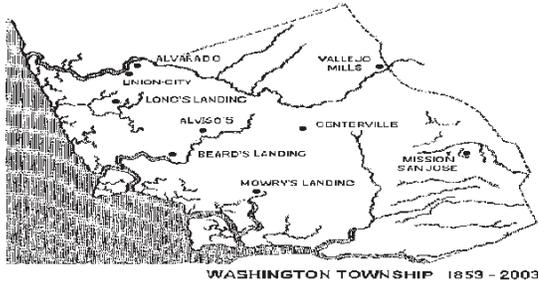


Washington Township Historical



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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014 TIME: 7:15 PM

PLACE: IOOF (Oddfellows) Hall, 40955 Fremont Blvd., 2nd Floor, Fremont

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Gil Garza and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holiday greetings to all of the members and friends of Washington Township Historical Society. Someone said that life is like a roll of toilet paper the closer you get to the end the faster it goes. I know that it just seems like yesterday when we were wishing in the New Year and now it is almost gone. This is the last newsletter for this year and I wish everyone a pleasant, healthy and safe holiday season. This is a time when families get together and everyone should spend some time with their family, because we do not know how much longer we will have to enjoy them and for them to enjoy us.

Big News with the Historical Society is the potential merger with The Museum of Local History and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. I think it is a good plan for Washington Township to join forces with the Museum of Local History. I believe that it will give us a little more political clout and we are certainly going to need that with the potential development of a museum at California Nursery. I am not sure that we will gain a lot of new members like some of the proponents of this plan expect, but it will give us a guarantee of having a building to meet in. There is a larger article in this newsletter giving more details. Please read it.

We will be meeting on November 24, 2014, at 7:15 PM, at the Irvington IOOF (Odd Fellows) hall on Fremont Boulevard just west of five corners. The meeting is upstairs and they do have an elevator. This meeting will discuss the pros and cons of merging, joining forces or what ever you call the combining of Washington Township Historical Society with the Museum of Local History and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation.

Al Minard

Nancy Johnson, a member of the Odd Fellows in the Irvington District of Fremont has invited us to hold our meeting in the ODD FELLOWS Hall, on November 24, 2014 starting at 7:15 PM.

The location is 40955 Fremont Blvd, it is about three doors to the west of Clark Hall near the corner of Fremont and Washington Blvd.

This is an important meeting to ask and answer questions about the possible merger of Washington Township Historical Society, The Museum of History Guild and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. The meeting is upstairs but there is an elevator.

Please join us for this very important meeting.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, September 30, 2014, Obituary of **Velma Telles Valencia**, long time member of Washington Township Historical Society and was raised in her family home on Telles Lane in Mission San Jose. She was very proud of her Portuguese heritage. She passed away on September 26, 2014 at 86 years of age.

Tri-City Voice, September 30, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes about the Stock Market Crash of 1929-1930. The area was showing lots of growth with Pacific Gas and Electric putting in a substation, Newark with salt, the railroad and the foundry. The population of all of Washington Township in 1930 was only 12,705 people.

Tri-City Voice, October 7, 2014, County Supervisor Scott Haggerty praised the completion of the Walnut Avenue Overpass saying that this bridge connects the past to the future. **Andy Galvan** and other dignitaries were there to comment on the completion of this bridge for the future development of BART to San Jose.

Tri-City Voice, October 7, 2014, **Pat Kite** writes about Canada Geese, Pat says that Geese fly in the 'V' formation with one leader that switches off and goes to the back of the V to rest. They can fly as far as 1,000 miles in a day. Canada Geese mate for life and the males are quite protective of their family.

Tri-City Voice, October 14, 2014, **Joan Serafino** writes about the annual Paint Your Pumpkin event at Shinn Park. This is an event for children and young families to select a pumpkin, draw on it for a prize or wear a costume to win a medal. There are children's games, tours of the Shinn house, food and a beautiful park to enjoy.

Tri-City Voice, October 14, 2014, Linette Young writes about Seniors Night Out providing a memorable night out for Tri-City seniors for over 21 years. The article includes a picture with **Michi Yee**.

Tri-City Voice, October 21, 2014, **Paul Sethey** writes about the Shinn Historical Park and Arboretum and Joseph Shinn's involvement with the forming of the Alameda County Water District. This is a good brief history of the Shinn family.

Tri-City Voice, October 28, 2014, **Phil Holmes** writes about the year 1932, Prohibition continued to be a problem of enforcement, Mountain lions were killing cattle and sheep, and huge crowds attended the annual California Nursery Open House the first two weeks of April.

Tri-City Voice, October 28, 2014, **Gil Garza**, president of the Museum of Local History reported that they recently applied for and won a \$5,000 matching grant for processing, digitizing and archiving collections at the Museum. This has been designated the **Regena Dennie Fund** in honor of Regena who recently passed away.

Tri-City Voice, October 28, 2014, **Timothy Swenson** writes a letter to the editor about measure KK on the November ballot. He is opposed to the development of housing on the flat lands in front of the Masonic Home which KK would allow.

Tri-City Voice, October 28, 2014, William Marshak writes about the great story of the proposed development of the California Nursery. Twenty acres are the heart of this story with many old buildings and even older trees. This has many people working to make this park a special place in Fremont including the City of Fremont Parks and Recreation Department, Joyce Blueford and the Math Science Nucleus Museum, LEAF and many local historical organizations. Much of the preservation is because of what the **Roeding family** preserved and are now willing to share with the world.

Tri-City Voice, November 11, 2014, Johanna M. Laird writes about the Friends of Heirloom Flowers that maintain the gardens at Shinn Park. This is the 20-year anniversary of this group that was founded by **Eva Ricciarelli** a long time member of Washington Township Historical Society, who passed away a year ago. The garden club members say this is better than joining a gym, because it costs less and gives you a better feeling.

Tri-City Voice, November 11, 2014, Arathi Satish, writes about the Fremont Cultural Arts Council's Flash Fiction Writing Contest recently held at Half Price Books at the Fremont Hub. Arathi credits **Al Minard** for being one of the organizers of this event.

Tri-City Voice, November 11, 2014, **Pat Kite** writes about using Rosemary for Ground cover. Pat says that Rosemary comes in many varieties some as tall as six-feet but most about one to two feet tall. Rosemary attracts hummingbirds, is very attractive and is drought tolerant.

Regena Anita Schneider Dennie

Dec 15, 1930 to Sept 12, 2014

A resident of Mission San Jose all her life, Regena Anita Schneider Dennie passed away peacefully from complications of cancer on

9/12/2014. Her family was by her side. Regena had lived most of her life in the same house, was a good neighbor who had deep roots in the community and was an active participant in many local organizations. Regena was born at the Silva Maternity home on Dec 15, 1930 in Niles, Calif. Her parents Alois Schneider and Maria Wiest Schneider emigrated from Germany in the 1920s. She grew up in Mission San Jose and graduated from Washington Union High School as did her younger siblings Cecilia, Carl, and Rosemarie. She married Leo Robert Dennie in 1954 and had 2 children, Patricia Ann and Susan Marie, who predeceased her mother 2008. After her husband, Leo, passed away in 1963 Regena started work at Sears and Roebuck Co. at the Fremont Hub and retired after 35 years. Regena played the organ at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She was deeply involved in local history and worked hard for the Committee to Restore Mission San Jose and was active as a docent



at the old mission where she conducted tours. She also helped establish the Museum of Local History and gave tours to 3rd grade classes. Regena was a member of the Washington Township Historical Society and AARP. Her love of history got her involved playing the pump organ at the Patterson House (She had 'groupies'). She was a faithful member of the Catholic Daughters of America (Court Father Francisco DeLasuen, No

1508) and was presented with her 65 year pin in April 2014. Regena got the ball rolling for the National Night Out LeMarc St neighborhood get-together which has been declared to be one of the best parties in Fremont. Regena was a positive force in the lives of her 3 grandchildren, Lindsey Schuck, Robert Lacy, and Cameron Sherman - helping out at school, with homework, and taking care of them during school holidays. Regena had a loving heart, a ready smile, and a ready hand. She taught her two girls that if you want something done ask a busy woman. So it is not surprising that if you needed a rocky road cake or brownies for a bake sale, a ride to a doctor appointment, or even a pint of blood she was there for you. Regena loved her garden, daily Mass, meals out with friends, and day trips with her family. Regena is survived by her daughter, Patricia, who called her mom her 'She-ro'. Her grandchildren and younger siblings Cecilia Costa, Carl Schneider, and Rosemarie Olsen, their spouses, and all her wonderful nephews, nieces, great nephews and great nieces.

She will be terribly missed by them and all her many friends. A celebration of her life will be held 11 AM Friday, September 26th at St. Joseph Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sisters of the Holy Family, The Dominican Sisters, the Museum of Local History, or Cancer Research. - See more at: <http://www.bergepappasmith.com/obituary/Regena-Dennie/Fremont-CA/1420210#sthash.obVjfhqb.dpuf>

.....
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

Merger between The Museum of Local History, Washington Township Historical Society and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation.

By Al Minard

Meeting to discuss this merger will be on Monday evening at 7:15 PM in the IOOF Hall, Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, near five corners in Irvington. The meeting will be held upstairs and there is an elevator so that no one has to climb the stairs. We invite everyone who has an interest in this merger either in favor of or against this merger to come out to this meeting and bring your questions and comments. If you cannot make the meeting send your comments to Al Minard by e-mail at "alminard@comcast.net" or by phone to Al at (510) 552-4839. If you do not attend or send comments we will assume that you support this merger.

The Museum of Local History was started almost 20 years ago and supported by both Washington Township Historical Society (WTHS) and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation (MPHF). Artifacts and volunteers from both organizations helped to start the Museum and then a few years later the museum applied for and received their own non-profit status. They now have about 100 members and their income comes from museum admissions, membership dues, grants and donations. They are actively archiving the history of Washington Township in print, photo, and artifacts. They have a larger collection than they can display even on a rotating exhibit format. They have several volunteers doing computer input and archival work. They print a quarterly newsletter.

Washington Township Historical Society was founded in 1954 and is the oldest surviving historical organization in the Tri-City area. They have a membership of almost 100 members. They have promoted the installation of plaques on historic sites, and a bimonthly meeting featuring a local historian telling about their individual history. They have worked with the Museum of Local History to provide tours of the Higuera Adobe. They own no buildings and only use the Museum of Local History building for their meetings. All of their artifacts are stored in the museum either donated or long term loan to the Museum. They have a \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit dedicated to the installation of plaques in Washington Township. Their income is mostly from annual membership dues and an occasional grant or donation. Their largest expense is the printing and mailing of their bimonthly newsletter, and the Liability Insurance. They also give a small gift card to non-member featured speakers at our bimonthly meeting.

Mission Peak Heritage Foundation (MPHF) was founded in 1972 by Dr. Robert Fisher to restore and preserve the historic buildings in the area. The buildings they have preserved include the Shinn House, the Patterson House, the Harvey House and the Higuera Adobe. Today they are mostly involved with the preservation and presentation of the Shinn House in Fremont. MPHF has the largest bank account checking and certificates of deposit total near \$50,000. Their income comes from Membership Dues, House tours, Special events, Teas, donations and the occasional grant. They have the largest expenses in paying for window shades, carpets and light bulbs inside the house. They have a few dedicated volunteers but need more docents. They publish a quarterly newsletter with at least two pages in color. They also have to pay Liability Insurance and membership in the Conference of California Historical Societies to be eligible for the liability insurance. They also provide lunch for the workers who decorate the house for Christmas and for Docent outings to other historical house museums.

I think the merger between the Museum of Local History(MLHG) and Washington Township Historical Society(WTHS) is a great idea. I am not so sure about joining with Mission Peak Heritage Foundation (MPHF) because they have a different agenda.

Here are my questions about why we should do this and some of my comments about the process.

1. The City of Fremont has invested over \$600,000 to study the development of the California Nursery, which at present is expected to allow for the construction of a 9,000 square feet museum, which we desperately need. Several people feel that the only way we can get enough clout to get this museum and the funds to build it is to merge so that we show a united front. My fear is that the City is good at dreaming and not so good at implementing these plans.

2. The plan is to have one organization as yet un-named to manage and coordinate all of the activities with chairpersons that will handle the day to day operation of the Shinn House, The Museum, the bimonthly speaker meetings, and probably one monthly newsletter. I think this part will work.
3. We will have to rewrite or create new by-laws for this new organization and get the government to approve the incorporation as well as the non-profit status. I am sure this is possible, but may need legal help.
4. One of the goals of this new organization is that we will be able to gain more members. Each one of the organizations has gained a few new members every year, just about balancing out those we loose. Will we gain a lot of new members, docents and volunteers to help us run this organization? I am not sure, I think we can but it will take a lot of work promoting this new organization.
5. How will we manage the money? Will we put it all in one big pot and designate it for special things like plaques, Shinn House Maintenance, Computer software for the museum, etc.? That will probably be the best plan, but it will be hard to monitor.
6. How will funds raised from Shinn House tours and Museum tours be handled, will each of them be designated to the organization that received the money? Probably the best plan.
7. If the City continues to support the building of a museum at the California Nursery will we be asked to raise all of the funds and if so how will we do this? Can we raise enough to build a 9,000 square foot building with all of the proper archival protecting equipment it will need? Maybe but again this will not be easy. Will it be easier with all of working together?, Yes definitely.
8. How many members will be on the new large organization Board? Will we have two or three from each organization, will we only have one from each and several at large members?
9. Many people have been talking about merging these three organizations together for some time, Is this the time?
10. Will we encourage other historical organizations to join us and if so how will that change the Board?
11. Printing a monthly newsletter will save some money but not much. The three organizations are printing smaller newsletters generally that total about 14 per year. A monthly newsletter will be larger to cover all events and parts should be in color because it makes it more attractive. If we can get the postal mailing over 200 on a regular basis we can mail it by bulk mail which will be a sizable saving.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY PAID THEIR DUES

Knute Furtado and Janet Cronbach have paid their dues.

Thank You.

From the Mail bag

The folowing organizations have sent their regular newsletters to us for information on the events and happenings at their facilites. We will have them available for you to read at the Meeting on November 24.

League of Volunteers (LOV) sent their bi-monthly newsletter

Mission Peak Reporter sent their quarterly newsletter

The Union City Historical Museum sent their quarterly newsletter

Berkeley City Club Conservancy: News from the Castle a quarterly newsletter

Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly

MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY GUILD
190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



From the Tri-City Voice 10/28/2014

Gil Garza, president of the Museum of Local History Guild, was delighted recently with the news that the Guild will be the recipient of a \$5,000 matching grant from the Despeaux Good Works Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation. The money will be used for processing, digitizing and archiving collections at the museum.

"This is a matching grant," said Garza. "We need to raise \$5,000 from local residents and small businesses in order to receive the grant."

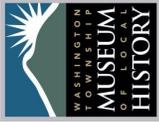
Regena Dennie, a charter member and long-time board member, recently passed away. Her family and the museum board have created a memorial fund in her honor, with a goal of raising money to match the grant.

Harriet Despeaux, a Fremont philanthropist who died in 2011, left a substantial estate to be administered by the EBCF for grants to non-profit organizations in the Tri-City area. The current round of grants focuses on local non-profits who work in the fields of education, environment, social services and health.

"We are honored to support the Museum of Local History. When we can leverage the gift of one donor to attract additional support for a project, that deepens the power of giving," said Nicole Kyauk, Philanthropic Advisor at the EBCF. "The Despeaux fund will continue to focus its work to benefit the Tri-City area."

The museum has several collections that need to be processed. "Local residents stop by regularly to donate family heirlooms and items of interest," said museum volunteer curator, Patricia Schaffarczyk. "With this grant we can hire someone so the work can be completed and more readily available to students and researchers"

Donations should be made to the Museum of Local History Guild, for the Regena Dennie Memorial Fund. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays and the second Saturday and Sunday of each month.



Regena Dennie Memorial Fund

You are invited to contribute to the Regena Dennie Memorial Fund at the Museum of Local History, which focuses on Washington Township.

Regena was a charter member of the Museum of Local History Guild. She led the docent program for many years and served on the Board of Directors until she took a leave of absence because of her illness.

The museum was recently awarded a \$5,000 matching grant from the Despeaux Good Works Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation. Regena's family encourages you to donate generously to help raise \$5,000 to match this grant.

The money will be used to help process, digitize and index significant collections at the museum and make them more readily available to students and researchers.

Donation to the Regena Dennie Memorial Fund

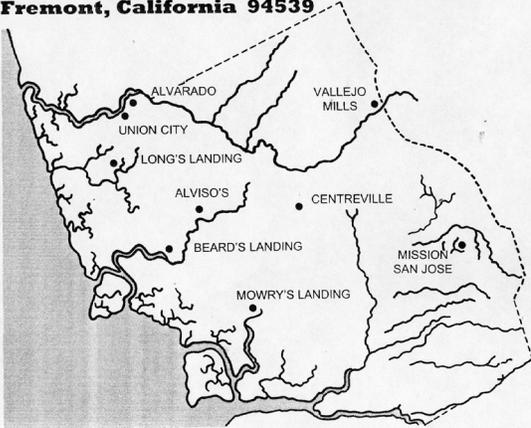
Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

\$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____
 \$150 _____ Other _____

Please make your donation to the Museum of Local History: 190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539

For more information please call
 (510) 677-8461 or (510) 909-5854

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



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 1853 - 2003