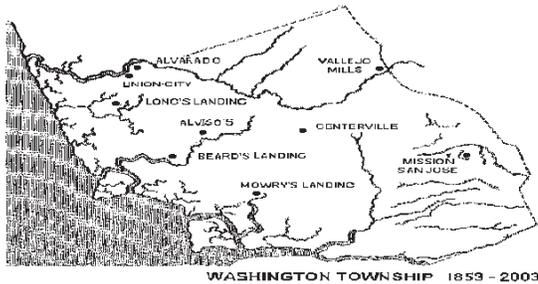


Washington Township Historical



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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JULY 27 MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY,
190 ANZA ST., FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Tim Swenson, Gil Garza and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's message

We have asked Frank Borghi, Jr., to be our guest speaker in July, but he is having some serious health problems, which happens after you pass the 90-year old mark. So he will not be able to make this meeting. I am going to be traveling and also not able to attend this meeting. Patricia Schaffarczyk and Gil Garza have recruited Jim Griffin to be our guest speaker. Mr. Griffin is a descendant of Timothy Rix and also designed the first shopping center in the area, known as Ric-Mark center. I will include in this newsletter the article I wrote about the Merging of the three historical organizations for the Mission Peak Heritage Foundation newsletter. We are moving forward and plan on giving the proposed Bylaws to our attorney to look over for proper legal language. Our September 28 meeting will be held in the Fremont Main Library on Stevenson at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker, Anthony Gualco, knows much of the history of Union City and I am sure that he will be an enjoyable speaker.

Al Minard

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT

The first Tuesday in August, has been the official day to celebrate, "Neighborhood Night Out" a chance to meet your neighbors and to tell them about the historical activities that are going on in our community. While you do not have to talk about the history of the area, I do suggest that you tell them you are a member of Washington Township Historical Society and then they may ask what that is about and you have the perfect opening to talk about the activities of Washington Township and other things historic. Many of our neighbors are new to Fremont, some new to California and a few new to the United States, so this is also a good time to find out about them. We need to get everyone involved in our historical society and museum, it is the only way it will survive for any length of time. Find a party and join it or create your own. Many of the City council members and commissioners of various committees will also be going around to visit many of the registered Neighborhood Night Out venues.



Neighborhood Night out a few years ago at Ed Pentaleri's home.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 19, 2015, Nelson Kirk, writes about Earth Day and Arbor Day. Union City Public Works celebrated Earth Day in various locations. At Washington Hospital, Laurie Rodovich educated the public on Union City's Transit program. Union City's new arboretum has over 130 different varieties of trees planted mostly by volunteers.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 19, 2015, Phil Holmes writes about the many different and diverse Fremont's. John C. Fremont did camp at Mission San Jose and he tried to purchase land here, but was called away and asked one of his trusted aides to purchase the land. The aide purchased land in Calaveras area because he thought it was better than the swamps here in Mission San Jose. Much of our Western history and names is due to John C. Fremont.

TRI-CITY VOICE, May 19, 2015, Posters and Slogans promote water conservation at an Alameda County Water Board of Directors meeting. John Weed and Paul Sethy are both pictured on the board recognizing the students getting these awards. They reported that there were 1,600 entries from first through sixth grades in 200 classrooms and 43 schools in Fremont, Newark and Union City all participated in this event.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 2, 2015, Rena Kiehn writes about Charlie Chaplin Days at the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum. It was 100 years ago when Charlie Chaplin was here making movies and establishing some of his trademark images. He made movies both here in the Niles area and in Golden Gate Park using Essanay cameramen. Charlie made 14 films with Essanay and then went to Southern California to work.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 2, 2015, Timothy Swenson writes about providing a tour of the Centerville area. The tour started and ended at Holy Spirit Church walking North along Fremont Boulevard talking about the buildings on the west side of the road, then at Thornton they turned around and started back talking about the buildings on the East side of the road. This was the first time this tour was given and had about 20 people who enjoyed this tour.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 9, 2015, Pat Kites reports on how well her fig tree is doing this year. She reports that figs go back to the time of Adam and Eve, when they discovered they were naked and used the fig leaves to cover themselves. She reports that there are many varieties of figs and that they can be eaten either fresh or dried. She reports on several old recipes that use figs. She finishes by saying, "A fig isn't just a fruit, and it is an historical taste treat."

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 16, 2015, Fremont Cultural Arts Council, Induz and Fremont Main Library held a student art exhibit at the Fremont Main Library. The students made art typical of the various countries of the world and when they completed each country they were given a "passport" stamp that they had represented the art of that country. It was a way to introduce the children to the cultures of other countries. Al Minard attended the show at the Library and found it both interesting and fun.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 23, 2015, Hayward Area Historical Society celebrates the first year in their new building. The anniversary celebration took place June 27, 2015. This is a great museum with a wonderful children's area and rotating exhibits.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 23, 2015, Vintage Court senior apartments in Union City had a water conservation festival to show everyone how to conserve water.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 23, 2015, Alameda County is holding public meeting to get input on a multi use trail through Niles Canyon.

TRI-CITY VOICE, June 30, 2015, Senator Wieckowski honored Maureen Langenbach for a piece of art that will be displayed on the third floor of the Capital building celebrating contemporary California and reflect the state;s rich diversity, culture, and its spectacular natural beauty.

FREMONT BULLETIN, July 3, 2015, has a picture of Al Minard riding in the George Roeding III, 1921 Niles Fire truck in last year’s parade with the caption, “Al Minard of Washington Township Historical Society embodies the Patriotic spirit of the Fremont Fourth of July Parade in 2014.”

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 7, 2015, Phil Holmes writes about the women in Washington Township. He mentions many of the early pioneer women. Most of the early women, although they did wonderful things, were not recognized for their work until after 1911 when women got the right to vote in California.

TRI-CITY VOICE, July 7, 2015, Pat Kite writes about growing cucumbers . She mentions that cucumbers have long been known for their cooling properties. There are many varieties and most will grow in this area.



Allen and Judy Sprague, ready to enjoy the Fremont Fourth of July Parade.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES SINCE OUR LAST MEETING

David & Fatima Bettencourt, John and Joanne Landers, John and Carolyn Watson, Gera Jesse, David Schipul, and John Weed

We thank you for paying your dues in a timely manner, it is our major source of income.

.....
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

The Mail Bag

Union City Historical Museum, Vol 18, No. 1, Reports that the 89th annual Holy Ghost Festival was held on May 3, 2015. Alvarado Elementary School 4th grade held their history day at the Union City Historical Museum on June 4, 2015. There was also an article by Anthony Gualco on Harry Searles in this edition.

Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Reporter, informs everyone about their annual Victorian Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 19, 2015 from Noon to 4 PM at the historic Shinn Park at 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont. They also report on the Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park on Sunday, September 20, 2015. There is also an article on the Transition Team and their work on the Bylaws and other things for the merging of all three historic organizations into one.

League of Volunteers has their LOV Notes, May-June 2015. They report on the 35th annual Summer Recreation Program times. They also remind us that this is the 27th season for the Summer Concerts series in the park in Newark

Berkeley City Club Conservancy Newsletter, gives us the news from the Castle. They report on Julia Morgan who built a building for a moral/safe haven for the expected 1,000 women who would be working at the fair. All of the money raised from this event was to go to the YWCA at Asilomar. The number of women who attended the fair was nearly 3,000 and another building was built, called "The Little House of Friendliness". There is also an article about an introduction to the Willers, Norma & Witold, who were docents at the Berkley City Club and the pool that Witold liked to swim.

History Day, 2015

California held their annual History Day competition in Rocklin at the William Jessup University on May 8 and 9th, 2015. Washington Township had many students from Fremont enter the competition in Rocklin. We had one winner who went on to Kenneth E. Behring, National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland, in College Park, Maryland. Washington Township also had two entries that were runner-ups in case one of the winners could not make the competition. The theme for this past year's contest was Leadership & Legacy in History.

The winner was an Individual Website by Katrina Cherk, a student at Mission San Jose High School, her entry was titled, "Leadership Gone Terribly Right: The Story of J.R. Oppenheimer's Legacy."

The Runner-ups are:

1. Group Documentary by Andrew Choi, Christina Di, and Max Wu, students at Mission San Jose High School. The title of their documentary was, "Park Chung Hee: Leadership and Legacy."
2. An Individual Performance by Anu Asokan, a student at Mission San Jose High School. Her performance was titled, "J. Robert Oppenheimer."

I do not have any of these entries to show you but I do have some other documentaries on California History that I think you will find interesting. I plan on showing these documentaries at the November meeting of Washington Township Historical Society.

Transition Committee

The Transition committee includes: Joan Serafino, Michi Yee, Sandra Woehl, Al Minard, Bruce Hevelin, Tim Swenson, Gil Garza, Jim Griffin, Ed Pentaleri, David Kiehn and is chaired by Lila Bringham. We have been meeting on a monthly basis or less and are currently working on the Bylaws for the new historical society. We have decided on a tentative name for this organization which is: "**The Historical Society of Fremont, Newark and Union City**". We have pretty much decided on electing a board of directors who will make all decisions for the organization. The membership will elect about one-half of the directors each year and will also approve the Bylaws and any amendments to the Bylaws. When the committee finishes working on the Bylaws, we will refer the document to an attorney, who is a non-profit specialist, to review, who we hope will make suggestions for making Bylaws legal and representative of the organization. We will give the Bylaws to the attorney soon.

All of the members of Washington Township Historical Society, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, and The Museum of Local History Guild, will have to vote whether or not to join this new organization. The current Bylaws of Washington Township Historical Society

does not have a requirement for the membership to vote for the dissolution of the current organization. Mission Peak Heritage Foundation does not have this requirement either. The Museum of Local History Guild does have this requirement in their bylaws and have already voted to dissolve the Museum of Local History Guild and to merge with the new organization. There has been very little discussion about how the voting for directors or approval of the Bylaws will happen. Will the membership of Wahington Township Historical Society vote for or against approval of the Bylaws of the new organization and will an affirmative vote mean that Washington Township Historical Society will no longer exist and that they are joining the Historical Society of Fremont, Newark and Union City? Or will all of the members of all three organizations as a whole for or against approval of the Bylaws? Many of the members are also members of one of the other organizations, will they get one vote for each organization that they belong to?

The Board of Directors will be chosen by the membership of all three organizations at the first election and will probably be about nine members on the Board of Directors. Some of the committee wants more directors, some want less. The directors will elect the officers of the new historical society, which will be President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer, there will also be about five directors at large. There is general consensus that each director will serve on one or more of the committees, which will be established by the Board of Directors. At this time we are not planning to have a paid Executive Director, however we expect that in the near future we will need such a person and we are trying to allow for that in the Bylaws.

The transition committee has not discussed the money issue. The three organizations together have about \$100,000 in their separate checking accounts and in Certificates of Deposit. The committee has discussed having one or more checking accounts that are separate, because some of the funds that each organization has was designated for a specific purpose and that will continue until that purpose is completed or the funds are exhausted. I think most of the committee agrees with a single membership that goes into a general fund for Newsletters, and other things that include all members of the new organization. What has not been discussed at any length is what happens to the money that each entity earns. Will all of the money earned from tours, gift shop sales and book sales all go into the general fund of the new organization or will all of it go into each entities funds or

will there be a percentage that goes into the general fund and if a percentage, how much?

The general plan of the transition committee is that we need a larger and more powerful organization that is united in its efforts to preserve the history of the Washington Township area of Alameda County which includes the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. There is general consensus that we need a larger museum and the City of Fremont has allocated space at the California Nursery for a 9,000 square foot museum that may cost several million dollars to build. The City of Newark has a large building that needs some seismic retrofit that has been designated as historic museum space for Newark. All of these things require lots of money and everyone is hoping that this new historical organization will be able to generate those funds. We will be looking at all kinds of fund raising activities including grants, donations, tours, teas and anything else we think will generate the necessary funds.

Everyone should expect to be able to vote to approve the Bylaws of the Historic Society of Fremont, Newark and Union City, probably this fall. Everyone will be expected to submit names for the Board of Directors and to vote for them also probably this fall. The Bylaws as currently written have the five highest vote getters elected to a two year term on the Board and the next four highest vote getters will be elected to a one year term as a director. After this first election all elected directors will serve for two year terms. The officers of the Board will be elected every year from the Board of Directors. A person can be serve in the same office (president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer) for four years. That director will then be eligible for any other position on the board, if elected or appointed to the Board. Members of the Board of Directors can be re-elected for five consecutive terms (ten years), then must sit out for two years before being able to run again.

The Transition Committee has been working hard on all of these thorny questions. We have tried to keep everyone informed about current developments and including all of the members in our decisions. If you have questions or comments about this new historic organization please contact one of the transition committee members. We welcome your input.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 27, 2015, 7:15 - 9 PM, Washington Township Historical Society will meet at the Museum of Local History with Jim Griffin as our featured speaker. Everyone Welcome.

There are many events in the Bay Area based on the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915. Go to “www.PPIE100.org” for more details and events in the area.

Sunday, July 19, 2015, From Noon to 4 PM, The Shinn House Victorian Ice Cream Social.

Tuesday, August 4, 2015, 7 - 9 PM, National Neighborhood Night out.

Friday, August 21, 2015, 12 Noon, Shinn House Tea featuring the U.S.S. Potomac berthed at Jack London Square in Oakland

Monday, September 28, 2015, 7 - 9 PM, Washington Township Historical Society meeting at the Fremont Main Library on Stevenson featuring Anthony Gualco on Union City.

Sunday, September 20, 2015, from 10 AM to 4 PM, Arts and Crafts in Shinn Park

