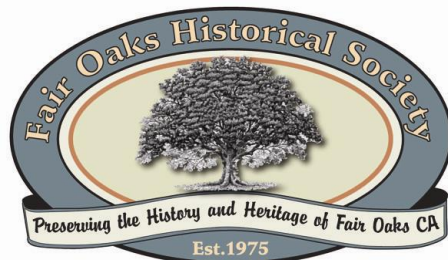


# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

*Newsletter – January 2017*

Issue Number 120



[www.fairoakshistory.org](http://www.fairoakshistory.org)

## **QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING**

**6 p.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2017**

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

*Please bring a main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share.*

## **“Volunteers Who Support The American River”**

**Warren Truitt, Vice President, Save the American River Assn.**

### **President’s Message**

**Frank Wolfe**

Where did 2016 go? Just the other day Eleanor Brown inducted me and your other officers— Now we’re ready to do it again.

We’ve had a great year. We are blessed with many very capable volunteers, and if I tried to name each of you, I would surely miss someone. But, month-in and month-out you stepped forward to do what needed to be done. Thank you all for that.

This year we have a new task— Although the Society is a non-profit organization, it is not officially structured as a “charitable” non-profit. The Board has determined that our Society meets the IRS criteria as a charitable non-profit and would benefit from this designation. We are working on the necessary paperwork and revisions to our bylaws to facilitate this. We will be seeking a general membership vote of approval at the January meeting in order to proceed. Please read more about this on page 9.

As we consider the Society's purpose, I wanted to share this from the Pine Grove Historical Society (in the small Pennsylvania town where I grew up):

*“A historical society... chronicles the history of a community... gather(s) artifacts for preservation and display, provide(s) educational programming about the history of an area, research(s) family histories, offer(s) publications featuring its archives and artifacts collections as well as the community's historical places and people, and record(s) historical events (to) be passed from generation to generation... Members are the lifeblood of the Society, and volunteers are always needed to help...”*

I pointed this out to show that there are many of us throughout the country working to preserve local history— an effort heavily reliant on volunteers. Before this year, I wasn't that active, but this year has really showed me the value of getting involved. I have enjoyed it and so will you. So, contact any committee chair or officer and jump in.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for working with me as your president in 2016 and also for allowing me to continue in 2017.

## **January 24<sup>th</sup> Program**

**Ron Lingren**

The speaker will be Warren Truitt, vice president of the Save the American River Association, who will talk about the various groups that are committed to the Parkway and the River.

## **What's happening...**

**Jim Pearce**

### ***At the History Center...***

Our docent, Jean Cress Black, has left us for a position as a docent at the Sacramento History Museum in Old Town Sacramento. Better pay, more hours and only five minutes from her house. Who could refuse? We wish her well.

To replace Jean we've hired Lily Rodriguez Drake, a history major in college, who lives only a few blocks from our History Center. We've reduced our days to Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Drop in and say hello.

Christmas Open House at the History Center was a big success. Thirty three individuals or families dropped in to sample the warm cider and cookies, see the latest additions, and enjoy great conversation. We were having so much fun we forgot to take photos.

## ***Membership...***

It's membership renewal time. Be sure to send in your renewal form (cover page of this newsletter or available online). Join or renew at the meeting or at the History Center.

There are three new contribution levels to give extra support to the History Center:

***Contributor (\$100), Supporter (\$250) and Patron (\$500)***

These are particularly appropriate for life members and others who want to ensure the continued success of the Center. We will recognize your support in the newsletter and online. Recent contributors are ***Frank Wolfe*** and ***Jim Pearce***.

## ***Outreach Presentations...***

Jim Pearce gave a presentation on early Fair Oaks history at the November meeting of ***Sacramento Valley SERTOMA***, the local branch of ***SER***vice ***TO MAn***kind, a group that provides assistance for the hearing impaired. He'll also speak at the February meeting of the ***Woman's Thursday Club*** on a new and surprise subject .



## ***Soup Night Bowls...***

Hang on to those soup night bowls. They may be worth a fortune. This note from Don Yost, "An interesting sideline—in the vein of self promotion I entered a ceramics piece in the KVIE auction. It won the curators award. It was the most bid on item during preview night, and it sold for five times the asking price.



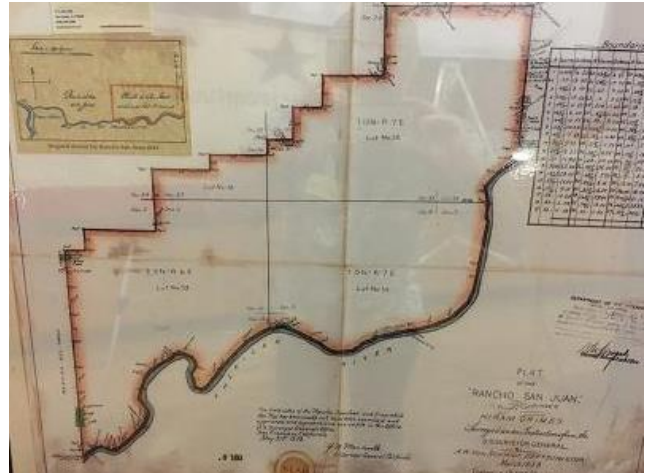
## ***Moonrise...***

[www.marilynsweb.org/moon1.htm](http://www.marilynsweb.org/moon1.htm)

For many years, Jim Pearce and Cheri Fuller have posted around town the ***Moonrise at the Fair Oaks Bridge*** schedule. This somewhat historic event has been celebrated for about 45 years. This year we posted the schedule on the ***I Love Fair Oaks 95628*** Facebook page, and quickly got 117 "thumbs-up" and 17 "shares."

# Photo Highlights from our October General Meeting:

## Secrets of Early Sacramento Mark Davidson



## Taking a rare break from the kitchen:



Warren and Judy Blomquist

### Memorial and Honor Book

A contribution to the Fair Oaks Historical Society is a very special way to remember those who have passed away or to honor someone for a special event or tribute. The names of those remembered or honored (stating the special event or tribute) are printed in the Memorial and Honor Book which is permanently on display at the History Center.

Recognition of each contribution also will be printed in the newsletter. The amount of the contribution will not be printed in the book or the newsletter.



You can download the recognition/contribution form from our website or pick one up at at the History Center or the quarterly general meeting. You can also contact Jim Pearce (916-961-8415 or [jpearce4104@gmail.com](mailto:jpearce4104@gmail.com)) for the form or for assistance.

The Society has received contributions from the Frazier family in memory of Katherine Netherton and Donald Potter, and from Frank Wolfe in memory of Judy Wolfe.



## **Soup Night 2016**

**Claudia Thorn, Chair**

Though we are still working on the numbers, it looks like we made a little over \$9,000. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make this event successful.

A huge thank you to Don Yost who continues to make the wonderful soup bowls. Please thank Sharise Dianda of Dianda's for the yummy clam chowder she donated. Thank you also to the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District and the Bella Vista Interact Club for their assistance and support. And, thanks Fair Oaks Rotary for loaning us the wine glasses that added a nice touch of class to the event.

Special thanks to the Soup Night Committee members who have been meeting all year to coordinate a wonderful event. Please take a moment to personally thank these people:

**Soup Chair:** Lynn Steen.

**Soup Chefs:** Michelle Winters, Jeanne Rodgers, Rlee Pettingell, Rachel Griffith (Honorary Mayor)

**Set-Up & Signage:** Bobbi Salzman, Pete White & Nancy Hill

**Coffee:** Ron & Franca Lingren

**Salad Chefs:** Jo Russler, Carol Crowthers

**Biscotti:** Franca Lingren

**Cookies:** Salli Miller

**Wine:** Bob & Pat Vogel

**Bread:** Janet & Warren McWilliams

**Silent Auction & Raffle:** Trude Peterson Vasquez, Janet McWilliams, Vicki Walter

**Live Auction:** Pete Schroeder

**Volunteers:** Victoria Soldano

**Tickets:** Claudia Thorn & Bob Vogel

**Program:** Vicki Walter

**Liquor License:** Warren McWilliams

**Accounting:** Bob Vogel

**Centerpieces:** Janet McWilliams

**Cashier:** Richard Thorn

**Thank You Notes:** Janet McWilliams & Pat Vogel

**Clean-Up:** John Jones, chair, Ralph Carhart, Bob & Maria Brugger, Glenn & Carol Crowthers, students volunteers

Please email me at [cjthorn17@comcast.net](mailto:cjthorn17@comcast.net) with your suggestions or for information on volunteering for next year's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup Night

# Photo Highlights from Soup Night 2016



## **Board Meeting Highlights\* December 28, 2016**

**Vicki Walter, Board Secretary**

In attendance: Frank Wolfe, Claudia Thorn, Ken and Lynn Steen, Ron Lingren, Bob Vogel, Ralph Carhart, Jim Pearce and Vicki Walter— a quorum. Guest, Lois Frazier.

Minutes of the September 2016 board meeting were approved as distributed via email. October general meeting minutes were approved by committee.

Treasurer Bob Vogel reported total assets of \$40,477.20. A \$500 contribution was made to the Plaza Park holiday tree fundraiser. Soup Night netted a little over \$9,000. A 2017 draft budget will be prepared for review at the January meeting.

The 2017 Board members will be inducted at the January general meeting.

Claudia Thorn reported on Soup Night and the November debriefing meeting. We need someone to do next year's raffle. Val offered to help with this. Janet McWilliams and Pat Vogel sent thank you notes. We may want to send a thank you letter in the summer to past donors and ask for another donation this year. Problems: No chairs downstairs and pizza for the student servers was late. Also, many ticket purchasers notified Claudia at the last minute of unused tickets available. We scramble to fill seats and ensure as many patrons as possible for the raffle and other fundraising. Need a process to ensure that all tickets are used and the tables are filled.

Ken Steen reported that the next meeting of the Sacramento Historical Consortium is January 19, 10am. It will be hosted by the Sacramento Book Collectors club. The program is the regional history of publishing over the last century. Participants' reports will now be written rather than oral to shorten the meeting time.

Lynn Steen reported that our contact at the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District is now Ian Roberts. Need to reserve next year's meeting dates ASAP. Frank and Lynn will handle.

Bob Vogel suggested that we should become a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization to save money on our taxes and facilitate fundraising. Ralph Carhart moved to direct Bob to investigate that process and associated costs. Seconded; motion adopted. *Note: Jim Pearce subsequently circulated by e-mail to Board members, for their approval, the proposed Bylaws revisions, included in this newsletter, to facilitate this action.*

Jim Pearce is working with our new docent, Lily Rodriguez Drake. Mike Williams has donated some fire helmets that are now on display, also an antique telephone. Jim will notify the board for any additions to the Memorial Book. History Center open house attendance during the *Christmas in the Village* event was light, but fun.

*\* Summary of draft minutes only. Contact Secretary for full, official, approved minutes.*



## **Proposed Bylaws Revisions**

The Board has voted to seek IRS designation for our Society as a non-profit charitable organization. (Currently we are only a non-profit corporation.) There are potential fundraising benefits to this change, and the Society may qualify under the educational criteria, given the educational purposes inherent in our History Center, website features, public presentations, and newsletter features. To authorize and facilitate an application, the following recommended and Board-approved amendments to the “Purpose” section of our bylaws are proposed for ratification at our January general meeting:

### **Currently**

- 2.1 To preserve the heritage of the area known as Fair Oaks, California 95628; that of its first inhabitants, the San Juan Rancho, the early settlers of the Sunset Colony and of succeeding generations.
- 2.2 To preserve the historical record, and other materials arising from use by the people of the Fair Oaks area in the course of its history.
- 2.3 To conduct research on the founders of Fair Oaks, and the agricultural, civic, religious and cultural activities throughout its history in an effort to provide an accurate and authentic interpretation thereof, and to keep authoritative and permanent recordings of the facts in a repository.
- 2.4 To provide representation in regard to Fair Oaks history and culture by means of oral, written, pictorial and other methods prescribed by the Executive Board.
- 2.5 To establish, operate and maintain a Fair Oaks History Center for the general public.

### **Proposed**

- 2.1 To preserve the historical record of the area known as Fair Oaks, California 95628; that of its first inhabitants, the San Juan Rancho, the early settlers of the Sunset Colony and of succeeding generations.
- 2.2 To educate the public on the history of Fair Oaks and its people through written, oral and media presentations, website publication and social media, and respond to public inquiries regarding Fair Oaks history.
- 2.3 To establish, operate and maintain an educational and research center and museum on Fair Oaks history for the benefit of the general public.
- 2.4 To conduct research on the founders of Fair Oaks, and the agricultural, civic, religious and cultural activities throughout its history, and to keep authoritative and permanent recordings of the facts in a repository.

# Old Homes of Fair Oaks

Sally Dunbar

## **The Rice-Chasko Home— Update**

7848 Orange Avenue

We brought you the history of the Rice-Chasko home at 7848 Orange Avenue (just west of Pennsylvania Avenue) in January '09. Lately we were approached by the family with the news they were selling off a portion of the original five acres, so we visited the farm for an update. It appears the sale of three half-acre lots will enable the preservation of the home and its farming tradition while buying out the other sibling's interest.

To recap, the home was built in 1902 by Henry and Phoebe Rice of Minnesota. Between this five-acre parcel and another one east of the Cemetery, the Rices farmed over 100 trees— pears, peach, fig, citrus, 20 almond, 40 olive, and grape vines. After Henry's and Phoebe's deaths in 1913 and 1919, the property was sold to Walter Obenshain. At least two other families owned the farm after Obenshain— Clifford Stice and Joe King. The latest update comes from the longest owners, the Chasko family, who have owned the farm since 1957, when Andrew and Jesse Chasko purchased it for \$12,500. Amazingly, the family has held onto the farm with it's full five acres, despite the challenges of inheritance and the economy. If you look at a Google Earth view of Fair Oaks today, there are only a handful of farms left with their original five acres, so this is rare.

Granddaughter Christel filled in a lot of information about how the home has changed over the years. If you compare the photos below, you see some stark differences. The watercolor of the east side of the home was painted by the daughter of former owner Clifford Stice. Notice the front porch entry, and the dual windows in the gable.



In the recent photo, there is a single window in the gable and no evidence of the porch or even the front door. You wonder why would anyone make such odd changes. We still don't know why, but Christel and her Aunt Jessica provided a possible clue. Grandpa Andrew Chasko was a WWII fighter pilot, captured as a POW after being shot down in the Battle of the Bulge. He escaped from Stalag Luft Zwei and returned with Patton's 14th Armored division to liberate his camp with 120,000 Allied POWs. He said it was the "greatest sound I ever heard" as the liberated POWs swarmed their tanks. He was deeply affected by the starvation and being marched through the sub-zero German winter, which may account for unusual changes to the home, such as moving the front door from the east to the west, and making the upstairs windows smaller. Was it for privacy? To save on heat bills? Or simply to make room for his expanding family, creating a gathering place like in his home country of Slovakia? We don't know, but his decisions were surely affected by his trauma.

After Andrew's death in 2002, Grandma Jesse put considerable work into the home for the use and enjoyment of future generations. She replaced the redwood siding, the windows and the roof, and added a back porch and top deck, with a spiral stair from the top story, so the family could watch 4th of July fireworks from every direction. Today granddaughter Christel and family tend to the land with dreams of a functioning organic farm with a biodynamic focus, using some of the trees (and heritage horseradish) from the original plantings. She appreciates the beautiful work Obenshain added to the land in the 30s and 40s, and has already doubled the size of the garden. She even has her signage for Faerie Blossom Farm ready to go.



## **Treasurer's Report\***

**Bob Vogel**



As of December 31, 2016, our total bank account balance was \$40,477.20. That includes \$8,769.40 in checking, \$6,519.61 in savings and \$25,188.19 in a Certificate of Deposit.

*\*A detailed Treasurer's Report is available on request.*

# FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

	ACTUAL	PROPOSED	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
	2015	2016	2016	2017
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>				
MEMBERSHIPS DUES	\$2,615.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,705.00	\$2,500.00
MEETINGS-RAFFLE	\$657.00	\$700.00	\$459.00	\$500.00
MEETINGS-WINE	\$455.00	\$450.00	\$513.00	\$500.00
DONATIONS	\$1,063.00	\$1,000.00	\$546.00	\$500.00
MEMORIALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$150.00
ROYALTIES	\$59.92	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
SOUP NIGHT	\$12,165.00	\$12,000.00	\$11,535.00	\$11,500.00
SALES	\$602.00	\$500.00	\$846.75	\$750.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,716.92</b>	<b>\$17,810.00</b>	<b>\$16,654.75</b>	<b>\$16,550.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
MEMBERSHIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$0.00
ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS	\$245.00	\$250.00	\$85.00	\$150.00
SALES/INVENTORY	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$639.75	\$500.00
STORAGE LOCKER	\$780.00	\$800.00	\$840.00	\$910.00
WEBSITE	\$196.97	\$100.00	\$20.17	\$100.00
NEWSLETTER	\$878.27	\$500.00	\$590.06	\$600.00
PRINTING	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$79.90	\$100.00
HISTORY CENTER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MAINTENANCE	\$1,086.03	\$250.00	\$414.49	\$500.00
DISPLAYS	\$173.72	\$100.00	\$247.49	\$300.00
BLDG. INSURANCE	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
SUPPLIES	\$453.47	\$400.00	\$184.88	\$100.00
UTILITIES	\$1,055.12	\$1,200.00	\$873.94	\$900.00
SECURITY	\$585.00	\$600.00	\$540.00	\$550.00
MISC.	\$37.83	\$100.00	\$548.45	\$475.00
STAFFING COSTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
US TRES./ EED/ STATE TAX	\$2,014.38	\$2,500.00	\$1,131.40	\$1,500.00
WORK/COMP INSURANCE	\$389.00	\$400.00	\$466.00	\$385.00
STAFF COSTS	\$6,110.93	\$6,000.00	\$3,507.03	\$4,000.00
PAYROLL SERVICE	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$225.00	\$400.00
MEETING EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ROOM RENTAL	\$770.00	\$800.00	\$905.00	\$1,000.00
WINE/FOOD	\$275.80	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$280.00
SUPPLIES	\$85.39	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
MISC. /OTHER	\$1,200.00	\$100.00	\$500.00	\$100.00
SOUP NIGHT	\$2,647.76	\$2,800.00	\$2,245.47	\$2,500.00
POSTAL BOX / STAMPS	\$130.75	\$150.00	\$86.00	\$150.00
TAX PREP.	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,265.42</b>	<b>\$19,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,345.03</b>	<b>\$16,550.00</b>
<b>INCOME MINUS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$2,548.50</b>	<b>-\$1,190.00</b>	<b>\$1,309.72</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## 2017 Officers and Appointments

### **Executive Board**

President	Frank Wolfe	<a href="mailto:bullet8070@gmail.com">bullet8070@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Ron Lingren	<a href="mailto:rlingren@comcast.net">rlingren@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Pat Neufeld	<a href="mailto:dnpneufeld@gmail.com">dnpneufeld@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Bob Vogel	<a href="mailto:pattyvogel4933@gmail.com">pattyvogel4933@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Joe Dobrowolski	<a href="mailto:joedobro@pacbell.net">joedobro@pacbell.net</a>

### **Appointed**

Parliamentarian	<i>Vacant</i>	
Auditor	Don Neufeld	<a href="mailto:dnpneufeld@gmail.com">dnpneufeld@gmail.com</a>

### **Committee Chairs**

Dinner	Warren & Judy Blomquist	<a href="mailto:wblom@comcast.net">wblom@comcast.net</a>
Liaison Representative	Ken Steen	<a href="mailto:kenlsteen@sbcglobal.net">kenlsteen@sbcglobal.net</a>
Membership	Jim Pearce	<a href="mailto:jpearce4104@gmail.com">jpearce4104@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Ralph Carhart	<a href="mailto:r.carhart@comcast.net">r.carhart@comcast.net</a>
Program	Ron Lingren	<a href="mailto:rlingren@comcast.net">rlingren@comcast.net</a>
Publicity	<i>Vacant</i>	
Ways & Means	Bob & Pat Vogel	<a href="mailto:pattyvogel4933@gmail.com">pattyvogel4933@gmail.com</a>
History Center Operations	Jim Pearce	<a href="mailto:jpearce4104@gmail.com">jpearce4104@gmail.com</a>
Facilities Manager	Joe Dobrowolski	<a href="mailto:joedobro@pacbell.net">joedobro@pacbell.net</a>
Media	<i>Vacant</i>	
Soup Night	Claudia Thorn	<a href="mailto:cjthorn17@comcast.net">cjthorn17@comcast.net</a>
Recreation & Park Liaison	Lynn Steen	<a href="mailto:kenlsteen@sbcglobal.net">kenlsteen@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>History Center Docent</b>	Lily Rodriguez Drake	<a href="mailto:lilyrodriguezdrake@gmail.com">lilyrodriguezdrake@gmail.com</a>

Happy New Year!  
2017

P.O. BOX 2044  
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

**TO:**

Dues are for the Calendar Year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Dues are payable on Jan. 1, and become delinquent Feb. 1.  
New members joining after Oct. 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

Please check one:     NEW MEMBER APPLICATION                       DUES PAYMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership level requested:**

Individual \$20       Family (2 Persons) \$25       Supporting (Business) \$50  
 Single Life Member \$150       Family Life Member \$225

I am adding \$5 and request a printed newsletter by USPS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am including the following donation to support the History Center:

Contributor \$100       Supporter \$250       Patron \$500

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of check \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Please mail this form and check payable to:

“Fair Oaks Historical Society, Inc.” P.O. BOX 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

For more information, please call Jim Pearce, 961-8415 (jpearce4104@gmail.com)