

Washington Township Historical



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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014 TIME: 7:15 PM
PLACE: MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST, FREMONT

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie, Gil Garza and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am sure that I speak for all of the members when I wish the best for Regena Dennie. She has been one of the often unsung major wheels at Washington Township Historical Society. We have tried to divide up the work that she did and we have three people working on it and we are getting close to doing what she did. We had a number of speakers on the list for our March meeting and they seemed to decide to all leave town. Fortunately, History Day for Alameda County was on March 15, at the Oakland Museum. I was able to judge junior high documentaries again this year and since I am writing this before the competition, I do not know if I will be successful but I am trying to bring either a documentary or a museum exhibit from Alameda County to our WTHS meeting on Monday, March 24. After our last WTHS meeting, I went into the Fremont Unified School District offices and spoke with a person about teacher compensation for History Day. I was told that compensation is available if they fill out a report. I then said that what I really wanted was for more students to get involved with History Day and she contacted Mr. Maxwell who set me up to meet with Social Studies administrators with the various schools. I met with them Wednesday, March 12 and I think it was a good meeting. I will provide more details and more information about History Day at our Washington Township Historical Society meeting on Monday, March 24. I hope to see you all there at this meeting.

Al Minard

OUR MARCH SPEAKER IS AL MINARD

Al recently contacted the Fremont Unified School District and was invited to speak about History Day to the Social Studies administrators of the Junior and Senior high schools. On Saturday, March 15, Al was one of the judges at History Day for Alameda County, held in the Oakland Museum. He will speak of these experiences and is trying to get a Documentary on the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989.

Al also attended a meeting of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This is a Federal Commission that reports directly to the President of the United States and to Congress. We met in Oakland on the Post office closures and sales. Al did speak but was one of many. The sale of historic post office buildings has been temporarily stopped by Congress, but the United States Postal Service is determined to sell these buildings. It was a 3-hour hearing.

Al and several other members of Washington Township attended the Conference of California Historical Societies meeting in Napa, and can also report on this symposium.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, January 21, 2014, **Paul Sethy**, Board President of the Alameda County Water District, states that ACWD is taking this third dry year very seriously. Paul says that “our water conservation efforts in the past have really helped lessen the impacts of dry conditions. We need to continue these habits and developing new ones will be critical this year.”

Tri-City Voice, January 21, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes, “History Column: A Lady Visits Mission San Jose”. “Eliza Farnham, a widow, came round the horn in 1850 to take charge of a farm near Santa Cruz... She plowed, planted, hammered and performed whatever tasks were necessary to build a home in the Santa Cruz wilderness... She rode horseback about the country...made notes about the crude, barbaric activities of men in early California Society.” She later wrote a book on these observations titled, “In Doors and Out”.

Tri-City Voice, February 4, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes, “History: Lost Vineyards of Washington Township”. Phil reports that the 1893 report states that Mission San Jose produces the most wine of any area in Washington Township. There were 33 vineyards producing wine from 680 acres of vineyards. The vineyards ranged from small ones of one acre up to the Gallegos vineyard of 600 acres.

Tri-City Voice, February 11, 2014, **Carol Zilli**, reports on the Red Grammer Concert. Red Grammer is considered the best voice in Children’s music. His concert was a fund raiser for Music For Minor II, which trains docents to provide weekly music lessons for children in the schools.

Tri-City Voice, February 11, 2014, **Pat Kite’s Garden** tells us that it is time to prune our roses. Pat says that you need to cut out dead branches, and open the center for more light to get into the plant to encourage more rose growth. She says that you can do it all at once or a little at a time, but do not take too long.

Tri-City Voice, February 11, 2014, **Dr. Joyce Blueford**, of the Math/Science Nucleus Museum in Fremont brought some Irvington Fossils to the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley at their 3-day show and sale. Dr. Blueford’s Fossils was the highlight of this show.

Tri-City Voice, March 4, 2014, **Dorothy Bradley** president of the Niles Silent Film Museum in Niles reports on “not so silent Saturday Night” at the silent films in Niles with the piano players playing music to accompany the action on the screen and not having a score to follow.

Tri-City Voice, March 4, 2014, **Dr. Joyce Blueford**, president of the Math/Science Nucleus Museum, led a walk on March 8, 2014, that followed the Hayward Fault. She was joined by the United States Geological Survey team and City of Fremont. This was a one-mile walk that followed the path of the Hayward Fault through Fremont.

Tri-City Voice, March 4, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes, “History Column: City Beautiful Committee”. Phil reports on minutes that go back to 1961. The City Council decided that it would be helpful to have an advisory committee to assist them protecting and developing their city. They also set up a Tree Preservation Ordinance that designates Landmark trees. Ted Harpainter said, “No place is complete without trees, a home without trees is charmless, a street without trees is shapeless, a park without trees is purposeless and a country without trees is hopeless.”

Tri-City Voice, March 11, 2014, **Pat Kite’s Garden** reports on Garden Superstitions. Pat admits to being a somewhat superstitious person and she reported on what the plant reference books have to say about assorted fruit and vegetable superstitions. She reports that Carrots are not only a love potion, but also eating them makes one sexier.

FROM THE MAIL BAG

We received the "Love Notes" Newsletter for January – February 2014, from the League of Volunteers. They highlighted their Thanksgiving and Christmas events as well as their Volunteer's luncheon volunteers.

We received the Mission Peak Reporter, newsletter for January – March 2014, from Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. The newsletter provided a calendar of events at the Shinn House and had an article about the Watermelon War in Panama in 1856.

We received the Alameda Museum Quarterly, Issue No. 1, Winter 2014. They reported that the Meyer's House Museum is now open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. They also have weekly history lectures in the museum.

We received the "Club Car" the newsletter for the Pacific Locomotive Association, for February 2014. They reported on an interesting event. Pacific Locomotive Association purchased some years ago, a SP-9010 locomotive that was specially designed for high traction. The original drive had been removed and Pacific Locomotive Association thought that was the end of the story. Then they heard from a friend in Germany that 10 trucks had been shipped back to them from the SP scrap yard. They found the original trucks in Paris, France and put in a bid for them. Their bid was accepted but when they were inspected by a friend in the UK, they found they were not complete. Paris gave them two trucks with some extra parts at the bid price and all of this has now arrived in Sunol.

WALKING TOURS

Local historian, Timothy Swenson, will host a historical walking tour starting at 11 AM, Saturday, March 29, 2014. The tour will take about 90 minutes and will cover about 1/2 mile of Old Alvarado. Meet at the parking lot of Alvarado Elementary School. The tour is free, a hard copy of the tour book is \$3.

Caroline Harris will lead a walking tour of Irvington, Fremont on May 19th, Meet at Irvington Plaza Park at 5 corners where Washington and Fremont Boulevards intersect at 11AM. The tour will last about 1.5 hours with 45 minutes of easy walking between historical buildings, homes and sites covering 200 + years of history. Homework quiz, why are these streets so named: Bay St., Union St., Lincoln St., Washington Blvd., Fremont Blvd.

Members Who Have Paid their Dues Since our Last Meeting.

A big thank you to all of our renewing members. We thank you for continuing to support the Washington Township Historical Society and also for being prompt.

Jean Messick, Katie Janssen, Donald R. Barsi, Dan Mosier, Bernardine & Marlene Leal, Paul & Berenice Sethy, Ardis L. Edwards, Michel R. Harris, Kathleen A. Schuler, Betty E. McCoy, Patricia A. Bagwell, John G. Barr Jr. & Rose Barr, Tim Swenson, James Griffin, Kathleen & Brian O'Conner, Bruce B. Roeding, Patricia & Robert Lacy, Frank & Linda Freitas, Robert & Nancy Margherita, Gerald & Nancy Lorigan, B. J. Bunting, and Nabil Matt

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FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

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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

ARTS & CRAFTS IN SHINN PARK

1251 Peralta Boulevard, near Mowry in Fremont.



**SUNDAY,
MAY 18, 2014
10 am. to 4 pm.**

May 19, 2014, the gardens at Shinn Historical Park are in full bloom and very beautiful. We will have Local Artists display, demonstrate and sell their art work. There will be some historic crafts people that may have some of their work for sale. We plan on having Music For Minors II, another musical group, Square Dancers and the Nour El Ain Belly Dancers to entertain you. We will be selling hot dogs, popcorn, sodas, water and tours of the historic Shinn House. We will have other historical organizations here telling about their organization and maybe asking you to try to identify an object.

FREE Admission to the grounds.

No Charge for enjoying the art, music, dancing or view.

Historic Shinn House tours are \$5 adults, \$2.50 for children age 5-12, Free under 5

Hot dogs, popcorn, soda and water will be very reasonably priced.

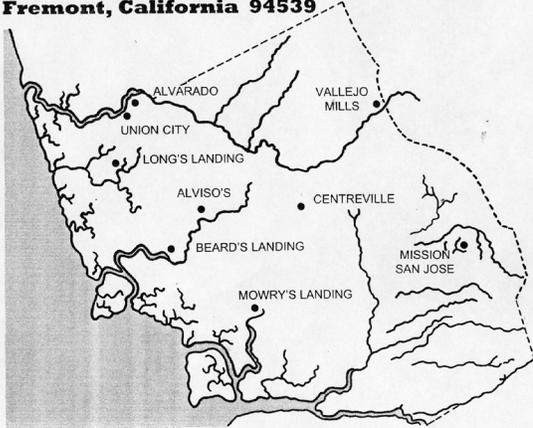
We ask you to come out and enjoy this wonderful park, to look at the Art and if you like it, purchase it, Tour the House, enjoy the music and dancing. We ask only for you to have a great time at a wonderful park.

This event is sponsored by the Fremont Cultural Arts Council, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, The Fremont Art Association, Boy Scout Troop 447. Profits will be used for historical preservation and restoration by Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. Mission Peak Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information contact Al Minard at: (510) 552-4839

or e-mail: "Alminard@comcast.net"

**Washington Township Historical Society
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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 1853 - 2003