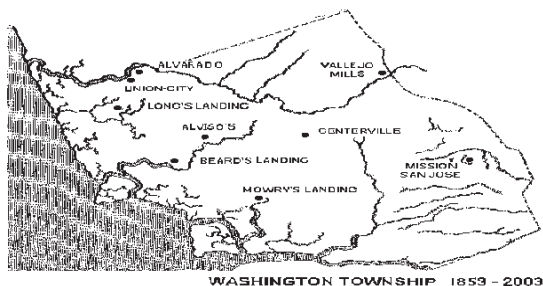


WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL



NOV-DEC 2013

VOL 37

NO. 06

PRES: GIL GARZA

(510) 494-1186

V.P.: JUDY SPRAGUE

(510) 657-0661

REC. SEC.: TIM SWENSON

(510) 489-8944

TREAS.: REGENA DENNIE

(510) 656-3892

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, November 25, 2013 TIME: 7:15 PM
PLACE: MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST, FREMONT

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you! Thank you for making the Rancho Higuera Historic Park Information Center and Adobe grand opening a wonderful success. A large audience was treated to a beautiful day and wonderful stories about life around the adobe. The Adobe interior has been vastly improved. The Information Center looks great due to the tremendous effort of so many people. We especially want to thank Boy Scout Troops #160 & #105 as well as the Scout's families and friends that contributed so much of their time, labor, engineering and construction skills to the project. Lila Bringhurst has been instrumental in driving this project and we owe a good deal of appreciation to her for her efforts and accomplishment with City/Parks folks that have helped with this project.

As a follow up to the Adobe renovations there is a combined effort on the part of WTHS and MLHG to establish regularly scheduled tours of the Adobe (monthly or every other month). Potentially a reasonably sized group could schedule a private tour as well. A School Tour program is also under consideration. To develop these programs we will need a roster of docents and volunteers. As an inducement we would like to offer a one year free membership to WTHS & MLHG for volunteers who sign up for one of the programs that is being developed. I believe that new volunteers will be the key to success for developing any of these proposed programs.

The installation of officers will take place at our next WTHS meeting on November 25, 2013. I will step down as President of WTHS and Al Minard will hold the position of President of WTHS starting 2014. I will remain active in all things historical. I want to thank every member of WTHS for the help and encouragement I've received over the last two years. I feel privileged and fortunate to have had the opportunity serve as President of WTHS and to meet and get to know so many knowledgeable and historically minded people. Thank you.

Gil Garza

Paul Sethy, our guest speaker in November, will be talking about the Ecological History of the Alameda Creek Watershed

Paul Sethy is a near lifelong resident of Fremont. His family moved to Fremont in 1962 and he grew up attending K-12 schools in the Irvington and Mission San Jose area. He graduated from Mission San Jose High School and attended the University of California, Berkeley, focusing on business and economics. Paul is a 33 year veteran of Silicon Valley's high technology industry and has worked in various management positions for corporate leaders such as Verbatim, Xerox, 3Com, and Hewlett-Packard. Paul was the Founder, Chairman & CEO of AirPrime. Paul is serving his fourth year as Vice-President of the Fremont Cultural Arts Council and is an active member of Washington Township Historical Society and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. Paul has a passion for local, state, and U.S. history, and has extensively studied the American Revolution, John C. Fremont's five expeditions to the west coast, the Civil War, and the framing and evolution of the U. S. Constitution. Additionally, he currently serves as an elected member of the Alameda County Water District Board of Directors, becoming President in the 2014 Centennial Year.

Members in the News

September 24, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Myrla Raymundo tells about the John H. Peterson Farm on Alvarado Niles Road in Union City. This farm house and out buildings are opposite Quarry Lakes. It was deeded to the State of California for the realignment of Route 84 and is now used as housing for some of the workers on the farm now used to grow flowers.

September 24, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Lila Bringhurst reports on the improvements made to Rancho Higuera Historical Park. She recognizes the Boy Scouts and the Rotary Club of Mission San Jose who worked with Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, Washington Township Historical Society and The Museum of Local History to make this all happen.

September 24, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Al Minard reports on the Higuera Adobe information kiosk unveiling in coordination with Caravan Along the Anza Trail put on by the National Park Service.

September 27, 2013, Fremont Bulletin, The Fremont Art Association held a Plein Aire Paintout at the Dominican Sisters grounds. This event has been held at Central Park for many years and this change of venue attracted more artists and made for some interesting paintings.

September 27, 2013, Fremont Bulletin, reports on Hauntings at Ardenwood Farm. The Patterson House is not haunted but there are some spooky stories related to the farm and surrounding area. This makes for an entertaining event for families to ride the train and hear the stories.

October 1, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Coyote Hills Regional Park has an ancient village site of the Tuban Ohlone people. This site is only open a few times a year to educate people about the Ohlone people and often has individual Ohlone people there to talk about their history.

October 8, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Step into fall at the Ardenwood Farm Harvest Festival, Ardenwood Farm had their harvest festival, where you could pick popcorn or Indian corn from the field. You were required to give a percentage of what you picked to Ardenwood for next year's planting. This event was held on October 12 and 13, 2013, with train rides, cornhusk doll making, Patterson House tours and other events.

October 8, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Spooky host await visitors at "Ghost House" in the Fremont Hub. The historic Chadbourne Carriage house is converted into a Ghost House, that the Candle Lighters run and all profits are given back to local non-profits for projects that they want. **Al Minard** volunteered as a Warlock on two nights.

October 8, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Pat Kite writes about "Eva's Garden". Eva Ricciarelli a 71-year-old woman was found pushing a flowerpot-laden broken wheel barrow across Shinn Park. Eva was doing whatever was necessary to make the flower gardens at Shinn Park as beautiful as she could using heritage plants. With a lot of other people to help she founded the Friends of Heirloom Flowers that now works in the gardens every Tuesday.

October 8, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Nelson Kirk tells everyone how to get involved with Make a Difference Day in Union City on Saturday, October 26, 2013.

October 8, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Arathi Satish writes about a Flash Fiction Writing contest The event was organized by **Al Minard**.

October 15, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Phil Holmes writes, "One Room Schools". He reports that the Mowry Landing District was formed in 1856 and that the original school burned down and a new one was built in 1884, This is the only remaining one-teacher school that resembles a school building and is now facing demolition at Ardenwood.

October 15, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Ardenwood Farm informs us that the train that runs through Ardenwood Farm will run through Ardenwood Farm in the evening as a "Haunted Railroad".

October 18, 2013, Fremont Bulletin, Creepiest house in Fremont shows a picture of one of the Candle Lighters in witch costume greeting guests to the Ghost House. **Al Minard** not pictured was one of the warlocks on two different dates.

October 18, 2013, Fremont Bulletin, Families pick pumpkins at Ardenwood farm. This is a family friendly time to select a pumpkin grown on Ardenwood Farm by Perry Farms. Many of our members are also members and volunteers at Ardenwood Farm and at the Patterson House.

October 25, 2013, Fremont Bulletin, Front page picture of children decorating pumpkins at the Shinn House's annual Paint Your Pumpkin event, The inside pages also had more of the story and showed some other winners of decorated pumpkins and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation member Gerry Mooney a judge at this event.

October 29, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Phil Holmes writes, "Saga of a one-legged stove". Phil tells about James Graham coming to California and becoming the founder of the James Graham Manufacturing Company, that built wood stoves that were more efficient than other stoves and became very popular.

November 5, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Retired Teachers honor Octogenarians and Nonagenarians. At a luncheon at Spin-a-Yarn, 100 retired teachers honored eight of its new octogenarians and five new nonagenarians. Piecemakers Quilt Guild donated a quilt and matching pillow sham to help raise fund for the Active Teachers Mini-Grant Fund. The quilt was won by octogenarian **Beth Booth**.

November 5, 2013, Tri-City Voice, Nelson Kirk reports on the success of Union City's Make a Difference Day. They had many volunteers and a lot of support from the local businesses, churches and public agencies.

EDITORIAL

Historians and friends,

Two of our members are having serious health problems and your prayers, good wishes and cards would be appreciated, but please no phone calls. They are Regena Dennie and Bernadine Goularte. This brings up an important issue. Too many times we see each other or hear about another person that we know and love and never take the time to tell them that they are important to us and very much loved. With the Holiday season upon us please take the time to tell those people who are important to you that you love them.

When the pioneers came by wagon train to California many of the people, especially the women, wrote diaries of their experiences on the trail. Many of us have gotten out of the habit of writing our experience down and use the telephone or internet to tell of our experiences. I can look back to when I was a small child and remember running next door to call the doctor when my grandmother was dying because we had no phone. I can also remember when our neighbors got a small black and white television, that was so grainy you could hardly see the picture but it was coming from San Francisco, 200 miles away. Many of us are now blessed with not only grandchildren but great grand children, and while they will not appreciate those stories now they will when they become our age. The only way we can be sure that they get that message is to write it down on paper. When my mother was in her 90's I asked her if she had ever talked to her grandmother, and Mom told me, "No, she was just an Old Lady".

With your support, I will be installed as the next president of Washington Township Historical Society. I thank you for your trust and I will do all that I can to live up to that trust.

Al Minard

.....
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

.....
PATRONS MEMBERS: \$50.00 for one year

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Address _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

MAIL CHECK TO: Washington Township Historical Society PO BOX 3045 FREMONT, CA 94539

These are pictures of the inside of the Galindo-Higuera Adobe. There was a lot of damage from squirrels and gophers in this room. They put hardware cloth (wire mesh) down under the dirt floor and brought it up the walls a ways to keep the squirrels and other animals from mining into the building. They removed all of the furniture and had it restored and then they packed the dirt floor down like it would have been in the 1840's when this building was first built. The furniture is now back into the building and we are looking for a volunteer docent to give once a month tours of the Galindo-Higuera Adobe. This room is the main room with the bedrooms off to the side and a stable on the other side of the building. This could have been called one of the earlier forms of attached garage. Certainly on a 9,000 acre farm a horse was a very valuable item.



Photos by Gil Garza

Washington Township Historical Society Nominating Committee recommends the following officers for 2014.

These are the newly elected officers of The Washington Township Historical Society. At our meeting on Monday, November 25, 2014, we will install these officers.

President: Al Minard

Vice-President: Gil Garza

Secretary: Timothy Swenson

Treasurer: Regena Dennie

Parliamentarian: Nancy Lorigan

Historian: Pat Bagwell

Patterson House Advisory Board: Patty Lacy & Bill Reynolds

Membership: Open

Director-At-Large: Open

Higuera Adobe: Open

"To Collect, Preserve and Diffuse Information Relating to the History of Washington Township"

PHOTOS OF THE HIGUERA ADOBE INFORMATION KIOSK REBUILD



The Galindo-Higuera Adobe information Kiosk was originally built in the 1970's. About 10-years ago, there was considerable vandalism to the information and the Kiosk. Then the termites got into the wood and it was becoming both unsightly and unsafe. About 5 years ago we got grants from The Museum of Local History, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation and ourselves to begin restoration or to rebuild this informational kiosk. We were also given a donation from Molly Sinclair to complete this work. We have been fortunate to get a lot of help from the Church of Latter Day Saints, boy scouts, and the Niles Rotary. Even the City of Fremont has been helpful in this process with reroofing the Adobe. We thank everyone who had a part in completing this project. Photos by Gil Garza.

This is what it looked like when we started.



This is our sidewalk (corral) superintendent.

The work begins.



During the process, replacing old wood with new wood.



The work continues.



Enjoy an 1890's Christmas at Shinn House

Fri. Eve Dec 6, Sat. Dec. 7, Sun. Dec. 8, & Friday Eve Dec. 13, 2013

1251 Peralta Blvd., near Mowry Avenue in Fremont
The House is decorated as it might have been in 1890, including wreaths in every window. Docents will lead tours from Noon to 4 pm on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8, 2013, and from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm on Friday, December 6, and Friday, December 13, 2013.

Cost for the tour is \$5.00 for Adults and \$2.⁰⁰ for children 7-13. Help make the wreaths on Saturday, November 29, 2013 from 11:00 am until about 3:00 pm. These wreaths will be used to decorate the Shinn House. Wreath making is free unless you want to take one home.



For more information contact Joan at (510) 795-0891



Washington Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 3045
Fremont, California 94539



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 1853 - 2003