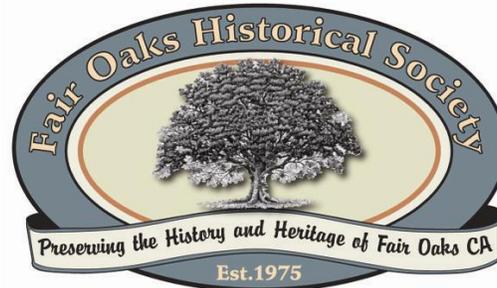


Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter – July 2016

Issue Number 118



www.fairoakshistory.org

QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

6 p.m., Tuesday, July 26, 2016

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

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

Village Historical/Art Monument Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts

Speaker: Barry Brown

President's Message

Frank Wolfe



As you may know, my dear wife Judy passed away June 3rd following a decade long illness. Thank you to all those who sent cards, attended the June 29 service or helped me in other ways. Thanks, also to Ron, Bob, Joe, Jim and the others who stepped up with Society business while I was occupied. Your kindness is much appreciated.

I anticipate a great meeting this month. Longtime Fair Oaks resident, Barry Brown, a key member of the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts (FOFLA), will show and describe the historical and artistic “Founders’ Monument” that is being planned for the Village triangle (where Entrance Street and Fair Oaks Boulevard intersect). Lois Frazier and Jim Pearce are representing the Society in assisting FOFLA with this project.

As I understand it, the project is envisioned to include an abstract oak tree sculpture, interpretive displays, and a variety of brass medallions that depict things of local interest. The medallions will provide a hands-on opportunity for children and others to make wax rubbings. Barry will elaborate on (or correct) this preview of the project.

I extend a warm welcome to our new History Center docent, Jean Cress-Black. Jean is eminently talented, and among other duties, she will be working to increase public awareness of the History Center and our community’s history. Thank you Jim Pearce for your ongoing guidance and orientation to Jean. Read on for more about our new docent.

Did you make the April meeting? Jim Pearce gives us a recap...



It was a strong showing of our membership for the April General Meeting, caused in part by the presentation on the Slocum House. Vice President Ron Lingren hosted a three-way presentation— Jim Pearce on the early history of the Slocum House, Craig LeMar (that’s him by the easel in the photo above) on the years of operations as a restaurant, and Peter Parker on the proposed conversion of the building to a church. For those of you that missed the meeting, we’ll soon do an Old Homes article on the Slocum House.



We were informed that the proposed use of the property would have an informal hearing the following week by the Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC). A number of our members attended the meeting at the old library, but were informed that the church had withdrawn its proposal and decided not to purchase the property.



Several factors probably influenced their decision. The listing of the property in the National Registry of Historic Places (see “What’s New on our website”) and the probable interest by the CPAC may have caused them concern over what they would be allowed to do to the old home. In any event, the property is back up for sale for about one million dollars.

What’s happening...

Jim Pearce

Meet Jean Cress-Black, our new docent —



Jean is a native Sacramentan, whose first memories include digging up arrow-heads in her backyard across from William Land Park, and traveling our nation via many of the great US railroads, courtesy of her maternal grandfather, a physician for the Southern Pacific. After receiving her BFA in Theater and Communications from Sac State, Jean further indulged her love of trains and American history by joining the American Freedom Train (a 26-car – including a steam locomotive – traveling museum) for its epic bicentennial tour of the contiguous United States in 1976.

Following her bicentennial adventures, Jean landed in Southern California, where she began reviewing films and delivering entertainment news as a radio personality at KRTH Radio in Los Angeles, XHRM Radio in San Diego, and KMFO Radio in Aptos/Monterey. She had a nationally syndicated radio program with Westwood One called “On the Move,” and hosted a weekly classic movie show on KRUZ-TV in Santa Cruz, California.

Jean’s ultimate goal of working for The Walt Disney Company in Burbank, California, came to fruition in the 1990’s when she became a writer and executive in charge of promotional on-air productions at The Disney Channel, then a writer for Walt Disney Art Classics, The Disney Catalog, and finally, head writer for Disney Auctions, a partnership between Disney and eBay. Disney Auctions catalogued and sold an astonishing collection of Disney artifacts, including the original Disneyland Sign, Theme park attraction vehicles and props, and Disney film and TV props and costumes including some original 1950s Mouseketeer’s costume pieces.

Following her retirement from Disney, Jean returned to Sacramento where she taught herself web design and opened a web design business, mybigfatsites.com and returned to

the world of film criticism in 2005, writing for Senior Spectrum in Sacramento, The Roseville Press Tribune, The Carmichael Times, American River Messenger, Natomas Messenger, and The Placer Mercury. As small newspapers became scarce, Jean made the leap to the cyber world – first with MyBigFatMovieReviews.com – then BoomerViews.net, and her newest venture, PopGoestheMovies.com.

Jean is thrilled to be the new docent with the Fair Oaks Historical Museum, and hopes you will come by to meet her personally from Friday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm

At the History Center—

With our new docent onboard we're back operating from 10 am to 4 pm Friday through Sunday. Drop in and say hello. People are starting to see that we're back open and we're getting interesting guests. Recently, the new owners of the Huggett home (ex. Shelton General Store and Post Office) came by and we had a fun conversation about what they are finding around the grounds. The same weekend, the owner of the Hodge House stopped by and told us what he was doing with the house.

Our new sign went up the day before the Fiesta so we were well dressed. Thanks to Ron, Bob, Dick, Warren and whoever else helped to get it up. With the new format for the Fiesta (one day instead of two, no parade, limited sales in Plaza Park, no kid's playland) we didn't have as many visitors as usual, but we enjoyed chatting with everyone who showed up.

And, William Charles Salon, just across the street from the History Center has offered to let us use his web connection to allow visitors a live experience with our website. It's a good connection and we really appreciate it.



New on the website –

It was mentioned at the April meeting that there are only two Fair Oaks locations on the National Registry of Historic Places, and many of our members correctly identified the Old Fair Oaks Bridge and the Slocum House as the ones. We have obtained the applications, with attachments, for that recognition and have them on the website in the “what’s new” section.

Also, interest remains high on the Google Old Homes App, available on the website. I recently gave a presentation to the Woman’s Thursday Club on the project. Trude Vasquez put together a “personal hotspot” connection to the Internet using her cell phone to show everyone a live demonstration of the application.

Memorial Day Celebration

Lois Frazier

The 18th annual Memorial Day Celebration at the Fair Oaks Cemetery was enjoyed by about 500 people. The theme this year paid tribute to Pearl Harbor survivors. Actor Joe Hart portrayed President Franklin Delano Roosevelt presenting the “Infamy Speech”—the president’s historic request for a declaration of war following the Pearl Harbor attack.

Society volunteers provided cookies and staffed the refreshments table for this event—an amenity appreciated by quite a few participants. Many thanks to all those who brought cookies and helped out serving cold lemonade and fresh-baked delectables.



Tenth Annual Soup Night Preparation

Claudia Thorn, Chair

Friday, November 4, 2016, 5:30 to 8 pm — Mark your calendar for the Tenth Annual Soup Night —our big fundraiser to support the History Center and Society activities.

Tickets will be sold in the Clubhouse beginning at 5:30 pm on July 26— prior to start of the July quarterly meeting . Tickets will be sold individually or by table, but you must have your cash or check on hand. They are \$30 each, or \$270 for a table of nine.

Those volunteers who are working the event will still need to purchase tickets. (Remember this is the fundraiser that keeps our History Center open and staffed.) Those tickets may be obtained directly from Claudia. Tickets will sell extremely fast, so be ready to buy, or arrange with a friend who is buying a table's worth. **Tickets are non-refundable**; however, the committee will assist you in reselling them to folks on the inevitable waiting list.

We need more donations for the raffle and the live auction. Bring them to the meeting or to Trude Vasquez later by arrangement. We still need a few big-ticket live-auction items— things like a resort time-share or bed-and-breakfast weekend.

Board Meeting Highlights* June 22, 2016

Vicki Walter, Board Secretary

In attendance: Frank Wolfe, Claudia Thorn, Bob Vogel, Ken and Lynn Steen, Judy Blomquist, Joe Dobrowolski, Ron Lingren, Ralph Carhart, and Vicki Walter— a quorum. Guest: Jean Cress-Black, the new docent for the History Center.

William Charles Salon will permit us to use their wifi while working in the history center. A motion was approved to provide the salon an individual membership as a thank you.

Minutes of the March board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was presented and will be filed for financial review. IRS has reported that we don't owe anything. A motion was approved to send out reminder letters to those who are delinquent in their dues. Will seek volunteers through e-mail to help with this. A motion by the treasurer to raise all dues categories except life membership by \$5 each was approved. The bylaws need to be changed to reflect this action and that needs to be brought to a general membership vote in January.

Ron Lingren announced the July program— Barry Brown speaking on the Founder's Monument. Need raffle prizes. Theme will be patriotic. Blomquists doing decorations.

Report on Fair Oaks Fiesta Day— There was a good turnout for the one-day event. Thank Joe Dobrowolski and helpers for getting the sign mounted before the event.

Report on the upcoming Soup Night—Committee will meet following the board meeting. A suggestion to eliminate ceramic bowls due to weight, storing and transporting was discussed. Don Yost seeks feedback regarding the bowls he makes. Tentative soups will include clam chowder, minestrone, chicken tortilla, vegetarian tomato bisque, and beef barley. There will be a new "one-scoop policy" until everyone has gone through the line.

Ken Steen, Liaison Representative, reported on activities of other historical societies. Quarterly Sacramento County Society Meeting will be sometime in July; no location yet.

* Full Board minutes are available from the Secretary.

Lyn Steen, Park District Liaison, reported on “It’s My Park Day”. Our participation keeps us in the premier category for lower rental rates. Ralph Carhart suggested seeking inclusion of our quarterly meetings as a community activity by the District in their “Roost” publication.

Report on Memorial Day at Fair Oaks Cemetery— We received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Cemetery District for helping with the event.

An ad hoc History Center Committee was formed to deal with the History Center. Proposed members: Jim Pierce, Ron Lingren, Joe Dobrowolski, and Jean.



Photos

Clockwise: Village triangle site for the Founder’s Monument; Lois Frazier and Marilyn Pearce staff the History Center during the Fiesta; Certificate of Appreciation from the Fair Oaks Cemetery District for Society’s support of the Memorial Day Celebration.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Vogel

Checking Balance	\$5,826.61
Certificate of Deposit	\$25,000.00
Savings Balance	\$6,518.43
Total Assets	\$37,345.04

Detailed Treasurer's report and 2016
Budget are available upon request.



Old Homes of Fair Oaks (and Environs)

Sally Dunbar

O'Donnell Home, 4434 Mapel Lane, Carmichael

While the Fair Oaks Historical Society focuses on the old homes of Fair Oaks, I couldn't pass up sharing Carmichael's O'Donnell House with you this month, which is currently for sale for \$2.6M, on the outskirts of Fair Oaks. Because it is so close, the O'Donnell's must have had interactions with our early Fair Oakians, so we'll consider them part of our story.



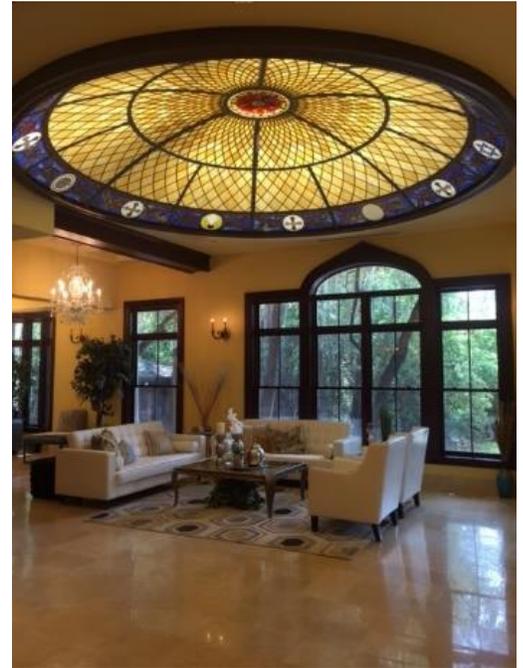
The historic home is located near Winding Way and Barrett Road on Mapel Lane, down an unobtrusive driveway - you would never know it is there. The home is advertised as having been built in the 1880's by the O'Donnell family, as an elegant 2 story Victorian home of 3,455 sf. While it is currently on 6 acres, an additional 9.4 acres was previously donated as O'Donnell Park - a newly developed community park on Charleston with a nature path, butterfly garden, and playground. While the home is not visible from the street, it is also barely viewable close up, as the large trees obstruct your view.



In 1985 Marc and Paula Turtleaub (of The Money Store) purchase the home from the O'Donnell family. The Turtleaub's completed major restoration and renovation of the home, including stained glass windows, wood and marble flooring, gilded molding, fireplaces, lighting, trim, wall paper, etc, to the tune of \$3.2 - \$3.5 million dollars. Shocking? Yes. But it gets better!

In the mid 2000's a second 4600 sf residence was added to the property, adjoining the original home. It includes a 4 story turret, a curved marble staircase, a massive stained glass dome, wall murals and a labyrinth of suites and rooms that boggles the mind. No expenses were spared to recreate the finishes, style, and craftsmanship of yesteryear. Literally no expenses were spared - the construction costs were \$9.2M! It is nearly impossible to understand how that much money was spent, but it was.

In 2015 the home was placed on the market for \$4.6 million. Sadly, the home eventually went into foreclosure, and in 2016 it has come back on the market for \$2.6 million, a veritable bargain at a fraction the cost of the renovation



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 \$ _____

Membership dues are:

Individual \$15

Family (2 Persons) \$20

Single Life Member \$150

Family Life Member \$225

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)