



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUSEUM of LOCAL HISTORY

Winter 2016-2017 Newsletter

Board Members

Interim-President: Kelsey Camello

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Timothy Swenson

Treasurer: Gerry Curry

Board: Alan Nagy

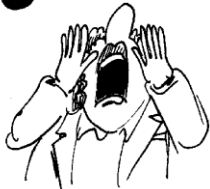
Board: Patty Lacy

Board: Harry Avila

Alternate: Gil Garza

Alternate: Stuart Guedon

Volunteers!



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!

President's Message

Winter is here, and with it a new year full of historical events in the Tri-City – Fremont, Newark and Union City.

To stay up to date and in the know of everything that is happening this year, please remember to renew your membership for 2017.

Membership dollars directly influence programs, events, exhibits, and the day to day operation of the museum.

Membership can be renewed online via our website, through the mail, or by visiting the museum on one of our open days – every Wednesday, Friday, and the second weekend of each month.

In the last year we have been lucky enough to acquire some new, long-term volunteers. These people are extremely dedicated and hard-working. Because of them, we have finally been able to put some time in on many long overdue projects, especially when it comes to archiving collections.

Areas where we still need a tremendous amount of volunteer help: technical support, displays, website liaison with our website moderator, adobe upkeep, student tour leaders / helpers (museum and adobe), data entry, general museum help.

Can you spare a few hours each month? Please contact us if you are interested in local history and want to become a part of a fun team!

Please note that the General Meeting will take place on February 14th at 7pm at the museum. Join us as we vote in a new alternate board member who will fill the vacancy left after Lila's passing last year. Ballots were sent out via email and postal mail on January 17th, and they must be returned by February 14th.

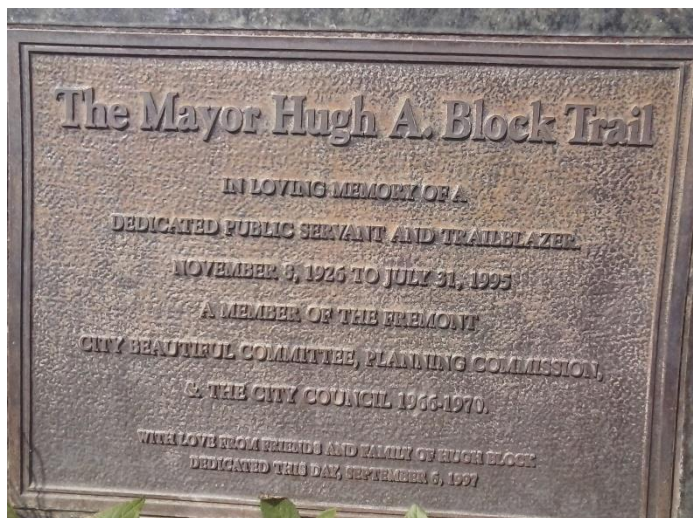
We hope you will also attend one or all of the events in the coming months. Happy New Year to all!

Kelsey Camello, Interim-President

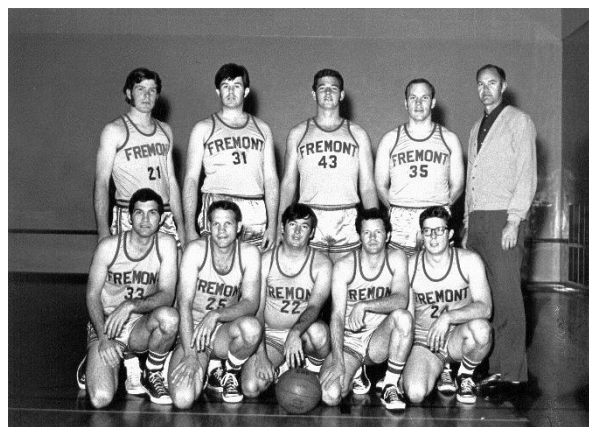
Additions to Collections

- Jean Messick donated the collected history of her and her husband Bob's immediate family.

Jean and Bob Messick moved to Newark in 1955. They later moved to Irvington. Jean and Bob were very involved in community affairs.. The couple was most notably involved with Ardenwood Farm and the Patterson House, and the Alameda County Fair, especially the antique tractors and engines and the Early American Antique Museum and Crafts. Solo, Jean was highly involved with the Country Club of Washington Township, the local genealogy club in Newark, and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Ohlone Chapter, and Las Antiquelagas, among other groups. Daughter Judy excelled in local dance and cheerleading groups. Daughter Marian did well in local cheerleading, roller and ice skating leagues. Bob died in 2001 and Jean moved to Livermore in 2010.



- Andrew Cavette donated images of all the memorial plaques located around Lake Elizabeth.



- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – Fremont Stake donated items from their 50th anniversary celebration, including many photos from the early history of the stake.



- John and Antoinette Cordeniz donated a scrapbook compiled by Pop Gould, photographs from Centerville Grammar School and Washington High School (1930s and 40s), and a company photo from Schuckle Cannery (1924).

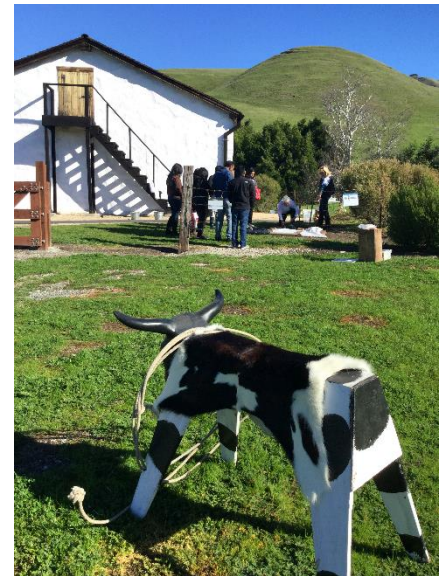
- Catherine Hanoum donated a tintype of California Nursery Company workers on the grounds (1900).



- Dennis Knisley donated a company photo from F.E. Booth Cannery (1920s), another copy of the Mission Sesquicentennial booklet, and a scrapbook created by Burdette Williams.

An Update on Tours

Since our last newsletter we have had several school and Cub Scout tours of the museum and adobe, as well as 2 tours of the adobe property by a group of senior ladies and an Ohlone College special interest group. The remainder of the academic year is almost completely booked! If you or someone you know is interested in spending one afternoon a month working as a docent with enthusiastic learners, call Dianne at 510-673-4813. Join us as we share our interest in local history!



In Memory of Eilif Frederik Andersen

(7/10/1935 – 12/14/2016)

Eilif Andersen was a long time docent for the Museum of Local History and the Higuera Adobe when few others took much interest in these historical land marks in our midst. He passed away from complications due to Alzheimers. Eilif is survived by his wife and four children. We send our condolences to his family and are thankful that he shared his time and funny jokes with us.

This photo shows three dedicated volunteers for the museum and for Washington Township Historical Society: Nancy Lorrigan, Regina Dennie, and Eilif Andersen.

Tour of Pioneer Cemetery



In November, Caroline Harris led a group of about 35 on a tour of the historic pioneer cemetery in Irvington. Afterward The Dragonfly Market treated everyone to drinks and snacks in the Rix House (built in 1854) on Bay Street.

The sheer amount of information that can be discovered and discussed in one cemetery is astounding. This was the museum's first attempt at a tour like this, and many wonderful ideas were proposed for altering it in the next year. As we get closer to the Halloween season in 2017 we will work on revising the idea and making it even better!

Museum Name Change

Since 1995, this museum has been known as the Museum of Local History or the Museum of Local History Guild. In 2014, Lila Bringhurst spearheaded a new way of thinking, as we began to consider changing the name of the museum and rebranding ourselves. Thanks to Lila's work, we began using a new logo and name, as we started to go by both our old name(s) and the Washington Township Museum of Local History. Nothing was truly official until this past October, when the board moved to file for a DBA (doing business as). Now, we are the Washington Township Museum of Local History, and checks may be written out to this name. We thank Lila for beginning this movement toward a more focused, regionally specific name for our museum.

Donations Needed Towards Large Format Scanner

Last August, wishing to participate and contribute to local history, the Tri-City Health Center made a very generous donation of \$5,000 to the museum. The funds went toward the purchase of a large format high-resolution scanner. This needed piece of equipment is now set up and beginning to play a key role in archival work to digitize museum collections - especially large, local newspapers!

Unfortunately, the price tag on the scanner was \$1700 over the donation received from the health center, thus leaving a gap in funding. The general fund has covered the expense temporarily, but we are hoping to recover the money through donations.

Can you spare any amount toward this \$1700 need? If so, please contact the museum. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Thank you!



In the News

The museum has had quite a bit of positive exposure in the news lately, and we hope to keep up the trend.

Joseph Geha, a journalist covering the Tri-City for the Bay Area News Group, has put out two articles. The first focused on Frank Chance (below, front row, far right) who 108 years ago led the Chicago Cubs to a World Series win, and just so happens to have been from Irvington and attended Washington College.



The second focused on Philip Holmes (left), our own resident historian. It painted an accurate picture of his work in the historical community of Fremont. You can read both of those articles by going to the following link:

<http://museumoflocalhistory.org/about/in-the-news/>

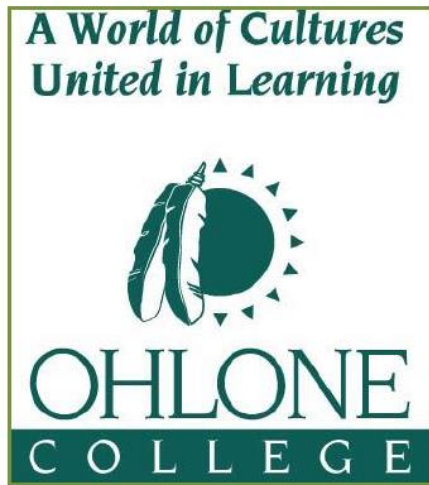
Additionally, we have put out various articles in the Tri-City Voice. Recently, we noted the floor renovation which has taken place at the Galindo-Higuera Adobe (right, top), thanks to the hard working people with the Mission San Jose Rotary. We also just completed cataloguing the collection of prominent Irvington pioneers – the Hirsch Family (right, bottom), and have informed the community of such. Both articles related to these topics can be found on our website at the following link: <http://museumoflocalhistory.org/tri-city-voice/>.



Las Posadas Tradition Continues

Las Posadas, a ceremonial celebration of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, has been co-sponsored by the Fremont Cultural Arts Council (FCAC) and the Old Mission San Jose annually since 1982. This year we hosted the 5th night of the procession. Musical accompaniment was provided by Sharon Xavier de Souza, with Patty Lacy playing the role of innkeeper, David Bonaccorsi holding the statue of Mary and Joseph, Stuart Guedon leading the procession, and Al Minard introducing on behalf of the FCAC.

All photographs are courtesy of Jim Sakane for The Argus.



Ohlone to Celebrate 50 Years! #OHLONE50

In 2017, Ohlone Community College will be celebrating 50 years since the beginning of classes. Plans for celebrations are in process, and will be slated to begin in the spring and continue into the fall. We are working alongside the Ohlone 50th committee to help in any way that we can.

Beginning in January there will be an exhibit at the Louie-Meager Art Gallery (located within the Gary Soren Smith Center for the Fine and Performing Arts) which focuses on the history of the Ohlone College land, beginning with Native American habitation all

the way through the use of the land today. We are aiding gallery director Dina Rubiolo on this project. The exhibit will be on display January 20th through March 16th.

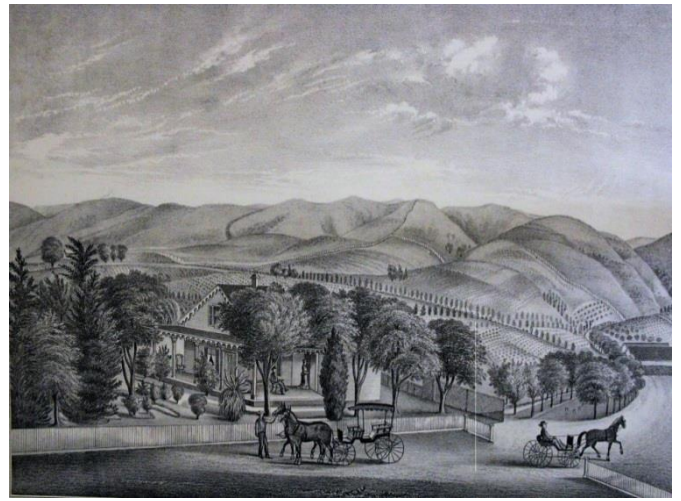
Additionally, reconnecting with former students has become a priority for the Ohlone 50th Committee. If you attended Ohlone, please go to <https://ohlone.formstack.com/forms/shareyourstory> to let them know what you have been up to and to share Ohlone memories. Please feel free to share this link with others.

Finally, 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.

Walking Tour – February 12th – History of Ohlone College Land

In conjunction with the Ohlone College 50th Anniversary, the museum is hosting a historic walking tour. The tour will discuss the history of the land that Ohlone College sits on, back to California statehood in 1850. Some of the surrounding neighborhood history will also be discussed. Meet at 12PM at the museum – 190 Anza Street.

There will also be a small exhibit in the museum highlighting the topics discussed in this tour.



Country Club of Washington Township Celebrates 120 Years

In October we celebrated alongside the Country Club of Washington Township as they recognized the 120th anniversary of the club's founding and honored 8 members who have been actively involved for over 50 years.

The event was held at the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows Hall on Fremont Blvd, with over 60 people in attendance. Desserts were enjoyed, as well as a beautiful musical accompaniment. Michi Yee, Patricia Schaffarczyk and Alan Nagy put on a delightful program, which detailed the history of the club as well as the work over time of the 8 individual honorees.

Thank you to everyone who attended, helped with the event, and/or donated goods!



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 appreciated securities. If you already use Vanguard for your investments, Vanguard offers a form to accomplish this. If you use someone else, a letter of authorization should be sent to your broker with a request to send a specific number of shares (must exceed \$1,000 in value) to: Museum of Local History Guild, EIN 94-3230552, Account # 51670697 - Vanguard Group, PO Box 1103, Valley Forge, PA 19482-1103.

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



**T-shirts for sale -
\$10 each. Call the
museum if interested!**

Museum Volunteers

I want to take a little bit of your time to talk about our museum volunteers. As most of you know, we are mainly a volunteer organization. All our volunteers bring unique gifts that add up to an outstanding team effort. Our volunteers have been the life-blood of the museum from its very inception. The museum volunteers have dedicated their time, money and efforts to serve the function of our museum - serving our community's history needs. Many of our volunteers have put in years of service with little recognition. It is unquestionably a labor of love.

I would like to highlight a few volunteers who have brought important gifts and contributions. Whenever we highlight individuals, there is the other side of the coin, where there are the people who are not mentioned. I could write a book about all our volunteers, but for this message that would not work.

Volunteer Special Mention - Eilif Frederik Joseph Kebe Andersen (July 10, 1935 – December 14, 2016)

Eilif was one of those dedicated volunteers who helped at the front desk, gave museum tours, and played a key role at the Rancho Higuera Adobe. He led many adobe tours and was the go-to person for that park. A number of folks would ask specifically for Eilif's adobe tours because of his positive and enthusiastic personality. Eilif was very special to all the folks who were able to know him and work with him. The museum offers our deepest condolences as we pay our respects to Eilif's family. It is a sad loss for the museum.

Stuart Guedon: Stuart is an alternate board member who regularly works at the museum. Stuart has had a very long association with the museum. He knew and worked with Dr. Robert Fisher before there even was a museum. Stuart is an incredible historical resource with a background in geography, maps/cartography and topology. Recently, we were helping a drop in visitor who had lived in the area many years ago, who was looking for information on her grandparents. With the visitor's information, Stuart was able to quickly locate aerial photographs of their home in the 1950s-60s. It is such a pleasure to see the faces of folks as they go back in time and see how things once were. This information helps people tell their own histories with photos and solid information. This to me is a true service to the community. I really feel that people leave the museum with an enhanced understanding of their personal history and this has a value to the individual, their families and the community. Stuart is a big help with this.

Tom Heater: Tom is a newer volunteer that has jumped in and been a huge help with many aspects of museum activities. One of the cool things about being a volunteer for our team is that you get to wear many hats, as they say. Tom has been able to cover a wide range of museum work from archiving to general maintenance, and has assisted me with the museum's Emergency Response and Protecting Collections Plans - work that happens in the background. Tom is such a fun, hardworking person to be around and we are lucky that he found us.

Every one of our volunteers is special to us. There are no cogs in the museum machine. Rather, there are skilled, talented and generous friends who help us with this very important job of serving the community. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, both past and present.

Gil Garza

Development Director



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, a lawn mower 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 or adult 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!

New Members and Renewals

Thank you to all of our members who joined or renewed their membership last year. Your contributions and involvement in the historical community are highly valued.

Please remember to renew your membership for 2017. The earlier the better!

Below are the members who are paid up through 12/31/2017.

Thank you!

Phillip Anderson & Cindy Vail
Sarah Comfort
Gloria Gaisford
Tim Gavin
Lionel Goularte
Philip Holmes

Shirley Lancaster
Elizabeth Macris
Gretchen Mendenhall
Allison Millar & Duane Barlow
G. Barton Mowry
Kathleen O'Connor

Bill Quirk
Roeding Family
Joan Serafino
Mollie Sinclair
Michi Yee



Museum Calendar



JANUARY

TUES 1/10: WTMLH Board Meeting – 7pm – 190 Anza Street in Fremont.

SAT – SUN - 1/14 – 1/15: Museum Open Weekend – 10am – 4pm – 190 Anza Street in Fremont.

THURS - 1/19: Community Meeting – California Nursery Historical Park Draft Final Master Plan – presented at 6pm at the Teen Center (39770 Paseo Padre Parkway – off Sailway Drive).

FRI - 1/20 (through 3/16): Exhibit, History of Ohlone College Land - At the Louie-Meager Art Gallery (located within the Gary Soren Smith Center for the Fine and Performing Arts), 43600 Mission Blvd – Room SC-143 in Fremont – see <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/artgallery/> for open days and times.

FEBRUARY

SAT - 2/11: Museum Open – 10am – 4pm – 190 Anza Street in Fremont.

SUN - 2/12: Walking Tour, History of Ohlone College Land – 12PM – Meet at the museum (190 Anza Street in Fremont) – explore the history of the land that Ohlone College sits on.

SUN - 2/12: Open House and Membership Drive – 10AM – 4PM – Stop in during our open hours, learn about everything we do at the museum, and join or renew your membership - 190 Anza Street in Fremont.

TUES - 2/14: WTMLH Board Meeting – General Membership Meeting – 7pm – 190 Anza Street in Fremont.

MARCH

SAT – SUN - 3/11-3/12: Museum Open Weekend – 10am – 4pm – 190 Anza Street in Fremont.

TUES - 3/14: WTMLH Board Meeting – 7pm – 190 Anza Street in Fremont.

SAT - 3/25: Event, 11th Annual Women's History Tea and Lunch, hosted by the Fremont Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), with a focus on vintage fashions. Time and location TBD. – see <http://fremont-ca.aauw.net/> for more information.



190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539

Detach and return to the museum:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to
*Washington Township Museum of Local
History* and mail to 190 Anza Street,
Fremont, CA 94539

Yes, I want to become a member!

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Senior/Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 |
| Senior Couple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 |
| Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 |
| Trailblazer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |
| Pathfinder | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| Business Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 |
| Pioneer Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| Lifetime | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 |

Yes, I would also like to donate

to a special fund: _____
(name of fund)

Donation amount ☐ \$ _____

Total Contribution ☐ \$ _____