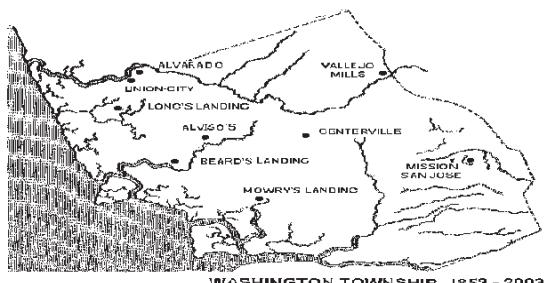


# Washington Township Historical Society



## JAN - FEB 2017

VOL. 41

NO. 01

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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017, 7:15 PM at  
MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA STREET, FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editor: Al Minard

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone.

I believe that the "Pop" Goold house will be relocated to an empty lot just down the street from its present location. We will have an election for new Executive Officers of Washington Township Historical Society at our January 23 meeting that will be held at the Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street. We will give a brief update on our plaques that we would like to install this year.

Most of the Passport to Adventure group will be attending the San Francisco History Day event at the Old Mint in San Francisco on March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The California Nursery is moving along well and now has open house days, and we hope to include them in our next version of the Passport to Adventure group, along with the Pacific Bus Museum.

There are many historic and cultural events being held in the Fremont area, and when you get a chance you should try to visit one of these sites. Union City seems bent on demolishing all of their historic buildings, for developers to put in new housing. We do need more very low income housing but that is not what is being built.

*Al Minard*

### Al Minard is the Guest Speaker for the January 23, 2017, meeting

He will be talking and showing some slides about the accomplishments of Dr. Robert Fisher. Dr. Fisher came to what was then Niles, in 1950, and spoke with a pharmacist who suggested that he settle here, because there were only six doctors in all of Washington Township, which includes what is now Fremont, Newark and Union City. Dr. Fisher did the first historical survey of Fremont, was instrumental in the incorporation of Fremont, preserved and restored the Shinn House and many other buildings. We have a responsibility to continue the work that he started.

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

# MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE NEWS

The following information is from recent issues of the Tri-City Voice weekly newspaper. This newspaper is FREE at many locations and is also online at: "tricityvoice.com". Most of these events have already happened, but some are ongoing or about to finish.

January 10, 2017, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Hayward Area Historical Society writes about black families of Fairview and Kelly Hill, the current exhibit at the Museum for History and Culture in Hayward, 22380 Foothill Blvd. "It has been said that understanding Black history and culture is essential to understanding American history and culture. The local history exhibit depicts the diverse experience of past and present residents of Fairview and Kelly Hill..."

January 10, 2017, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Pat Kite writes about "Morning Glories". Pat admits that she has never succeeded in planting Morning Glories from seeds, but has them that she purchased already growing in a pot. She says there are over 400 varieties of Morning Glories. Morning Glories came from China to Japan in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The flower is the symbol of harmony between male and female.

January 10, 2017, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, the New Year bring new developments, new members on the Planning Commission, new members on City Council and new opportunities to comment on new housing developments in Fremont. The writers of the article have included 5 projects with a total of 241 new housing units.

January 10, 2017, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Kelsey Camello writes about the Museum of Local History teaming up with Mr. Pickles Sandwich Shop to present historic photos of the area inside the store. She says the Museum is always open to new collaborations and working with community minded individuals who want to incorporate Washington Township Heritage into their personal and professional lives.

January 3, 2017, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Sharon Filippi of Music For Minors II reports that they and the Fremont Bank are sponsoring Charlotte Diamond in January with an adults-only teaching workshop. Charlotte is a children recording artist and educator, and inspires with multi-

cultural and character building educational music that touches and captivates the heart.

December 27, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Seema Gupta writes about the current show at the Olive Hyde Art Gallery, "Beautiful Transformations: Photography of Yao-pi Hsu." This show is currently open and not due to close until February 11. Hsu is a native of China but has lived in Santa Clara for more than 50 years. She says she likes to be in the right place at the right time so she can freeze the moment.

December 26, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Jan Shafir will display her art work at Mission Coffee, 151 Washington Blvd. during the month of February. She will be joined by Kathleen-Harrison Sakane. A reception to meet the artists will be held on Sunday, February 14 from 3 PM to 5 PM at Mission Coffee. Jules Goldberg will be entertaining on the keyboard with vocalist Eve Ch.

December 26, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, History: Vicissitudes of Life tells about the trials and tribulations of two historic Washington Township families, the Buntings and Overackers. The story reads like a fictional romance but is all true and describes some of the problems of romance in the late 1800's and early 1900's. **B. J. Bunting** comments that Grandma and Grandpa Bunting left our family a great legacy, they had their ups and downs. They lived through hard times and good times, in poverty and in wealth. In the end they were happy together.

December 26, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Barbara Telford-Ishida writes about lifelong learning at Alameda County Libraries. There are a multitude of classes for seniors, children and any adults on math, crafts, computers and business. They have classes and also videos that you can check out or experience online. This is a good opportunity to learn something new or to develop your skills.

December 26, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Dolores Ferenz writes about a Spanish organ concert at Old Mission San Jose, St. Joseph Church. Music Director Ronald McKeon performs Spanish Organ Music and the Iberian Mileu on

Monday, January 30, 2017, featuring the Rosales Opus 14 organ, unique in rendering the authentic sounds of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish organ music. This is a FREE event. A pre-concert talk will begin at 7 PM with the concert set for 7:30 PM.

December 26, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, The City of Fremont has buried a time capsule reflecting Fremont's culture, diversity, life and energy near the corner of Capitol Avenue and State Street. The City also opened a time capsule left by residents in 1969. The time capsule that was opened from 1969 will have its contents on display at the Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, during the month of February.

December 20, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, The Alameda County Water Board had two re-elected officials were sworn in along with one new Board member. The re-elected Board members are James Gunther and John Weed, the new director is Aziz Akbari. The directors serve four year terms and are elected at large representing ACWD customers.

December 13, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Pat Kite writes about "Acorns and Oaks". Squirrels eat white acorns right away but bury the red acorns for later, because the white ones are sweet and the red ones are bitter. Our Native American ancestors knew how to process the acorns and would break the outer shell, then the acorns were soaked in a stream to remove the bitter tannin, and when they were rinsed the acorns were edible. The oldest oak tree on record was 460 years old and in 2004 the oak tree was recognized as the United States national tree.

December 13, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Teresa Meyer reports that Casa Peralta in San Leandro was holding an open house including live caroling, seasonal refreshments and Santa. This house has been actively audio and video taping the residents in the area and those who visit the house to determine where they came from and why they settled in this area.

December 6, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Arathi Satish reported on the annual Las Posadas event that is held every year in the Mission San Jose Area and where the Museum of Local History is one of the stops. **Al Minard** made the introductions at the Museum this year.

December 6, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Gil Garza writes about "Notable local recognized in naming of Tri-City Health Center". Irvington Dave, a free African-American that was thought to have accompanied Elias Lyman Beard on their trip west established a saloon and place to eat near Five Corners in Irvington. Most of this information has been unproven. The good thing about this research is that Tri-City Health made a donation to the Museum of Local history so they could purchase a large format scanner able to scan entire newspaper pages.

December 6, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Kelsey Camello writes that the Hirsch family have donated the Hirsch Family Collection to the Museum of Local History. The Hirsch family, an early pioneer family, is a very important part of the History of Irvington.

November 29, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Al Minard notifies everyone of the Victorian Christmas to be held at the Shinn House in Fremont.

November 22, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Joyce Blueford writes about the extended hours of the Children's Natural History Museum. This museum originally was called the Math-Science Nucleus Museum, but the name was changed to more accurately describe what is housed in the museum. The Museum has also taken on the leading role of making the California Nursery an active and viable museum.

November 22, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Al Minard reported on our November meeting at the Alameda County Library on Stevenson in November with our guest speaker **Dr. Cecilia (Ceal) Craig**. This was a good program with a good attendance and included an exhibit in the History Room upstairs in the Library.

November 22, 2016, **TRI-CITY VOICE**, Carol Zilli writes, "Why Music". Carol writes, "Despite the fact that brain research verifies how music integrates both hemispheres of the brain, actually grows brain cells, increases endorphins, releases stress and is a powerful teaching and learning tool that inspires and instills self-confidence, people still need to be convinced that children need music in their classrooms and lives, not to mention adults too". Carol also says that due to current and future sponsors, Music for Minors II can make musical magic again this school year for thousands of children in need.

# From the Mailbag

## Union City Historical Museum Newsletter, Dec 2016/

**Jan 2017**, reports the passing of three people involved with the Museum: Ligfino (Ray) Raymundo, Frank Borghi, Jr. and Antoinette Elizabeth Pinto. They also report on some events that happened in Union City from 1998 to 1999. Robert Garfinkle reports on Myrla Raymundo's new book, "Union City Oral History".

**Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly, January 2017**, reports on Jack London's Oak. This is the tree that was dedicated to the memory of Jack London in 1907, just 10 years after the the City arrested him for speaking in public. There is also a story about the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford "Axe". The Axe first appeared at a baseball game

between the two schools on April 15, 1899. There is also a story on estuary shipping and another on the Pardee family.

**Fremont City News, Winter 2016**, reports on a rotational Art Program in Fremont, Passport to Adventure, 20 new projects in 20 months, Green bike lanes, Permit parking at Mission Peak, and Fremont Unified School District reports on the World Class Education available in Fremont.

**The ACWD Aqueduct, Winter 2017**, reports that decades old infrastructure is due for a makeover. They also report that they are considering a proposal to increase rates, they also report that they clean the water mains by flushing which may cause discolored water and that customers will be notified by postcards near the program start date.

## Photos of some of the buildings that Dr. Fisher helped to restore:



Harvey House, North Fremont



Patterson House at Ardenwood Farms



Shinn House on Peralta Boulevard



Higuera Adobe in Warm Springs

## MEMBERSHIP

We have not enjoyed the usual membership renewals, and now it is January 2017 and all dues are once again due. It is only \$10, which just barely covers the mailing of this newsletter. While some of you are getting the newsletter digitally by email, most of you are getting it through the United States Postal Service, which means we have to print the newsletter and then mail it. It costs us nearly \$1.00 to print and with postal increase nearly 50 cents to mail that is \$1.50 times six times a year which equals \$9.00 per year. We are fortunate to have the use of the Museum of Local History for our meetings, at no cost, but we have to purchase Liability Insurance for \$400 per year and pay a membership to the Conference of California Historical Societies to be able to purchase this insurance at this rate for \$50 per year. The only way we are surviving now is through the generous donations of some of our members. We will continue to email a digital copy of the newsletter to everyone, but the printed copy will not be mailed if the dues are not paid by May 1, 2017.

This is a fine organization that has been around for over 60 years, and we are doing a good job of informing the community of the historical value in the Washington Township Community.

Please renew your dues and if you have a few dollars extra that would be great to include also with your dues or whenever.

Thank You

### MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED SINCE OUR LAST MEETING IN NOVEMBER

We have a few members who have already renewed their membership for 2017 and we thank them. They are:

Judy Sprague

Doris Green

Michael and June Fugmann

John G. Barr, Jr.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

PATRON MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00 for one year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

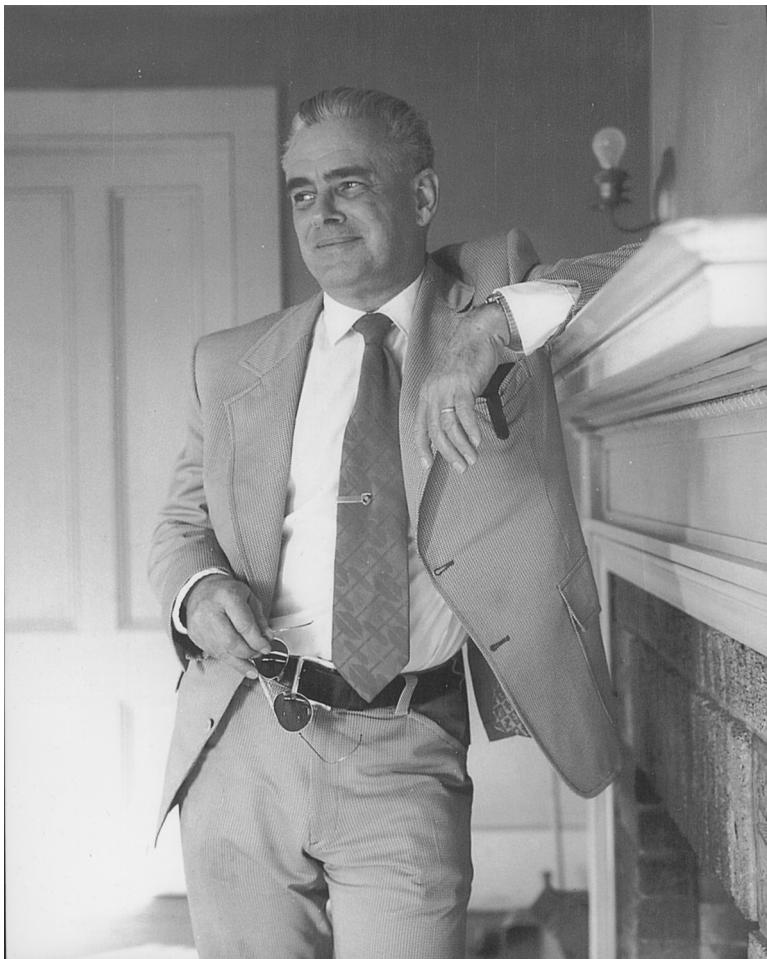
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL CHECK TO: Washington Township Historical Society

PO BOX 3045

FREMONT, CA 94539



## Robert Burns Fisher, MD

Dr. Robert Fisher was known as a family physician that helped found Washington Hospital and was one of the pioneers in the incorporation of the five townships that make up the city of Fremont. Robert Fisher headed the committee that inventoried the historic resources of Fremont, served as chairman of the City of Fremont's Historical Architectural Review Board and is also the founder of Mission Peak Heritage Foundation (MPHF). Through his leadership of MPHF, the group restored the Shinn House, Higuera Adobe, Chadborne Carriage House, Harvey House, Patterson House and other historic buildings and sites. He had a passion for people and preserving history.

Robert Burns Fisher was born in Ayer, Mass. on January 4, 1919. His family moved to Southern California, where he earned a Bachelor's degree from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1942. While serving in the Army he married Cynthia Blount (1944). Robert Fisher received his medical degree from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1946 and served in the Army Medical Corps until 1949. Robert and Cynthia then moved to Niles (1950) and started his medical practice in Irvington. A few years later, he moved his practice to the Mission Styled building he designed on the corner of Washington Boulevard and Ellsworth Street. Sometime later the family built a family house on Mill Creek Road in Mission San Jose. Together they adopted and raised a family of seven children. In 1983 after 39 years of marriage the couple divorced. A year later he married Joanne. He moved to Mendocino, California after retiring .

**Washington Township Historical Society  
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