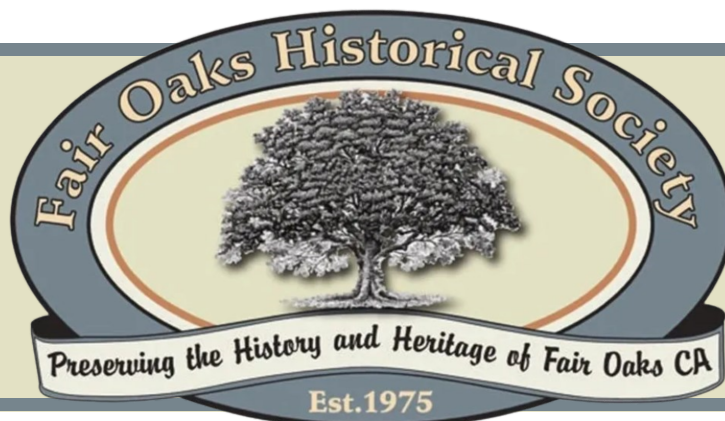


Something to Crow About



October 2023

Issue 146

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

Join us for the next quarterly potluck and general meeting where – per our Bylaws – we will **elect officers** for next year. **We need at least two member volunteers** for the Nominating Committee who will present consenting candidates at the meeting. If you are interested in volunteering on the Nominating Committee, please send a message to:

Carolyn Spotts at carolyn.spotts@comcast.net.

In addition to the election, we'll share organizational news, food, and friendship. Dinner will be potluck style so **please bring a main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share**. Our guest speaker will be **Eileen Hook**, who wrote a biography about Eliza Gregson titled *What's Special About Eliza?*

October 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm at
Faith Lutheran Church
4000 San Juan Ave, Fair Oaks

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

By Claudia Thorne, President & Carolyn Spotts, Vice President

Dear Members,

First, I want to show **thanks** to several of our members who have made generous donations to the Fair Oaks Historical Society. As you all know, we just replaced the roof at the History Center. During the process, we discovered there was additional work that was required before the new roof could be installed. The total cost of the new roof was over \$14,000. Fortunately, we had two significant contributions that helped cover much of the cost. Thank you to **Thomas and Hedda Smithson** (\$10,000) and to the **Harry J. and Liesa G. Voth Fund** (\$2,500) for their generous support. The FOHS Board is very thankful! And many thanks to **Bud Beebe**, our History Center Facilities Manager, for overseeing the project from start to finish.

Regarding expenses, with the end of the year fast approaching, many of us who have **IRA's** fall into the **Required Minimum Distribution** (RMD) trap. If you are looking to reduce the taxes on that distribution, please consider making a direct payment (**Qualified Charitable Distribution**) to the **Fair Oaks Historical Society** (a qualified **501(c)(3)** non-profit organiza-

tion). Just contact your IRA broker

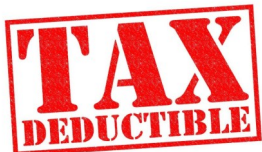
and they can write a check from the cash portion of your IRA. Or some brokers will give you a checkbook so you can write a check. It's very easy to do and those **QCD donations are fully deductible** from the taxable income on your 1040-SR line 4b.

Volunteer Opportunities Available!

Soup Night has always been the Society's **biggest annual fundraiser**. It's a fun tradition that we would like to continue.



Our 17th annual **Soup Night** is scheduled for **February 9, 2024** at the Faith Lutheran Church, 4000 San Juan Avenue. Planning has begun, but we are still in need of members to **volunteer** for any of the committees. We are especially in need of a leader for the **Raffle Committee**. We have several folks who have offered to help, but we can use more! The committee leader will be mentored by **Pat Neufeld** (prior committee lead) to guarantee a seamless transition. Any way you can help will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have items to donate for the raffle, please contact **Claudia Thorn** at cjthorn17@comcast.net. Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.



Regarding events, we are continuing our **Welcome Hour**, the first Saturday of each month from 11:00 – Noon, hosted by **Sandra Navarro**, Program Director. We've had a great turnout at previous events, and it's wonderful to see so many of our members, as well as potential new members. The November 4th Welcome Hour is titled "Kitchen Gadgets of the 1940s and 1950s." Bring your kitchen gadgets to share!

And speaking of volunteers, Carolyn and I want to give a big shout out to **Terry Clifton**, Secretary, for all his help with our website as well as his work with our membership process. **David Navarro** has been hard at work as our treasurer, helping us move our finances to an interest earning account. We now have a credit and debit card as well as Wi-Fi and a telephone! And **Chris Highsmith** has

been our constant host at the History Center and is continuing to work on our archives. He would LOVE to have some volunteers work with him. Last, I would personally like to thank **Carolyn** for her constant support and encouragement.

Respectfully,

Claudia J Thorn, President
Carolyn Spotts, Vice-President



Call for Volunteers: Museum Docents



and the benefit is that you get to meet very nice people and learn more about our little town.

Lately, the History Center has been quite busy from **Noon – 2:00 on Saturdays**. We normally have only one Docent available during this time, and that one person cannot always speak with all the visitors at once. So, **we are looking for volunteers** to help greet visitors and educate them about Fair Oaks history. It's just two hours,

If you would like to help at the **History Center**, please send a message to **Chris Highsmith** at fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com. Thank you!





ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JULY 7, 2023



Del Campo High School, Class of 1973, 50th Class Reunion

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 11:00 – Noon
Displays, Docents, History Center Store
Free Admission

10340 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628
www.fairoakshistory.org



Welcome Hour



THE FLAG AT SAILOR BAR

By Claudia Thorne, President

Shortly after moving to Fair Oaks in 1999, we discovered the amazing trails down by Sailor Bar. On one of our walks, we came up on a woman working around the base of the flag pole and asked what she was doing. She explained that her father had been maintaining the memorial site built for her brother, Stephen Moore. Unfortunately, her father's health was declining and this would require him to move to Texas so she could take care of him. She was very upset that no one would be able to tend to the memorial once he moved.

Hearing how upset she was, my husband, Richard and I told her that we would make sure the flag was maintained, and that we would try to reach out to some of the local Boy Scout troops to see that the area around the flag pole was maintained. Needless to say, she was thrilled to know that the tradition started by her father would continue.

That Father's Day, my father, who was a World War II and Korean War Veteran was visiting us for Father's Day. We brought him down to the flag and told him that we would now be maintaining the flag to honor Stephen Moore as well as him, and other veterans of foreign wars. I was totally surprised by how emotional my dad became.



For about five years, we worked with the local fire departments to come down

and replace the flag when it became rather worn and did have a local Boy Scout Troop come a few times to do any gardening and landscaping. We're hoping to have that happen again soon. And if you've had a chance to climb up to the flag pole, you'll notice that there are some benches placed for visitors to sit and reflect and enjoy the landscape which were provided by Jim Racy when he still had his garden store.

For at least the last five years two members of our neighborhood, Matt Walbeck, and Dean Halstead, have taken over that task and also added the California flag. Recently, there was some discussion about moving the pole to a different location, but with the support of Supervisor Rich Desmond, Fair Oaks Park & Rec as well as the county it looks like the flag will stay where it is and there may even be a facelift and some renovation around the area.

The caption you will find by the flag pole reads:

Stephen D Moore, Eagle Scout,
...to do my duty to God and my country,
...Troop 56, Golden Empire Council,
Boy Scouts of American.

Will keep you updated on the plans for the future of the Sailor Bar flag.



50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

The year **2025** will bring **many reasons to celebrate** in Fair Oaks. Not only will the Historical Society be 50 years old but Fair Oaks itself will be 130 (founded in 1895)!

The FOHS Board would like to celebrate the Society's milestone and **Chris Highsmith** is leading the event planning. We have had two meetings to date and have documented many great ideas. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, **please join us** at the next meeting on **Thursday, October 19th** at **10:00**

a.m. at the History Center at **10340 Fair Oaks Blvd** (next to the Sunflower Drive-in).

YEAR 2025
WILL BE

**FAIR OAKS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY'S**

50th Anniversary

If you want to find out more
or would like to volunteer
with any of the events
during our anniversary year.

Please email -
fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com

celebrating
50
YEARS



WELCOME HOUR AT THE HISTORY CENTER

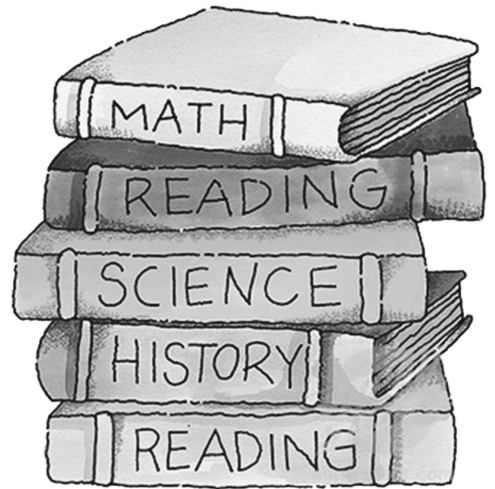
By Sandra S. Navarro, Welcome Hour Program Director

The Fair Oaks History Center is pleased to announce a new season of its **Welcome Hour** program. On the first Saturday of each month from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, a themed display is featured.

SEPTEMBER'S THEME WAS:

**“Back to School:
Textbooks from the 1930s.”**

There is no charge for this lively event. Parking is free. Conversation among attendees is priceless.



Join us for on October 7
“Del Campo High School,
Class of 1973,
50th Class Reunion.”





“Education is key to unlocking the world, the passport to freedom.”

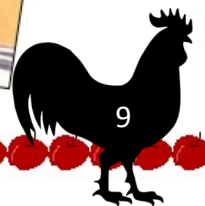
-- Oprah Winfrey



Kitchen Gadgets of the 1940s and 1950s

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 11:00 – Noon
Displays, Docents, History Center Store
Free Admission

10340 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628
www.fairoakshistory.org



FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Chris Highsmith, History Center Operation Manager

A pump organ was donated to the Fair Oaks Historical Society that was in the Beers Family for around 100 years. George Howard Beers was born in Genoa, Nevada on December 27, 1896, to Howard and Lillian Beers. George caught a case of measles in his second year at Reno High School. After recovering instead of going back to finish school he helped his dad in Carson Valley. Drilling artesian wells for the ranchers. On December 3, 1917, George joined the Aviation Section of the United States Signal Corps in Reno. He spent time at the airfield in Chipping, Sodbury, England repairing aircraft. After military service he returned to working with his dad drilling wells in Nevada.



George and Grace Beer ca. 1970



Grace Florence Penrose was born in Wabuska, Nevada on November 9, 1901, to William and Alpha Penrose. In 1920 Grace and other family women all stormed the Capitol in Carson City to be in the chamber when they voted to ratify the 19th amendment (women's right to vote). Nevada ratified the amendment on that day.

George met Grace, daughter of one of the ranchers having a well drilled. They were married in Reno on June 6, 1920, and lived in Genoa, Nevada while George worked a mining claim. During this time Margie was born. The threesome made the move to Washington state where first Alpha Ellen and then Doris were born. They all



moved back to Nevada where Jean was born the fourth and last child.

George found work at mining camps all around Northern California until the Great Depression which made work hard to find. The family moved back to George's parent's ranch in Wabuska, Nevada until summer of 1936 when the U.S. Chrome Company offered George a job building an ore crusher at Negro Hill on the road between Mormon Island and Rattlesnake Bar Bridge. He became the superintendent of the site. They first moved to Sacramento then in the fall of same year moved to Fair Oaks on a street that the 1940 census called Sacramento Hill (most likely where Sacramento Street meets Hill Street).

In winter of 1936 Jean came down with scarlet fever requiring the house to be quarantined for 21 days. The other three girls were away at school the day the house was quarantined, so they stayed away at other homes until the quarantine was lifted and Jean fully recovered. After World War II, George and Grace bought a

two-story Victorian house at 7816 Sunset Ave. George transformed the barn into his workshop. He held U.S. and foreign patents on metallurgical processes. Grace also had space to throw pottery, a skill she passed on to her grandkids.



Doris Beemer playing the organ around 1970 with her granddaughter Penelope on her lap.



7816 Sunset Avenue, once the Beers family residence.



George Beers cousin Georgina Millay had a pump organ on her enclosed front porch.

As a child, Doris often played it. Doris in time was to have the organ to play to her own kids and later to even her great grandkids. Doris Beers Breemer's granddaughters, Kimberly Hewel and Gina Gray, donated the organ to the Fair Oaks Historical Society. It is now in the History Museum.



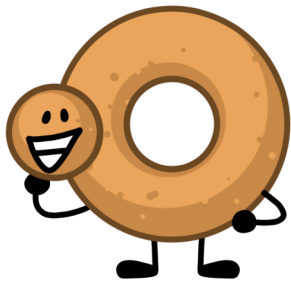
THE DOCENT HOLE

By Bob Sours, Docent

Hello my fellow members. Being a member of our Society has its rewards as you have no doubt found in this past year. In the previous newsletter we talked about the Docent or guide that greets our visitors while visiting the History Center (our museum). We invited those members that might be interested in being a Docent to contact us. As in the past we know the right person or persons will come forward.

Maybe it will be YOU.

Note we have changed our heading from “The Docent” to “The Docent Hole.” As a kid growing up in Iowa. I always looked forward to the days that my mother made donuts. My favorite,



of course, was the donut hole. Yes, the part that was cut out while preparing the dough and then cooked along with the large round

part. I could always look forward to finding several of those in my lunch box that day. I liken that to “The Docent Hole,” as I look for the best (like the hole) when writing these articles. Which leads me now toward today's thoughts.

Over the years while working in the History Center, I was day dreaming one day thinking of some of my best days at the Center. I'll share one of those days with you.



It was in May several years ago on a Sunday, **Fiesta Day in the Park** and the day of the yearly **Sun Run** through the streets and hills of Fair Oaks, and around the American River trails for a total of 5 miles. Generally it was very crowded with kids and adults

Welcome New Members

Laxmi & Mehul Gandhi
Bruce Vincent
Jonathan & Quinlan Brown
Linda MacRae



as they had shorter runs for the youngsters. Probably about a hundred or more participated in the 5 mile event.

Like big races we were registered and wore tags of our age group, and were awarded a medal for just finishing, plus a special award for placing in the top three. Well, this given year I was over 80 and in the 80+ men's group. It seemed like 20 miles rather than 5, whereas in previous years when I was younger and was able to enjoy the people and scenery.

However, as I arrived at the finish line, and when the results were posted, I found that **I had placed first and won my age group**. Special: Right?

But, now the rest of the story. I WAS THE ONLY RUNNER IN THE OVER 80 MENS DIVISION!

Yes, I laughed too, but I was still thrilled to have done it. Goes to show you, if you live long enough you are bound to WIN.

So, NEVER, NEVER, GIVE UP. 🙇



The History Center was open Sundays in those days, so I was working after the run -- of course with my runners shirt on and trophy on my desk. A day to remember!

I have proudly placed a picture of my award for you to see in the hopes you, too, will be so lucky. ONLY IN FAIR OAKS, Right?



We look forward to your fun and interesting stories while at the History Center, or activities in the Village. Enjoy, til next time.



THE HISTORY CENTER

In the Fair Oaks Village

10340 Fair Oaks Blvd (next to the Sunflower Drive-in)

Regular Hours

Tuesdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Welcome Hour event

1st Saturday of each month
11:00 - noon

Admission is FREE



FROM THE ARCHIVES CONTINUED

The sources for the Beer's organ article are Kimberly Hewel, *The Sacramento Bee*, and the book *We Lived American History 1600 to 2000* by Alpha Beers Quincy.





Fair Oaks Historical Society Membership / Renewal / Volunteer Application

Name:	Phone - Cell:
Address:	Phone - Home:
Email Address:	
Emergency Contact:	Phone – Home or Cell:

Dues are collected on an annual basis in January. New members joining after October 1st shall be considered paid for the following year. Membership dues are: (circle one)

Individual \$20; Family (2 persons) \$25, Supporting (Business) \$50, Single Life Member \$200, and Family Life Member \$275. Add \$5 to receive a printed copy of our newsletter.

By requesting membership, we encourage you to be an active participant to further the work of the Fair Oaks Historical Society. Please indicate your interest(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> History Center Docent <input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Collection preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory record management <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison Representative <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity \ Advertising <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media \ Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Tech \ Media <input type="checkbox"/> Other
--	---

Signature: X	Date:
------------------------	--------------

Send this application with your check to:

Fair Oaks Historical Society
P.O. Box 2044
Fair Oaks, CA 95628



You may also use the PayPal system:

<https://fairoakshistory.org/join/join.htm>

Thank you for your support!

For questions, please contact Terry Clifton at (916) 501-4045 or FOHistory1@gmail.com.

Membership Coordinator use only:

Amount paid: \$

Check # or PayPal #:

Date received:



2023 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Welcome Hour	October 7
Executive Board Meeting	October 17
Quarterly General Meeting	October 24
Welcome Hour	November 4
Executive Board Meeting	November 21
Welcome Hour	December 2
Executive Board Meeting	December 19

SAVE THE DATE! SOUP NIGHT, FEBRUARY 9, 2024



Fair Oaks Historical Society
P.O. Box 2044
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: