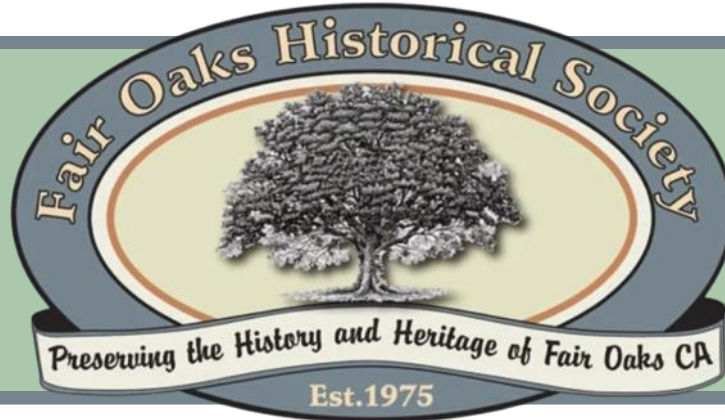


Something to Crow About



Spring 2025

Issue 152

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

When: Tuesday, April 22nd Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Faith Lutheran Church - 4000 San Juan Blvd, Fair Oaks

Bring a salad, main dish or dessert to share

**We will See
You there!**

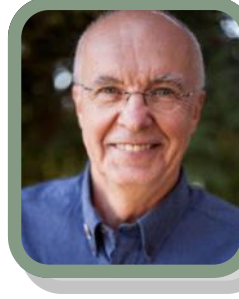
Our guest speaker will be **Joe Dobrowolski**, who will present the History of our History Center building.

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

By Claudia Thorn, President & Pete Schroeder, Vice President



Soup Night

Congratulations to all who served on the 18th Annual Soup Night Committee. Based on the feedback from our guests and servers, this was our most successful Soup Night; We were **Sold out** with over 100 raffle items! Announcing each raffle winner made the whole raffle process so much more fun. This year we raised over \$13,000.00 which will be used for continued maintenance of the History Center as well as ongoing historical projects.

Thank You To:

Don Yost for making 200 beautiful bowls; Mike Maddox and the students of Meraki and their Parent Advisors and students of Bella Vista; Faith Lutheran for hosting, *Bodega Biondi*, *Brahma Bar and Grill*, *Café Italiano*, *Fair Oaks Brew Pub*, *O Café* and *Sprouts* for their continued support.

Soup Chairs

Carolyn Spotts, Terry & Sherry Clifton, Larry Godwin, Lisa Rigby, David Navarro, Lynn Steen, Warren & Janet McWilliams, Maria Brugger, Terri O'Donnell, Franca Lingren, Pat Neufeld, Marilyn Pearce, Bobbi Salzman, Clarissa French and the Meraki students and Parent Advisors and Mike Maddox. It was an honor to work with such a dedicated crew Without the support of these committee members, we could not have been this successful!!!

It will be held in the **new Community Clubhouse** in the Village of Fair Oaks!

Save the Date

50th

Anniversary Celebration

**September 27th
at 5:00pm**

Your FOHS 50th Anniversary Event Planning committee has been meeting monthly. We have a great collection of volunteers working together to make sure it will be a truly memorable evening: "Top Notch"!!!

We are beginning to look for sponsors to help defray costs. More later.



Patricia Marie Vogel A Life Filled with Service

1938
2025



Born in New York City in 1938 and baptized at St Patrick's Cathedral. Pat moved to California as a child to West Los Angeles. She graduated from University High School in 1958 and worked at Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica. Bob and Pat were married on May 4, 1963 in Los Angeles. A few years later they moved to San Diego and began raising their three sons.

The family moved to Fair Oaks in 1979. She worked for the San Juan School District and the State Of California for many years. Pat was a dedicated community member, always generous with her time and energy. She was a force for good and was of service to her community in countless ways.

She volunteered at local schools and many organizations such as the Women's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks, Fair Oaks InnerWheel, Fair Oaks Historical Society, Fair Oaks Theatre Festival and served as a trustee of the Fair Oaks Cemetery District since 2005. Pat was a true and loyal friend to so many and had some friendships lasting more than 70 years. Bob and Pat's home was always a

welcoming place and Pat loved to host friends for parties, barbecues or just a glass of wine, a tray of nibbles and a chat.

Pat loved flowers and gardening and it was a tradition to attend Art in the Garden in Mendocino every year. While raising their children, the family travelled around the US, went on many camping trips. After retiring, Bob and Pat road tripped to nearly all 50 states in their RV and traveled the world with recent trips to Mexico, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan and took river cruises from the Snake and Columbia River and from Budapest to Amsterdam.

She is survived by her husband Bob, her children Chris, Michael and James, her daughter-in-law Kris and her four grandchildren Kate, Ryan, Kristi and Nick and her brother Bud. While her friends and family will mourn her passing, her love of life brought joy to everyone she met.

She will be deeply missed.

There now is an Education Fund set up in her memory. Donations to the Patricia Vogel Education Fund may be mailed or dropped off at the History Center.

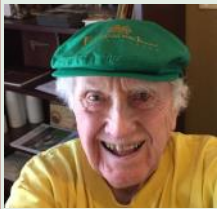


Our
18th Annual
Premier
Soup Supper



THE DOCENT CORNER

By Bob Sours, Retired Docent



HELLO EVERYONE ON THIS WONDERFUL SPRING DAY WITH BIRDS SINGING, TREES FULL OF BLOSSOMS and ME just as happy as I can be saying Happy St. Pat's Month to you (and gaining an

hour today to boot).



Every year around St. Pat's Day I start reminiscing about the good things in life. Today my mind, for sure, centered around Fair Oaks and the History Center. What brought all of these thoughts to TODAY?

Long about 1979, while living in Carmichael, I took my family for a little ride through the little village of Fair Oaks. Passing by an Olive Orchard one of us noticed a little *For Sale* sign tucked in between a couple of olive trees. We all looked at each other and knew it HAD TO BE. Yes, I did follow up; bought the lot, and a year later saw our new house on Sierra St coming to fruition.



Moving on with our lives, we began to find all the joys that came with our little village: trails, river, a township and more. Not to leave "Gus" out of the picture, and please don't think his personality was as grumpy as he looks -- he was

a lover at heart. And he loved the river walks as much as the rest of our family.

Our daughters found friends, learned more about Fair Oaks than I did while in my career job, and once they finished their education, we all more or less looked for the next step forward.

As I retired, I found many new fun career paths for awhile (years). One day, however, a flyer got my attention that a docent was needed in the Fair Oaks Historical Society. What and where was it I thought, but I pursued it and luckily was hired for the job. Volunteer work was new to me but I quickly learned how rewarding

the volunteering could be plus the joy of working with and meeting new people all the time. Well, eight years later after going through and enjoying the various jobs available, I'm back just doing what fits seniors and totally loving it.



Now in between all of the above, I fell in love with Olive trees: I learned from others about marketing olive oils for producers and living within two small olive orchards. Prior to other part time jobs, I finally spent about 15 years working as a marketing Rep for an Olive Oil Company. As it ended and as we moved around, we found we had little room for olive trees. As always a new plan came along and I entered into the Bonsai version of Olive Tree Orchards that I have shared with most of you in previous articles.



The reason that I'm bringing this up came with an e-mail and photo of a Beautiful Bonsai tree. One of our family toured a couple of other countries and came back with her new FIND. I mainly wanted to share the photo with you all since Fair Oaks was so well known for its contribution to the country of its olive oil production of olives.

AND, you might like to try a Bonsai Olive Tree Orchard as a new hobby. I'm hooked .

Okay Folks, Guess you know by now that I'm from Irish Heritage and everything that's Irish excites. SO, on with St.Pat's month for another year. And may you all enjoy the rest of the year with the very BEST offered.

COME JOIN US AT THE HISTORY CENTER, AND MEET THE NEW DOCENTS

PS: It's that time of year to enjoy our tours through the Village and the memorial sites. Call us for further instructions. **(916) 844-7103**

KEEP SAFE AND WELL. Bob



Volunteers Needed!

The **History Center** is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Videographer

What: Document Fair Oaks history as it happens by recording events and possibly other projects

When: as needed

Collection Cataloger Assistant

What: Immerse yourself in Fair Oaks history by providing assistance with cataloging our collection of historical documents and artifacts.

When: Tuesdays or Thursdays
10 .a.m. - 2 p.m.
for a couple of hours

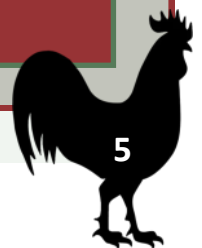
Museum Docents

What: Greet visitors and converse about Fair Oaks history

When: Saturdays
Noon – 2:00pm

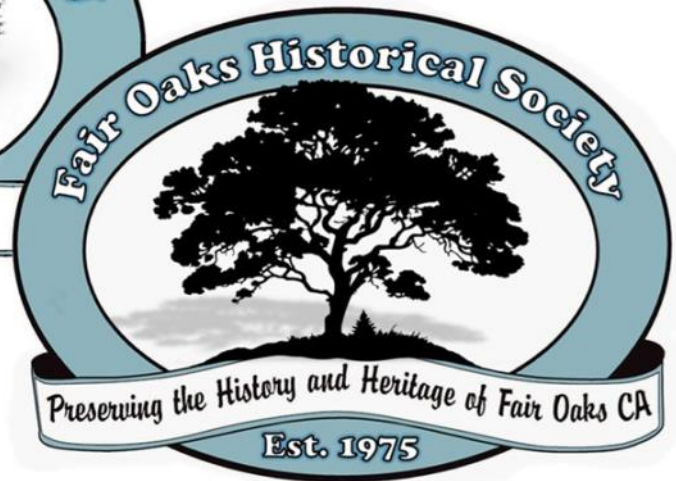
For more information, call Chris Highsmith at the History Center at **(916) 844-7103** on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10am - 2:00pm**, or send him an email at:

Fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com





Fair Oaks
Historical Society's
50th Anniversary



130th Anniversary of
Fair Oaks Colony

Mark Your Calendars & Save the Date!
SEPTEMBER 27TH
2025

❖ **AFTERNOON EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Plaza Park & Village Park, Noon to 4. Free activities for the whole family celebrating Fair Oaks then and now!

❖ **SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE BANQUET**

Community Clubhouse catered dinner and musical program that promises to be an evening to remember! Limited seating. Tickets on sale July 2025.



Would you like to be a part of this event? For more information or to join our team of volunteers, email fair oakshistorycenter@gmail.com or call the Fair Oaks History Center at 916-844-7103.

Membership News

Welcome New Members

Bob Vogel (Life Upgrade)	Denis & Joanrae Deluchi (Life Upgrade)
Clarissa French	Charlene Platts
Steve Hoverman	Karen Rosevear
Jeanne & Pete Keller	Douglas Steffen
Anmarie Medin	Patrick & Dorothy Wagner (Supporting)

2025 Renewals at the Patron Level (\$100 - \$149)

Bud & Kathryn Beebe
Jonathon & Quinlan Brown
Terry & Sherry Clifton
Dale Herd
Sandra & David Navarro
John & Beth O'Farrell



2025 Renewals at the Supporting Level (\$50 - \$99)

Bob's Cycle Center
Max Jones
Karen Miles
Ronnie & Shelia Mitchell
Barbara & Jerry Roper
Richard & Claudia Thorn
Woman's Thursday Club
Pete & Sharon Sarellana
Bob & Maria Sours/Melendey
Merl & Lori Susmilch
Jane & Anne Taylor



FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Chris Highsmith, History Center Operation Manager

The Early History of what is now Fair Oaks Plaza Park

Since the start of Fair Oaks Colony in 1895, the area of land now called Fair Oaks Plaza Park was vacant land. Fair Oaks grew around the vacant land and by 1918 the site was starting to get very unsightly. In the spring of 1918, the Chamber of Commerce subcommittee, *Colony Planning Committee*, suggested a plan for beautification of the plaza. It was cultivated in the fall and sown with alfalfa. Then in May 1919, the Colony Planning Committee gave authorization to fix up the Plaza and Director Weikert volunteered a man, his team and mower for the purpose of mowing the grass.



Fair Oaks Plaza ca 1906

In early December of 1919, the land that included the plaza area, the area where the Amphitheater is now located and the area where the Fair Oaks History Center and Sunflower Drive-in are now located, changed ownership. Attorney John T. Greene took over ownership from H. S. Derby. Greene previously stated to the Chamber of Commerce that if he ever did become the owner, he would sell it to the Fair Oaks community without profit. {On a side note, John T. Greene's wife was on the Playground Board in Sacramento and they lived in the Greene and Greene house that was built for them across from McKinley Park; no relationship to John.}



From the 1919 Sacramento County Assessor Map Book

At the annual Farm Bureau meeting in December 1920, there was a discussion about the



Fair Oaks Plaza shown around 1918



feasibility of acquiring the plaza and beautifying it. John T. Greene, who acquired the Plaza by foreclosure, was approached and asked to set a price on it. His figure was \$1,500, which was unanimously thought to be entirely too high. In the Summer of 1921, the Farm Bureau started the Fair Oaks Civic Club.

The next year, in October 1921, the Fair Oaks Civic Club received an option on the Plaza which was obtained by them from John T. Greene through the effort of W. H. Devlin. The figure set was \$1,600, which is \$100 more than was asked for about one year earlier. The reason for the effort at this time was the fact that there was an interest in establishing a garage and they were asking for an option on the property.



Fair Oaks Plaza in the 1920s

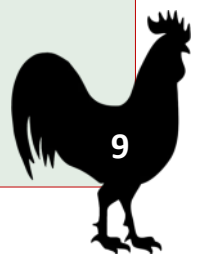
The proposition to purchase the Fair Oaks Plaza was started in November 1922 by the club. By December, the Plaza deal was closed, the

documents signed, sealed and delivered by a group from the club. The purchasers were C. E. Weikert, R. A. Rose, W. E. Spangle, Dr. George E. Bell and Burt Hild. They paid \$500 down on the purchase price of \$1,883 and took out a loan at the local bank for the balance. They also agreed to donate \$200, bringing the price down to \$1,683.

The new owners cleaned up the Plaza and pruned the palm trees. In January 1923 the Civic Club agreed to buy the Plaza from the group of five owners with the possibility of erecting a club house and auditorium on it. While this was happening, the Martha Washington grocery store company was looking to have a store in Fair Oaks and the plaza was one of the sites they were looking at. The company eventually decided not to expand into Fair Oaks.

While the Plaza Committee of the Civic Club was having the abstract completed to close the deal for the purchase of the property, it appeared that John T. Greene was not able to give a clear title to the club. It cost the club several hundred dollars to remove the clouds. While waiting for the deal to close, the club burned the grass off, trimmed the palms and had the ground disked by means of a tractor. They filled in some low places with about 1 1/2 feet of new dirt. The work was under the direction of A. H. Coffing and Bert Hild. A new delay was encountered because of the decision to secure quit claim deeds from the wives of the former owners, because of the new community property law.

An offer for a drug store to be built on the plaza site was turned down. Plus, the project to erect a building for Civic Club use on the Plaza was discussed by the board of directors of the club and was shelved, for some thought the Plaza should be beautified and maintained for public use. The first thing to do was to have the plaza surveyed. In fact, there wasn't any street, apparently, on the east side of the Plaza. What seemed to be a street was owned by R. A. Rose, who could also, lay claim to a palm or two. Then on the side opposite the Post Office, the bank and the cute little notion store on California Avenue, some of the palms had been planted in the street and didn't belong to the Plaza. As a matter of fact, this street was supposed to be on a curve as though it had started around the Plaza in a circle.



The committee wanted this street defined and wanted an alleyway donated in front of the telephone building which was the old George P. Robinson Building. Supervisor John Russi and Engineer Deterding attended a meeting at which they had agreed to survey the plaza with a view to setting boundaries and widening the street in front of the post office, putting through an alley north and south, and getting things in shape for improvements. E. W. Glafcke did the survey of the Plaza. There was talk of sowing it in alfalfa or making it into a lawn. In May 1924, there was a May Day Celebration on the Plaza.

In the summer of 1925, dirt taken from excavations around the Murphy Block was being dumped on the north side of the Plaza for the purpose of leveling it. The street running in front of the post office was cut down west of the Murphy Block, whereupon tons and tons more dirt went into the leveling process. Supervisor Russi sent a force to cut down the hill on Howard Street, fully eight feet, and dumped the dirt into the plaza, materially leveling the Plaza. In the meantime, the hump in front of Hoist's store was taken out and dumped into the Plaza. Further fills were also made, and in the fall, grass seeds were sown for a lawn.



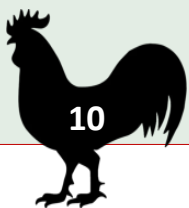
From the 1925 Sacramento County Assessor Map Book

Since buying the property, the Civic Club had been receiving subscriptions to pay off the debts on the Plaza. On November 7, 1925, there was a dance held in the new Rutledge Hall (Murphy Building) for funds to finish paying off the debts.

At the February 1926 meeting of the Fair Oaks Civic Club, it was decided to make the development of the Plaza its first and most particular issue. They came up with a plan. In March, work started on the Fair Oaks Plaza. The grounds were disked and leveled and the paths were laid out. The pipelines would be laid by E. E. Fulton and the curb of cobblestones would be made under the direction of B. R. Hild. Over a dozen varieties of shrubs and nine kinds of trees had been ordered to carry out the plan submitted by F. Evans of Sacramento. The cobblestone bench would be installed at one end of the park with a flagpole and drinking fountain at the other end. A lawn would be planted in the center of the park to give the desired effect of expansion. Work on the Plaza Improvement progressed and there was a marked change in the appearance of the town site. A force of men and boys were at work under the supervision of W. C. Fleming, planting trees and shrubs. Eric Fulton and his force spent nearly every afternoon installing the water system and the planting of some of the shrubs. A newspaper reported in 1928 how much better the Plaza looked as the result of the work done by the Civic Club during the past few years.

In May 1933, the Civic Club unanimously voted to deed over the plaza to the Fair Oaks School Board. As public support for the club waned; the care of the plaza along with the taxes had become a burden. It was deemed wise to turn it over to the school board which was in a better position to take care of it and keep it for intended purposes.

In 1933, there was talk about having parking places marked between the palm trees without moving a single tree. And again in 1936, a proposal to remove the row of palms which borders the west side of the Fair Oaks Plaza as a means of providing additional parking facilities, received an unofficial indorsement from the Fair Oaks Community Club. But, nothing was done at this time.



With the Plaza taking shape, more events were being held there. The Woman's Thursday Club for the 1928 Christmas Season, donated two living Christmas Trees for the Plaza and again they planted two more for the 1929 Christmas Season. There was the first annual Easter Egg hunt, in Plaza, in 1930. On June 4, 1939, there was the big turnout, despite painfully short notice, for the San Juan High school band concert in the Fair Oaks Plaza. Hot dogs and soft drinks were furnished to band members after the concert, by courtesy of several civic-minded residents and businessmen, and the dogs were given that ' smoky flavor over impromptu fires on the scene, built in wheelbarrows. Concerts continued weekly through the summer and the next year added members of the San Juan Community band.



Aerial Photo of Fair Oaks Plaza ca. 1940

In the summer 1941, the band concerts were moved to the new band stage next to the Fair Oaks Clubhouse. That same summer on Plaza on Tuesday nights, Fair Oaks merchants were sponsoring movies. One night, Pilots from Mather Field were invited to attend the Fair Oaks free movies Tuesday night when "Stunt Pilot," a movie adaptation of the comic strip, "Tailspin Tommy," was shown. Many merchants reported that this series of free movies, representing the first concerted action on the part of Fair Oaks merchants to try to get new business by advertising, was bringing many new customers to their stores. Other old-timers in Fair Oaks say that it is the first time in 27 years that a majority of Fair Oaks merchants had agreed on anything for more than one week.

In the next newsletter the creation of the Fair Oaks Park District and the ten years leasing of the Fair Oaks Clubhouse and Fair Oaks Plaza from the Fair Oaks School District.

We always enjoy receiving stories about and photos pertaining to the history of the Fair Oaks area.

The sources that were used were the *Sacramento Bee, Sacramento Union, San Juan Record and Fair Oaks Progress*

**Attn: Chris Highsmith
Fair Oaks History Center
10340 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628**

Next door to the Sunflower Drive-in

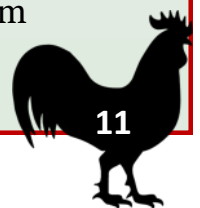
fair oakshistorycenter@gmail.com

Phone – (916) 844-7103

Regular Hours

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

Admission is FREE



Judith Ann Westberg

A Life Well Lived

March 23, 1942
March 14, 2025



break. When Warren returned to campus in the fall, he and Judy continued to date until Judy graduated in June, 1964, with a major in English literature and a minor in elementary education.

Judy and Warren became engaged that summer. Warren then returned to CLC in the fall of 1964 to complete his final semester, while Judy began teaching in a first-grade classroom at Roberts Elementary in Orangevale. They planned on

a February wedding after his completion of college coursework.

Judy was born to Gust and Frances Westberg in Hanna, Wyoming, a company coal mining town owned by the Union Pacific Railroad, on March 23, 1942. Judy's mother was deathly afraid of mine accidents and the whistle on the mine blew frequently to signify some kind of accident.

Weather could also be brutal and Judy's mother always said that it was a calm day in Hanna if the lace on Judy's clothes didn't blow off while hanging on the line. Because of the danger inherent in working in the mine, Judy's father found a job in a war plant in Los Angeles. The family moved to Southern California in the summer of 1942 and found a house in Hollydale neighborhood of South Gate.

The family stayed in the L.A. area until 1954 when friends, moved to the Sacramento area and convinced the Westbergs to move north. They bought a 19' trailer to live in while they found a home. They found a spot to set up the trailer in the Almond Grove Trailer Park (now Almond Grove Mobile Home and RV Park) on Greenback Lane in Orangevale. Six months later, they found and purchased a 2.5 acre property on Almond Avenue, Orangevale. The property included almond trees and a pasture where they raised beef for home use.

Judy and Nancy attended Orangevale Elementary and going on to San Juan High School, where she concentrated on business courses. Those were the days when a young lady had four choices: homemaker, secretary, teacher, or nurse.

Judy enrolled in LaVerne College in LaVerne, California, and spent her freshman year there. Judy's sister, Nancy, attended a meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church in Roseville, about a new college, California Lutheran College (CLC), being established in Thousand Oaks, west of L.A. Nancy applied, was accepted and Judy transferred and joined her there.

Midterm 1963, Warren Blomquist transferred in. Judy had two campus jobs: operating the switchboard and managing the salad line in the cafeteria a couple of nights a week. That's where she met Warren, over the salad counter. They dated through the spring and when summer came, Judy stayed on campus to run the switchboard and do some typing for the Dallas Cowboys, who held their summer training camp there from 1963 until 1989.

Judy and Warren were married February 6, 1965, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Orangevale. After a three-day honeymoon in San Francisco, Judy returned to the classroom and Warren went off to Sacramento State to work on a secondary teaching credential. They bought their home in Fair Oaks in December 1967. Judy taught for six years, then, with their first child on the way, she took time off from teaching to be a full-time mother/wife. Daughter Nikki was born on January 5, 1971, and son Nils followed on March 9, 1973.

When both kids were attending school at Fair Oaks Elementary, Judy was hired as an instructional aide in Dolores Bleekman's kindergarten class at Fair Oaks Elementary. That was a half-day position, so she also took a part-time job teaching fourth grade three afternoons at Faith Lutheran School in Fair Oaks so that the teacher, Mike Heldt, could teach music and direct the student choir.

In 1985, Judy was ready to return to teaching full time and applied again for a position in the San Juan Unified District. She signed a contract on Friday and was to begin on Monday. She opened the classroom on Monday morning, beginning a seventeen-year collaboration with fellow first-grade teacher and her good friend Mary Thomas. For seventeen years, they developed teaching units together and put on a performance of *The Nutcracker* with costumes and all, just before Christmas break each year.

Both Judy and Warren retired in June, 2002. Judy suffered a cardiac arrest at home on July 31, 2009, and survived. She had a pacemaker/defibrillator implanted and continued with her active lifestyle.

In the following years, she had four different devices implanted and a new set of wires placed on a separate occasion. She had had some difficult times prior to Christmas 2024, and had had two stints in the ER the two weeks before passing. She was placed on hospice for the last week, which she got to spend in her home of fifty-seven years surrounded by family. She will be missed by all who knew her for her kind, caring, and loving spirit, always willing to lend a helping hand.

Warren went home to Escalon where he worked construction during the summer



2025 Membership Renewals are NOW Past due

We make it easy for you to renew.

Use the form below and mail with your check or Pay Online.

Or just bring a check or credit card to the History Center.

Or bring a check or credit card to the next General Meeting.



Fair Oaks Historical Society 2025 Membership Renewal

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 at the 2024 Chicken Festival or after October 1st shall be considered paid for 2025. Membership dues are: (circle one)

Individual \$20, Family (2 persons) \$25, Supporting \$50,
Patron \$100, Benefactor \$150, Life Membership \$275
Add \$10 to receive a printed copy of our newsletter via Mail.

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

Send this renewal form with your check to:

Fair Oaks Historical Society
10340 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-7114



You may also use our secure PayPal system: <https://fairoakshistory.org/join/join.htm>

Thank you for your support!

Memberships at or above the Supporting level will be recognized in our quarterly Newsletter.

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

Membership Coordinator use only:

Amount paid: \$
Check # or PayPal Date:
Date received:



2025 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Executive Board Meeting	April 15
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	April 22
Quarterly General Meeting	April 22
Executive Board Meeting	May 20
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	May 27
Executive Board Meeting	June 17
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	June 24



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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: