, which was displayed outside the building on the driveway/parking side. Thank you Judy and Christine!



In June there was a lovely going away get together at FLIGHT Wine Bar & Cafe, and we had a nice chance to socialize and to tell the whole family how much we appreciated what they've brought to the community, and earlier this year, with the help of Donald Kaefer, president of the Mission San Jose Chamber of Commerce and Board Member Christine McQuilliams, as well as many others, a very generous donation was given to our Regena Dennie Memorial Fund. This helped us meet our matching fund target and was so very much appreciated by all.

Before their closure the Cheese Taster had a 47 year history of living and working in this area, and if you would like to know a little bit more about that history we encourage you to view the Tri-City Voice online for an article entitled, *The Cheese Taster Delicatessen*. Visit www.tricityvoice.com/ to access it.

A good friend told me that our feelings about a place and time last longer than the many details of the memories, and I think that is true. Our feelings for our dear friends at the Cheese Taster will last longer than our memories for a name, date or a detail. The warm feelings will certainly last.

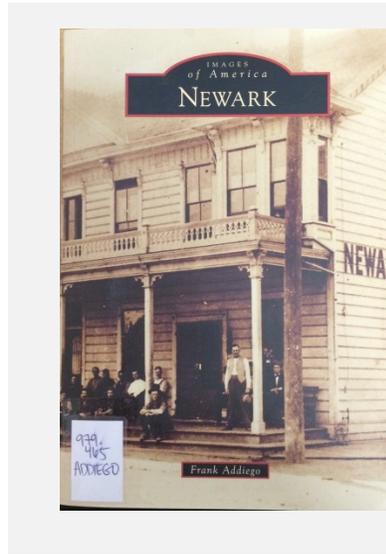
Volunteer Focus

We want to extend our thanks to all of our volunteers this quarter, but especially to our weekly helpers, Elders Braswell and Liew. Every Thursday these two young men dedicate two to three hours of their time to helping with archiving. Thanks to their hard work we now have all of the Fremont Stories interviews digitized! Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for us!



Tri-City Ecology Center Donation

The Museum garden will have a new look beginning in the month of September. Tri-City Ecology Center has donated garden signs that identify all the plants in the garden, both native and non-native. Not only has this group created and maintained the garden for close to 20 years, but they continue to support us with this new addition. Many thanks for all the years of support!



Frank Addiego has just completed a new Arcadia book about Newark. Many of the photos in the book are from the Museum. We will have them for sale in our store beginning at the end of September. There are also plans to host a book signing event.

Museum and Adobe Tours

As of mid-September, the amount of scheduled Adobe and Museum tours are already up from last year's numbers. This year we hope to grow bookings by 50% from last year, and we're right on schedule.

Thanks to our hardworking volunteer Dianne Holmes, the program has been improved, and the entire Fremont Unified School District has been notified of our ability to assist with 3rd and 4th grade field trips in the area!

Anyone interested in booking a tour or field trip should contact the Museum as soon as possible.

Exhibits

Stop in to see our new saddle stand, built and donated by Larry Anderson of the Mission San Jose Rotary. It is a beautiful display of functional artwork.

Thank you MSJ Rotary!



We also have a bow-saw on display, which was used here in Centerville by Alberta Nunes George and her family.

Thank you for Marjorie for putting this display together!

Update on Memorial Funds

We want to provide a short update on the two memorial funds that we are currently working with. The Regena Dennie and Randy Power Memorial Funds feed directly into our archiving efforts here at the Museum. Right now we have one employee working 8-10 hours per week on archiving new donations, as well as cleaning up and completing past ones. The accession process is a long one, if one seeks to be thorough, and we are eternally grateful for all the donations that have made this work possible.

Work is ongoing, but as of September we have been able to catalogue over 400 new and existing donations. This includes items from the Regena Dennie Collection, the Garcia Collection, and the Callow Collection, among so many others.

These funds were made possible with the help of the East Bay Community Foundation via their Despeaux Good Works Funds. If you or someone else is interested in making a donation toward one of existing funds, or starting a new one, gifts are still being accepted, and can be made at any time.



Website, Facebook, and YouTube

Please continue to watch our website for updates, as things are constantly happening. We are currently in the process of adding videos to the site.

Remember that we are also on Facebook. You can find us at <http://www.facebook.com/museumoflocalhistory>. We hope that you will remember to "like" our page and suggest us to your friends and family!

Please also visit our new YouTube page! You can find us by visiting www.YouTube.com and searching "Historical Society of Fremont Newark and Union City". We have already posted a few videos, and will be posting more as we go along.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

On Saturday, September 26th we will be celebrating 20 years of the Museum of Local History working in the Tri City area. All are invited to attend the festivities, which will be held at St. Joseph Parish Hall, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm.

This will be a potluck style lunch, with drinks, dessert and main dishes to be provided. If you plan to attend, please bring a side dish to share.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



September

9/19 – Adobe Open House – Higuera Historical Park - 10 am – 2 pm

9/20 – Photo Scanning at Newark Days – Community Center Room – 10 am – 4 pm

9/20 –Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park – Shinn Park – 10 am – 4 pm

9/26 – 20 Year Anniversary Party for the Museum – St. Joseph Parish Hall – 11:30 am – 3:30 pm

9/28 – Washington Township Historical Society meeting – Fremont Main Library – 7pm -
Anthony Gualco is the speaker

October

Come see an exhibit showcasing old fashioned holidays, focusing on Halloween and Thanksgiving

10/3 – 10/4 – Olive Festival - Dominican Grounds – 10 am – 5 pm

10/10 – Day at the Museum – Museum Meeting Room – 10 am – 4 pm

10/14 – Museum of Local History Guild Board Meeting – Museum Meeting Room – 7pm

10/15 – Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board Meeting – Shinn House – 7pm

10/17 – Alvarado Sugar Beet Factory Talk – Union City Library – 1 – 2:30 pm

10/18 – Paint Your Pumpkin in Shinn Park – Shinn Park - 12-4 pm



November

11/11 - Museum of Local History Guild Board Meeting – Museum Meeting Room – 7pm

11/13 – Shinn House Tea – Shinn House – 12 pm

11/14 – Day at the Museum – Museum Meeting Room – 10 am – 4 pm

11/19 – Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board Meeting – Shinn House – 7pm

11/23 - Washington Township Historical Society meeting – location and speaker TBD

December

Come see an exhibit showcasing old Christmas card collections

Las Posadas in Mission San Jose – date TBD – see website for details

12/9 - Museum of Local History Guild Board Meeting – Museum Meeting Room – 7pm

12/17 – Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board Meeting – Shinn House – 7pm

****Museum closed for the Holidays 12/23/15 – 01/05/2016 – We reopen January 6th****



LOOKING BACK & MOVING FORWARD!



You are invited to a Birthday Party!

Celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of the
Museum of Local History in

Washington Township - Fremont, Newark and Union City

Enjoy a Trip Down Memory Lane

Historic Displays, Treasured Photographs,
Witty Reminiscences and a Little Bit of Music!

Join us for a Potluck Lunch at St. Joseph Parish Hall
43148 Mission Boulevard, Fremont

September 26th, 2015

11:30 am to 3:30 pm

12:00 Potluck Luncheon

1:00 Program

RSVP by September 22nd to

Kelsweems@yahoo.com or (510) 623-7907

Please bring a salad or side dish to share!
The rest will be provided.



Mission San Jose
Chamber of Commerce
presents
The 14th Annual

Olive Festival

Saturday & Sunday
October 3 & 4, 2015
10 am - 5 pm

The Premier Event in the
Mission San Jose District!



On the Dominican Grounds
behind the Historic Old
Mission San Jose Museum

43326 Mission Blvd. Fremont CA 94539

Enter Festival from Mission Blvd. at Mission Tierra Place
Free parking at Ohlone College Parking Lot D

Live Music
Saturday

1 pm: Georgi and the Rough Week
3 pm: Ron Thompson

Sunday

1 pm: Incendio
3 pm: Tempest



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



Tavares Realty



ROBSON HOMES

ALSON
MIDWEST PHOTO SERVICES

Donald Jodavec
Photography

Lily Mei



TRI-CITY VOICE

For more information, visit our website at msjchamber.org



Museum of Local History Guild -- Membership Form

Name _____ Home phone _____

Address _____ Cell phone _____

City/Zip _____ Email _____

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. Checks can be made out to The Museum of Local History Guild.