

Museum of Local History

190 Anza St. Fremont, CA 94539

(510) 623-7907

Summer

2014

Board Members

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

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

Presidents Message

If you read all of this newsletter I think you will get a strong sense that there is a lot going on at the MLHG. The Museum has been very busy and many of these activities put us out in the community sharing history with a wider audience. I hope many of you were able to join us for the volunteer tea. It was a lot of fun and a chance to show how much we appreciate all of our volunteers' support. I'd like to thank Tim Swenson for having his 50th Birthday party at the Museum. It was great to have a live musical performance - Dan Pothast. I think this was a first, and I really love the fun and vitality our members bring to the Museum.

The MLHG has recently formed a committee to participate with the City of Fremont in a Master Plan for the use of the California Nursery Historical Park site(CNHP). The CNHP committee will meet with the consultants that have been selected by the city to discuss possible historical contributions the Museum could make. We will keep you notified on developments.

Gil Garza

Volunteer Tea

May 31st was the annual volunteer tea, where the Museum volunteers are honored, and one volunteer is singled out for special recognition. This year that volunteer was Regina Dennie, one of the Museum's longest serving volunteers. As the volunteers and guests arrived at the Museum there was a 10-minute video on Regina in the main room, which was created by Patricia Schaffarczyk.

In the Museum courtyard, Mission Coffee provided small sandwiches, fruit, small desserts, and drinks. Tables were set up for everyone to sit, eat and listen to the various speakers. Gil Garza, the master of ceremonies, gave a talk about the



different categories of Museum volunteers, including those that manage the gardens outside the Museum. The talk soon turned to Regina Dennie. Al Minard talked about his first meeting Regina, when he became involved in the Washington Township Historical Society. Lei Genevieve Vanek talked about the work that Regina does for Catholic Daughters. Gus Morrison talked about successful traits and how Regina demonstrates them. Patricia Schafarczyk talked about how Regina recruited her into volunteering at the museum. Finally, Regina was able to take the mic and talk about her volunteer efforts.

Irvington Walking Tour

The first (since 1981) Irvington walking tour was well attended by Museum members and local friends on May 17th. We met at the Irvington Plaza and discussed how this intersection has been a busy commerce and transit center since the early days of the Mission period, with some buildings still in place since the late 19th Century. A few walkers fueled themselves with a beverage from Bean Scene Coffee and took a moment to view the historical photos displayed on their walls. Walking up Washington Blvd, we passed some 90 year old properties, such as the Leal Theatre, before reaching the intersection of Osgood and Driscoll, where we saw the new BART tracks, the old winery and some buildings still remaining from the pickle factory. Barbara Baxter gave us her family history and back story of the pickle factory. Pointing out the site of the former Washington College, we were enlightened as to the significance and purpose of Main Street as the approach road to such a grand establishment.



Next stop was the Horner house on Driscoll, where we were given an overview of the Mormon arrival and agricultural significance of our township by Brian Barlow, the current owner. We also got a peek inside the restored 7-bedroom 1850s farm house. Back tracking down Washington Blvd we entered into the neighborhood, crossing the Hayward fault, and saw the Medical equipment/ Occidental stove factory, built in 1922, with its splendid Spanish revival front and earthquake trusses at rear.

On to the Hiram Davis House, another Mormon built farm dating to 1860 where Ed Pentaleri told us how this house was preserved within a housing development project and is now a residence for himself and Debra. The return journey over a creek brought forth stories of floods in the vicinity and how the trenches dug out in the 50's have helped rain water diversion control storm water. On the corner of Cemetery way and Bay Street we viewed the Griffin House, built in 1892 by a local contractor and descendant of Timothy Rix. The Odd Fellows Memorial Cemetery, the final resting place of many early pioneers who are now remembered by naming of street, avenues, and roads was just across from the Griffin House.

The last stop was the Rix house on Bay street, originally assembled in 1854 and moved to its current site in 1870, where we were handsomely rewarded for our walking with a fabulous tea donated by Cynthia.

I would like to thank everyone that came on the tour. I enjoyed all the stories we exchanged, and special thanks to our hosts Brian, Ed, and Cynthia for going above and beyond to let us into their part of Irvington's rich history. - *Caroline Harris* (Tour Leader)

Dry Creek Cottage & Garden Tour

On June 21st, Tim Swenson will give a tour of Dry Creek Cottage and Gardens in Union City. The cottage and gardens were built for the May family and passed to the Meyers family. The cottage is an example of an early 20th century middle class summer home.

The tour will start at 1 pm at Dry Creek Cottage and Gardens. Parking is just off of Mission Blvd, at the end of Whipple Road, in the East Bay Regional Park District lot. A tour booklet has been written and is available from the Museum website, or \$2 for a hard copy at the tour.

Alvarado Walking Tour

In March and June Tim Swenson lead the Alvarado Walking Tour down Smith Street, talking about the different buildings and a few buildings that no longer exist. The tour in March was affected by rain about half way through the walk. A few with foresight had brought umbrellas. The tour in June had nothing but blue skies. The tour is based on a booklet, written by Tim, and available from the Museum website. The booklet provides a self-guided tour of Alvarado. Terry Priego attended the June tour. Her family has owned a number of buildings in Alvarado and she was able to provide some additional insight.

There will be more tours in 2014, and they are all announced in the Tri-City Voice. The tour booklet is available from the document section of the Museum website.

School Tours

We have developed docent led tours for students that include a tour of the Museum gallery, as well as fun activities in the courtyard. Our newly trained docents have been a great help and in September we will invite classes to come to experience the program. Tours are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30-11:00 or 12:00 – 2:00. We can always use more help with programs and advertising.

Rancho Higuera Historical Park Tours

We have developed a program for students to visit the Higuera Adobe at Rancho Higuera Historical Park. This tour includes an orientation at the Museum and then ranch activities, including adobe brick making, followed by a tour of the park and a nature walk where students will learn about native plants. Our children's program will focus on 3rd and 4th grade age students. Schools and scout troops are encouraged to sign up for this program.

Donations Needed

We want to expand the Adobe /Rancho Tour program. Items we need donated or to purchase include: cow hides, matate (or grinding stone) and mano (or pestle), plastic steer head (or wooden steer) for roping, sieve basket, galvanized wash tubs, candle making equipment and supplies (pots and barbeque), maple sticks, pipe for frame, paraffin blocks, lasso rope, paint, and felt,. Contact Patricia 510-677-8461.



New School Based Outreach Program

We are developing a new program that will be offered in the schools. Our concept is that the docents will set up a mini museum in the classroom. Students will visit "the museum" and participate in activities focused around a general theme or era. More information on this will be available in September.

Collections/Exhibits

Jack McClellan and others at the Masonic Home have donated their time and materials to help with repairs on a number of items at the museum. Thus far they have repaired an 1870s chair and two tables. They are now constructing a rack that will hold our saddle so student visitors can ride it. We'd like to thank them for their help.

We are in the process of changing some of our exhibits. We hope to open an exhibit for the Alameda County Water District by September. The Stepping Out area of the Museum will include more hands on exhibits such as telephone, typewriter, adding machine and a dress up trunk. If you have something to donate in this area please, contact Marjory Begley (510-656-4464).

Irvington Pickle Factory Talk/Discussion

On May 26 Barbara Baxter gave a talk about the Irvington Pickle Factory for the Washington Township Historical Society. The Baxter family moved to Irvington in 1946, when James "Ralph" Baxter and Jim Campbell started the Irvington Packing Co.. They had a dozen employees, and depending on what was ripe, could pickle cucumbers, cauliflower and peppers. The partners sold to California Conserve Co. in 1960, and the business changed to packing relish. In 1975 the company was closed.

Barbara also talked about growing up in Irvington when it was a small town. She and her siblings attended Irvington Elementary school. Ralph Baxter was an Irvington School District trustee until they merged into Fremont Unified School District. Wally Betchard added to the discussion when she talked about coming to Irvington in 1948. She worked a short time at the pickle factory and then began to teach school in Irvington. Joann Landers also added to the talk when she shared a map of downtown Irvington that she created as a project from a local history class that she had taken from Robert Fischer in the 1970s.

Volunteer Corner

Our volunteer list is growing. Many thanks to everyone who contributes from the garden crew to the docents and Museum sitters and others who help out in so many ways. Retiring this year is Derrel Gibbons. We'd like to thank Derrel for his years of service. Thanks also for our new chairpersons; Stephanie Willits coordinates the weekend docent schedules, Kelsey Camello is membership chairperson, and Caroline Harris coordinates the Saturday gardening crew, which includes Jerry and Rudy, who do the weekly gardening and cleaning. Flowers to John Landers for his many years of service in the garden.

New Docent Training - July 16

Our last docent training workshop was a success. We had 14 participants and added new docents and Museum sitters to our roster. We plan on having training for the Higuera Adobe Historical Park program on Saturday, July 16th from 10 am -12 noon. Call Dianne Holmes (510-656-6025) if you would like to attend. Watch the Tri-City Voice for further information.

Best Wishes to Philip Holmes

Philip Holmes has been in and out of the hospital since Easter weekend. On May 25th he celebrated his 90th birthday in a skilled nursing facility. It has been a long journey, but he is getting stronger each day. He is able to walk with assistance. He had written quite a few articles ahead of time for the Tri City Voice newspaper, so they are still being published every other week. We all send our best wishes for one of our most valued local historians.

The Fremont Festival of the Arts, August 2-3

As a fundraiser we have registered at the Fremont Festival of the Arts to sell ice cream. It's a good way to advertise and to make some money for our programs. We are organizing 2 hour shifts on both days. Can you help out or do you know someone who would volunteer to help? We need to fill shifts from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm. We also need a chairperson for this event. Call Patricia (510-677-8461)

Calendar of Upcoming Historical Events:

June 21	Dry Creek Cottage & Gardens Tour, 1-2pm sponsored by Museum of Local History
July 20	Ice Cream Social open house at Shinn Historical Park 12 noon – 4 pm for Mission Peak Heritage Foundation
July 26	Higuera Adobe Historical Park, Docent Training, 10 am – 12 noon for Museum of Local History
July 28	Washington Township Historical Society Meeting, 7:15-9 pm
Aug 2-3	The Fremont Festival of the Arts, 8:30 am-6:30 pm (Museum volunteers needed)
Sept 22	Washington Township Historical Society Meeting, 7:15-9 pm
Sept 27	Museum of Local History Memory Lane Reception (to be announced)

Current Members

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

Steve & Beth Armstrong	Marjory Begley	Ralph and Carole Bell
Al and Joan Bernardin	Tom Blalock	Dorothy Bradley
Stephen Burton	Marge Callow	Micheal Christopherson
Judy Colby	Paul Davis	Knuti Vanhoven
Nelda Erlwein	Lynette M Fraga-Weems	Tim Gavin
Ruthe Gomez	Lionel Goularte	Doris and Douglas Green
Stuart A. Guedon	Caroline Harris	Michel Richard Harris
Philip Henry	Mark Hirsch	Philip Holmes
Dianne Holmes	Gerry Curry	Maurice & Hermene Indig
Patricia Lacy	Bernie and Marlene Leal	Nancy Lorigan
Gordon & Anne MacLeod	Loretta M Marbach	Dan and Page Mosier
G. Barton Mowry	Alan Nagy	Donna Olsen
Ed & Debra Pentaleri	Randy and Anne Power	Kevin and Carol Quinn
Clark Redeker	Family Roeding	Dolores Rose
Jerry & Carmie Rudy	Kristine Sandoe	Mollie Sinclair
Elinor Smith	Marilyn Walls	Jim and Ginger Westfall
Robert & Margaret Davenport		

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

More Images from the Volunteer Tea



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