

Summer 2016 Newsletter

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



Happy Birthday Mr. Fremont!

On May 18th our resident historian Philip Holmes celebrated his 91st birthday. Congratulations Phil!

President's Message

It is with great sadness that I must report on the passing of our late president Mrs. Lila Bringhurst. She entered into rest on May 7th, 2016, following a brief stay at Washington Hospital. Lila was a champion of the museum and one of our biggest supporters over the years. She was present in the historical community during the opening of the museum in 1995, and she remained active in one way or another over the last twenty years. Most recently she was working towards an expansion of our current museum space. If Lila was nothing else, she was a problem solver. Once a problem popped into her mind, she would begin to work fervently on a solution. Lila's memorial service was held on June 4th, and was well attended by citizens, city officials, family and friends. She will be forever missed.

We have established a special fund in her memory. All donations will be allocated toward the *Lila Bringhurst Legacy Project*. The definition and parameters of this project are currently in the works. We have already received some donations toward the project. If you or someone you know would like to donate in Lila's memory, please feel free to; use the voucher at the bottom of this newsletter, donate on our website, or mail a check to the museum along with a note.

For now I will be taking over as Interim-President of the Museum Guild. As Lila often said, "Sometimes leadership is not sought out, but it finds you on its own." This certainly is the case this time around. If you have questions or concerns related to the museum, please feel free to contact me directly at president@museumoflocalhistory.org.

Thank you, and have a wonderful summer!

Kelsey Camello

Additions to Collections



Sharon Gallacher donated a stone pestle, which was found in her backyard during construction of the home around 1990.



Beverly Neves donated photographs of relatives in Newark and Mission San Jose. Beverly was born in Niles, raised in Newark, and her grandmother lived in Mission San Jose.



Ed Weems donated items related to his childhood in Centerville, including baseball photos and archival materials from his time at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School.



Lionel Goularte donated various items; including books, photographs, and historical articles.



Patrick O'Connell donated postcards of various scenes around Central Park, circa the 1970s.



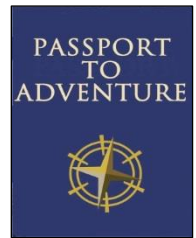
Frances Drake donated photographs of the Drake Family circa 1945-2016, as well as a short biography about Frances and Bill Drake.



Milene Rawlinson donated a stool from Candy Annie Fowler's confectioners store in Newark.



Betty Hammers donated photographs from Irvington, circa the late 1940s.



Passport to Adventure - Launching September 11th & 12th

Discover your local history sites! Visit each of nine participating locations, get your passport punched, and once you've experienced all nine places, receive a personalized certificate. Bring your family and friends. It will be fun for the whole family! Look for more information in the Tri-City Voice and our website in late August, early September.



Documenting 50 Years of the Union City Police Dept.

Tim Swenson is currently working with the Union City Police to document 50 years of the department's history. The UCPD was founded in 1966, seven years after the city was incorporated. At that time, the department took over from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department.

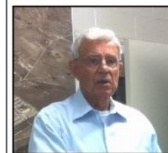
Research for the book includes 50 years of newspaper articles, Union City Council meeting minutes, and oral interviews. A number of old photographs from the department will be used in the book, which will be a joint publication between the museum and the City of Union City.

Luncheon to Recognize Volunteers and Donors

On July 9th all of our volunteers, donors, and members are invited to celebrate with us over a potluck luncheon. It's that time of the year when we all get a pat on the back for donating our time, effort, and historical items! Let's celebrate YOU! This year we will be highlighting the contributions of Lionel Goularte and Sister Loretta Marbach, among others. Please let us know if you did not receive an invitation in the mail.

The luncheon will be Saturday, July 9th at St. Joseph Parish Hall (43148 Mission Blvd). Lunch will begin at 11:30AM. Program will begin at 12:00PM. RSVP by July 1st to 510-623-7907 or pat@museumoflocalhistory.org. Please bring a dish to share!

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS



Honorary Donor:
Lionel Goularte

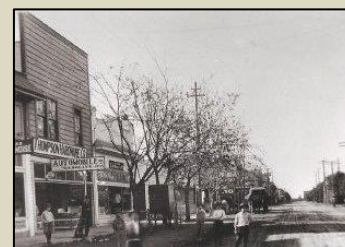


Honorary Volunteer:
Sister Loretta Marbach

Tours of Historic Districts

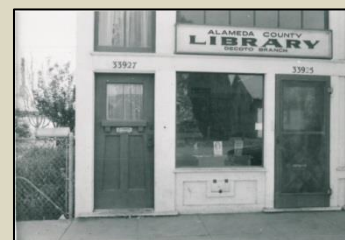
Niles Walking Tour – July 16th @ 11AM

This tour is done in collaboration with the Essanay Silent Film Museum (www.nilesfilmmuseum.org) Find out what happened in Niles one hundred years ago. Important landmarks will be discussed and stories will be shared. Meet at the Essanay Silent Film Museum.



Decoto Bike Tour - August 20th @ 11 AM

Join Tim Swenson on a bicycle tour of Decoto. The tour will weave through Decoto, with stops to discuss a number of older buildings. The tour duration will be about 1.5 hours and will cover about 4 miles. Meet in the parking lot of Dry Creek/Pioneer Regional Park, located at the end of May Road (near Whipple and Mission Blvd).



Downloadable tour booklet available on the museum website under Resources > Historical Papers > Union City > Decoto

Centerville Walking Tour - September 17th @ 11 AM

Tim Swenson will lead a walk through Centerville, walking from Central Ave to Thornton Ave. The tour duration will be about 1.5 hours, with a length of about 1 mile. Meet in front of Holy Spirit Church.



Downloadable tour booklet available on the museum website under: Resources > Historical Papers > Fremont > Centerville



WANTED!

Old or historical photographs of Newark. Help preserve Newark's history by bringing your photographs to be scanned. The images will be archived becoming a permanent part of Newark history.

The Museum of Local History Guild will be at the Newark Days Celebration - Community Center room on Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 10am—4pm to scan your old pictures.

Pictures will be returned along with your own digital images (bring a memory stick).

Participate in a Video interview 3-5 minutes

You can be recorded for posterity. Short, videotaped interview on any of the following subjects:

- my favorite memory of Newark
- my favorite thing in Newark that is now gone
- my earliest memories of Newark
- Newark's most unforgettable character or event



Contact Info:

Timothy Swenson
925-200-7517

Museum of Local
History Guild
190 Anza St.,
Fremont

museumoflocalhistory.org

Exhibit Highlights the History of Central Park

The celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Fremont continues with a brand new display at the Central Park Visitors Center. This exhibit (on view now through Labor Day) highlights the history of Central Park, with historic photos and artifacts and key information.

Stop by the Central Park Visitors Center to discover the history of the park from the Ohlone era to today. There may even be photos that have been rarely or never before seen by the public. Who was here before 1900? What year was the first parcel of land acquired? What did the park look like before the lake was filled in? Was there ever a swim lagoon? How many skate parks has the lake housed? The answers to these and many other questions can be found by visiting the exhibit.

The display is expected to reach thousands of people over the course of the summer, as it is situated in a prime location, just across from the boat launch. Both daily walkers and the occasional park users can learn from the information presented in the exhibit. Stop by the park and learn about its history today!





Memorial Funds

A small update on the status of the 2016 matching grant fund - Since our last newsletter, additional funds have continued to come in. We want to thank the following donors for their support: Mark Hirsch, Jane Mueller, Thelma Jones, Tom & Gail Blalock, Dorothy Bradley, The Country Club of Washington Township, Joanne Cryer, and Anne Power (who gave in the name of her late husband, Randy Power).

We would also like to take this opportunity to outline our three established memorial funds:

The Regena Dennie Memorial Fund – all donations are allocated toward archiving

The Randy Power Memorial Fund - all donations are allocated toward archiving

The Lila Bringhurst Memorial Fund – all donations are allocated toward the *Lila Bringhurst Legacy Project* (stay tuned for additional details)

Please consider donating to one of our existing funds, or establish one in the name of someone you love!

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



Walking Tour of Newark

A historic walking tour of Newark is in the works. Al Nagy is currently planning and researching information for a tour, which is set to take place in the spring or summer of 2017!

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!



Thank you to our adobe volunteers, who work tirelessly throughout the year to keep the grounds maintained and free of weeds.

Pictured here are park helpers Jon Miller, Hamdi El-Sissi, Gerry Curry, Michael DeUnamuno and Dianne Holmes.

Family Day at the Rancho

On April 30th close to 110 people trekked up the road into Rancho Higuera Historical Park to learn about the rancho period in California, meet Rattlesnake Roger and his terrific collection of spurs and chaps from the early days of Alta California, eat delicious tacos, rice, and beans, and clap and tap their toes with Amaya as she danced Folklorico in the traditional Mexican style.

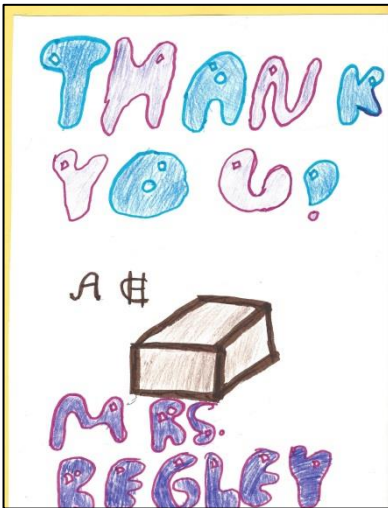
Children were entertained with candle making, corn husk dolls, adobe brickmaking, and the branding and roping of a “steer.” All the children were invited down to the black walnut tree to hit the piñata.



Special thanks go out to Mike DeUnamuno and his Puente group from Ohlone who helped the prior weekend to clean up the grounds and adobe. Some of them also helped facilitate activities the day of. Thanks also go out to Rosemary Yoshikawa, Joanne Hoemberg, Carol & Kevin Quinn, and Marjory Begley. Helpful board members in attendance included Gil Garza, Kelsey Camello, Timothy Swenson, and Gerry Curry.

See you all again next year!

Museum and Adobe School Tours



THANK YOU to all of our docents who worked the 3rd grade museum tour programs and the 4th grade adobe tour programs this year. Our docents were Dianne Holmes, Marjory & Bob Begley, Carole Bell, Rebecca Baker, Wally Betchart, Joanne Hoemberg, and Carol & Kevin Quinn.

Between December 2015 and June 2016 approximately 40 tour programs took place (27 – adobe, 13 – museum). All tours were held on Wednesdays and Fridays. Participating schools included: Mission San Jose Elementary, Warm Springs, Weibel, James Leitch, Mission Valley, Gomes, Harvey Green, Chadbourne, Blacow, Forest Park, Maloney, and Kennedy Elementary. Several of these schools wrote class letters thanking us for our

quality programs.

Over the summer the docents will be working to keep improving our programs as we get ready for another school year. We are always looking for more docents. If you or someone you know would like to donate a couple of hours a month, please contact Dianne Holmes at (510) 673-4813 or the museum directly. We guarantee you will have fun!



Recaps of Recent Events

The Alvarado Walking Tour was held on April 16th. 9 local residents came out on a sunny day to learn the history of the area (pictured). Tim Swenson led the tour down Smith Street and then Union City Blvd, providing historical details on older buildings that are still standing as well as many that are now gone.



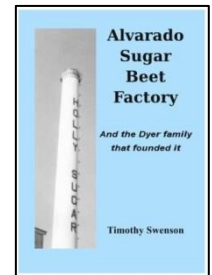
The Irvington Walking Tour was held on May 21st. 30 people joined Caroline Harris as she traipsed around the town. Sites visited included: Clark Hall, the IOOF Hall, the old Washington College site, the site of the old pickle factory, and the Horner House (pictured), among others.

The Natural World of Fremont Day was held on April 16th at Central Park. 7 board members and volunteers manned a table, highlighting information about the museum. A wooden, hand-crank butter churn was a hit with the children who stopped by. Old photographs of Central Park wowed adults. Pictured here are Patricia Schaffarczyk and Kelsey Camello.



Jim Griffin's talk on pioneer women, their work and their men was held on April 12th. The IOOF Hall was packed full as everyone enjoyed a riveting presentation about local people – all of them part of Jim's family line. Thank you to Jim for working so hard on this event. His research and dedication were exemplary. Pictured here is Lila Bringhurst introducing Jim to the crowd.

The Alvarado Sugar Beet Factory talk took place on May 22nd, as a joint effort between the Alameda County Library and museum. Six people came to hear Tim Swenson talk about the factory and the Dyer Family that built it. After the talk, Tim answered a number of questions from the attendees.



T-SHIRTS
\$15
Inquire at
the museum





June

6/14 - WTMLH BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at the museum

6/16 – MPHF BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at Shinn House

6/24 & 6/26 - Broncho Billy Silent Film Festival – in Niles

see www.nilesfilmmuseum.org

6/27 - WTHS MEETING - 7:15-9pm at WTMLH Women & Work Exhibit - THRU August at WTMLH Central Park Exhibit - THRU Labor Day at Central Park

July

7/9 - Volunteer Recognition Event - @ St. Joseph Church Hall 11:00am - 1:00pm

7/12 - WTMLH BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at the museum

7/16 - Niles Walking Tour, with NESFM - 11am

7/21 – MPHF BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at Shinn House

7/25 - WTHS MEETING - 7:15-9pm at WTMLH Women & Work Exhibit - THRU August at WTMLH Central Park Exbt - THRU Labor Day at Central Park

August

8/9 - WTMLH BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at the museum

8/18 – MPHF BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at Shinn House

8/20 - Decoto Bike Tour - 11am

8/22 - WTHS MEETING - 7:15-9pm at WTMLH Women & Work Exhibit - THRU August at WTMLH Central Park Exhibit - THRU Labor Day at Central Park

September

9/11 & 9/12 - Passport to Adventure Launch – various locations

9/13 - WTMLH BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at the museum

9/15 – MPHF BOARD MEETING - 7-9pm at Shinn House

9/17 – Centerville Walking Tour - 11am

9/18 - Newark Days Photo Scanning & Oral Histories 10am – 4pm in the Newark Community Center

see www.newarkdays.org

9/18 - Art in Shinn Park - 10am – 4pm at Shinn Park & Arboretum

see www.missionpeakreporter.org

9/26 - WTHS MEETING - 7:15-9pm at WTMLH Central Park Exhibit - THRU Labor Day at Central Park

New Members and Renewals

Thank you to all of our members who are paid up for 2016!

Your contributions to and involvement in the historical community are highly valued by everyone at the museum.

Eilif & Irene Andersen
Steve & Beth Armstrong
Anthony Avila
Gina Marie Avila
Harry Avila
Timothy Avila
Vinnie Bacon
John & Rose Barr
Donald Barsi
Janet E. Barton & Barry
John Balk
Barbara Baxter
Marjory Begley
Tom & Gail Blalock
Frank and Elvamae Borghi
Dorothy Bradley
Lila Bringham
B.J. Bunting
Kelsey Camello
Gary Charland

Janet C Crocker
Joanne Cryer
Eleanor Currie
Pat & Becky Denevan
Roberta & Patrick Fisher
Lynette Fraga-Weems
Gilbert Garza
Ruthe Gomez
Doris Green
Bob Greene
Jim & Patricia Griffin
Stuart Guedon
Caroline Harris & Greg Mau
Tom Heater
Herman & Betty Hebel
Philip & Terry Henry
Bruce Hevelin
Mark Hirsch
Bill & Jean Holmes
S Reshmi Inamdar

Thelma Jones
Patty Lacy
Bernie and Marlene Leal
Gordon & Anne MacLeod
Libby Macris
Mr. Siv S. Mahanty
Nabil Matta
Betty McCoy
Lily Mei
Brian C. Moos
Cindy Morici
Gus Morrison
Ann Morrison & Dan
O'Donnel
Dan & Page Mosier
G. Barton Mowry
Jane Mueller & Doug Ford
Al & Connie Nagy
Mary Lynn Pelican
Donna Olsen

Mary Lynn Pelican
Ed and Debra Pentaleri
Anne Power
Kevin and Carol Quinn
Gretchen Roeding
Mendenhall
Patricia Schaffarczyk
Doretta Schuyler
Charles Scribner & Pauline
Weaver
Joan Serafino
Roy & Christie Shiba
Elinor Smith
Garth & Robin Smith
Phil & Janis Stob
Tim Swenson
Walter & Lois Ulrich
Marilyn Wall
James Westfall
John & Judy Zlatnik

**Lila Jean Bringham - October 26th, 1938 -
May 7th, 2016** *from the Tri-City Voice*



Lila Jean Bringham, a treasured member of the Tri-City community, passed away on May 7th, 2016. She was tireless in her devotion of time, energy and resources to heighten public awareness of local heritage and protect it for future generations. Lila was born in Vernal, Utah as the sixth of eleven children. Her family had been severely impacted by the Great Depression. She grew up in relative poverty, which taught her the importance of hard work and frugality.

An ardent love of learning led Lila to attend University of California, Davis on a scholarship. Following a transfer to UC Berkeley, Lila graduated as class valedictorian in Home Economics. Her curiosity and adventurous spirit complemented an urge to travel and explore. She was warm and outgoing with special talents for asking searching questions and listening attentively. Nobody's life was insignificant to Lila.

Although Lila had many prospective suitors as a young adult, there was one handsome young man that won her heart. She married Deon Stout Bringham, DDS September 9, 1960. He was her opposite in that he was a man of few words, but his integrity and diligence spoke volumes. They raised two sons and four daughters including a set of twins. Lila was a dedicated mother and homemaker. Her refined aesthetic sensibilities enchanted beholders on holidays. She prepared special crafts with her children and taught them the value of visiting friends and neighbors regularly.

Lila's life became a love story between a woman and her community. Fifteen years after moving to Fremont, Lila embarked on a road trip to New England with her six young children. They visited nearly every museum along the way,

fueling her passion for US history. Having enjoyed the experience so much, Lila became more active in learning about and promoting the history of Fremont.

Her first big endeavor was to restore the Mission San Jose. She began as the grant writer and successfully raised funds for the reconstruction. Lila went on to become president of the restoration committee. She met regularly with the architect, contractor, and Father Norcutt for four years until the restoration was completed. Lila was just getting started.

She saved the wooden church adjacent to the Mission from demolition by selling it to a group in San Mateo for one dollar and coming up with the money required to move it. The Saint Joseph Parish rectory also needed to be relocated so she and her husband moved it to Anza Street in 1979. It took nearly a year and a half for the Bringham family to restore it. Later, they restored the Alfred. O. Rix house in Irvington in 1989. These projects were a family affair. The long days of manual labor instilled strong work ethics in the Bringham children and taught them to appreciate the history of their community. Lila's meticulous attention to detail is evident in the restorations of these historic buildings.

She was delighted to discover a rich history of Mormons in the Bay Area. As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she quickly took interest in and studied the history of the cargo ship Brooklyn that brought Mormon pioneers to the area in 1846. Lila collaborated with Lorin K. Hansen to write a book titled Let This Be Zion. She wrote several more pamphlets and articles on the subject, including a plaque that can be viewed at the Oakland LDS Temple.

Lila's list of accomplishments includes: President of Mission San Jose Chamber of Commerce, local history columnist, Director of LDS San Jose Multi-stake Public Affairs Council, the initiation of Las Posadas at the Mission (an annual Christmas celebration), Pioneer Day fundraiser celebrations for the Mission, President of Mission San Jose Rotary, Assistant Governor of Rotary District 5170, Rancho Higuera Adobe restoration, President of the Local History Museum Guild and many more.

Lila's efforts to commemorate Fremont's history culminated in a vignette depicting a transcontinental railroad station in Niles, with a family waiting for an 1800's steam train. The sculptures convey a deep respect for historical accuracy, but with a bit of whimsy. The likenesses of local historic figures can be found at the throttle and caboose. Lila commissioned famed sculptor Mario Chiodo and his team of artisans to construct the train and sculptures at her own expense. Behind the display, is a mural; they can be viewed where Mowry dead ends on Mission Boulevard.

Lila Bringham is survived by her children, Eric Bringham, MD, Eron Bringham, Margo Layton, Amy Crane, Glindel Bringham, Alaina Stewart and twenty-one grandchildren.

Lila's memorial service was held Saturday, June 4th at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 810 Walnut Avenue, Fremont. Please visit www.LilaBringham.com to share a favorite memory of Lila.



190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539

Detach and return to the museum:

Name: _____ _____
Address: _____ _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

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

Yes, please renew my membership!

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 |
| Trailblazer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |
| Pathfinder | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| Pioneer Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| Lifetime | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 |
| Senior/Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 |
| Senior Couple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 |

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

Donation ☐ \$ _____

Total Contribution ☐ \$ _____