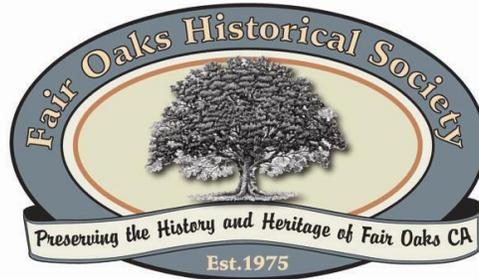


# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

*Newsletter – October 2016*

Issue Number 119



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

## **QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING**

**6 p.m., Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

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

## **“Secrets of Early Sacramento”**

**Mark Davidson**

### **President’s Message**

**Frank Wolfe**

Thank you EVERYONE for your support this first 3/4 year. Kudos to Claudia Thorn's committee which is working hard to ensure a successful November 4th Soup Night Fundraiser. (See Trude Vasquez if you can contribute additional raffle or auction items.)

Special thanks to the Bylaws revision committee—Ron Lingren, Jim Pearce and Vicki Walter—with great input from others. A summary of proposed changes is included in this newsletter, and we will ask for a ratifying vote at the upcoming meeting. A nominal annual dues increase is proposed, which will help us continue to improve History Center operations and exhibits.

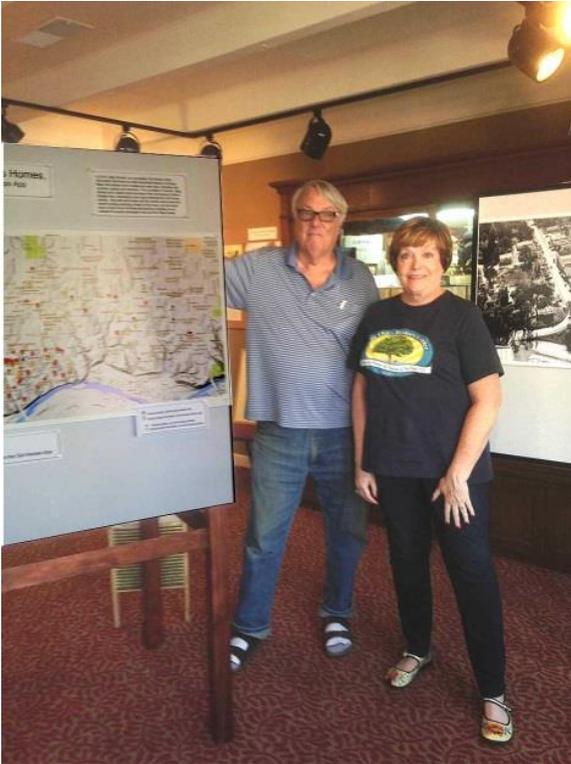
I want to recognize Joe Dobrowolski who has added limited-parking signs and new wheel stops at the History Center; Jim Pearce who has added new displays; Warren Blomquist for his work on outside maintenance; and Ralph Carhart for a great newsletter.

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

**Jim Pearce**

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

To keep the History Center interesting we're continuing to devote about a quarter of our display space to a rotating exhibit. Our latest effort is a display of "Old Homes of Fair Oaks", featuring our old homes location map as well as some of our notable old homes.



A new semi-permanent display is an old maps rack. In a space where we could only display about five maps, we can now display twenty or more. The key was finding a poster rack that allowed us to swing out the various maps.

We got it all (mostly) done just in time for the Chicken Festival. Jim baked Lois' favorite oatmeal cookies and Marilyn greeted guests on the patio in the "visiting area." Please drop in and see the new displays.



### ***New Contributor Levels...***

The History Center continues to be our major expense, with a budget that includes docent expenses, utilities, security and displays. Costs will rise next year with the increase in the minimum wage, storage and security. We looked at other historical societies and non-profits and noticed that many had a system to encourage monetary contributions other than dues. The proposed bylaws include three History Center supporting levels:

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

When you're considering which tax-exempt charitable organizations to support, we encourage you to help out with History Center expenses. We'll give you due credit on the website and in the newsletter.

## **Memorial Book**

**Lois Frazier**

In 2005 the Historical Society began a Memorial Book at the History Center. It is a special way for you or others to honor a friend or loved one who has passed. Anyone making a contribution to the Society in memory of another person may have that person's name recorded, along with one's own name as contributor, in the Memorial Book. The names are printed in bold, distinctive type on parchment-like paper—becoming a permanent record of the remembrance. The Memorial Book is displayed at the History Center for viewing.

To register your remembrance, we have a form (print and online), or simply send your check and the following information to us at P.O. Box 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

- Gift amount
- Your name and complete address,
- Person you wish to memorialize, and
- Name and complete address for an acknowledgement card to be sent to the family.

## **Tenth Annual Soup Night Preparation**

**Claudia Thorn, Chair**

**Friday, November 4, 2016, 5:30 to 8 pm** — Coming up real soon—the Tenth Annual Soup Night—our big fundraiser to support the History Center and Society activities.

Please start collecting your raffle items and other donations and get them to Trude Vasquez no later than October 25. So far we have one live auction donation and are hoping a few other folks will step forward to help make the evening even more entertaining and rewarding.

Lynn Steen, our soup chair, will be stirring up some amazing concoctions—a hearty beef and vegetable Barley-Lentil Soup, a Chicken and Vegetable Supper Soup—a velvety smooth broth brimming with vegetables, a vegetarian Broccoli-Spinach Soup and a double order of Clam Chowder provided by Dianda's.

Don Yost is again providing hand-crafted bowls. And, contact John Jones if you can help with cleanup.

The event is SOLD OUT, so if you happen to have tickets that you will be unable to use, please contact me so I can help you find a buyer. Thank you all for your help.

## Photo Highlights from our July Meeting:



## **Board Meeting Summary\* September 28, 2016**

**Vicki Walter, Board Secretary**

Members in attendance; Frank Wolfe, Claudia Thorn, Ken and Lynn Steen, Warren and Judy Blomquist, Joe Dobrowolski, Ralph Carhart, Jim Pearce and Vicki Walter—a quorum. Guest, Lois Frazier.

Minutes of the June 22, 2016 board meeting were approved as distributed via email.

Jim Pearce reported that we currently have 159 members; 253 actual (including life members). We've received one application for life membership. Approximately 1/3 of our membership is life members. Reminder cards will be sent, or calls made, to members who are delinquent on their dues. The board reaffirmed that the membership mailing list is only for official Society use.

Claudia Thorn reported that the final Soup Night meeting will be October 25, just before the general meeting. Mirabelle's will also donate a soup.

Vicki Walter reported that the Nominating Committee will put forward the following nominations for the October meeting's election of 2017 Society officers:

President	Frank Wolfe
Vice President	Ron Lingren
Secretary	Pat Neufeld
Treasurer	Bob Vogel

Jim Pearce announced that Lois Frazier has joined the History Center Operations Committee. Two new displays have been added—Old Fair Oaks homes, and Old Maps of Fair Oaks, sponsored by Jim Pearce.

Joe Dobrowolski announced that signs have been added (two in front and two in back) at a cost of \$110 to discourage people parking in front of the history center during business hours. The board voted to allocate \$500 to cover outdoor expenses including replacement wheel stops for the parking lots. Water displays will be loaned to the Fair Oaks Water District for display. Next year is their centennial.

Thank you letters for donations have been sent to the Riley family (\$50 donation), and Karen Arbini (\$100 donation).

Lois Frazier discussed the Memorial Book that she and Meg Smart maintain at the History Center. It records gifts made to the Society in memory of someone who has passed away. Letters are sent to the donors and to the recipient's family.

The board approved the proposed bylaws amendments that will be presented for ratification by the voting membership at the October general meeting.

*\* Full Board Minutes are available from the Secretary.*

## **Proposed Bylaws Revisions**

### **Bylaws Revisions Committee**

While we've made several changes to the bylaws in the past several years to take care of specific issues, it's been ten years since the last major look at the Society's bylaws. A number of members had noticed areas where the bylaws might need changing to facilitate better operations, so President Frank Wolfe appointed Vice President Ron Lingren to head up a review committee that included Bob Vogel, Vicki Walter and Jim Pearce. Below is a summary of their recommended revisions.

- Update non-discrimination statement to reflect current Federal and State practice.
- Increase annual dues by \$5.
- Add three contributing levels to enable members to donate directly to the History Center and receive recognition for their generosity.
- Change minimum qualifications for the President and Vice President to one year of membership, and limit of the President's term of office to two years. Make the President an ex-officio member of all committees except Nominating. Give the President the right to vote as a member of the Executive Board. Board quorum is changed from 7 to 5.
- Eliminate, combine or redefine standing committees to reflect current operations. New committees include: Facilities Management, Social Media/Digital Communications and Soup Night.
- Add a new section defining the responsibilities for care of physical assets.
- Change the section on dissolution to reflect the requirements of State law.

Other minor revisions to wording were made to reflect current practice or to bring the bylaws into confirmation with Robert's Rules of Order.

The proposed bylaws were approved by the Executive Board at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The new proposed bylaws will be placed on our website and made available at the History Center. If there are any questions on the reasons for the revisions, please contact one of the Committee members.

Complete copies of the proposed bylaws are online and will be presented to the membership for approval at the October 25 General Meeting.

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

### **Bob Vogel**

As of August 31 2016, our total bank account balance was \$39,024.62. That includes \$7,444.04 in checking, \$6,518.92 in savings and \$25,061.66 in a Certificate of Deposit.

*\*A detailed Treasurer's Report and 2016 Budget are available on request.*

## Old Homes

**Jim Pearce**

Slocum House, 7992 California Avenue, Fair Oaks

Our Old Homes Editor, Sally Dunbar, agreed to take a well deserved rest so we could add the Slocum House to our documented old homes articles.

For those of you who didn't make the April General Meeting, Ron Lingren assembled three speakers to talk about "The Slocum House, Past, Present and Future." I addressed the early history, restaurateur Craig LeMar talked about the restaurant days, and Peter Parker talked about plans for converting the house to a church. Subsequently, the plans for conversion fell through, but we gathered valuable history about the house.

Charles Slocum brought his family to Fair Oaks in 1897 with the plan of opening a lumberyard to serve the incoming settlers. He built his first home that year at the corner of Sacramento St. and Watkins Drive. Several years later he built his second home—nine rooms, an attic and basement—next to his lumberyard at the northeast corner of California Avenue and Main Street. After raising his children in that home he decided to build a smaller home on California Ave. The house, now known to many as the Slocum House Restaurant, was completed in 1924, only a year before he died. His large second home, which was rented out, burned down in 1930.



Ruth Slocum Gilmore and her husband Ralph lived in the Slocum House until Ralph died in 1954. Ruth stayed on until 1957 when she sold the house to Pete and Frank Campoy who turned it into a boarding house. In 1972, the Campoys sold the home to Wada King who operated an interior decorating business there. In 1976 Ken Bansemer and other investors bought the house, added two wings for the bar and kitchen, and turned it into a restaurant. Craig LaMar and Jay Nelson were the managers of the Slocum House Restaurant.

The restaurant closed in 2011 when the economy tanked. Five years later the property is still for sale at around \$1,000,000.

The Slocum House is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. The original application can be seen on our website.

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 2044  
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

**TO:**

Dues are for the Calendar Year, January 1 to December 31.  
Dues are payable on January 1, and become delinquent February 1.  
Those joining after October 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

**Please check one:**

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

DUES PAYMENT

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

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

Contact Jim Pearce (see below) for current dues amount. Membership level requested:

*Individual*

*Family (2 Persons)*

*Single Life Member*

*Family Life Member*

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)