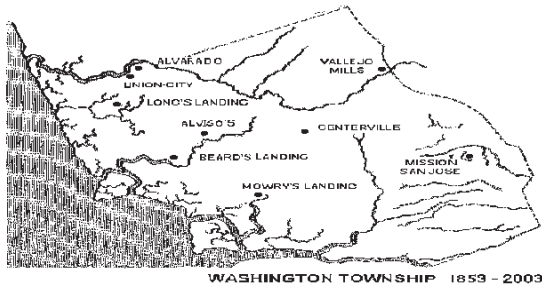


Washington Township Historical



JAN-FEB 2016

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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016, 7:15 PM at
MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST. FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Tim Swenson and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and friends of Washington Township Historical Society,

Welcome to another year of interesting speakers at our bi-monthly meeting. We are privileged to have Tim Swenson as our speaker this month. He will be speaking on the historic schools in Alvarado. I met Tim nearly 20 years ago when he was serving on the board of the Union City Historical Museum. We worked on many projects together and I am very glad that he is helping us work towards historical preservation in the Washington Township area of Alameda County.

I have not heard of any recent plans from anyone regarding the Transition Committee that is working on merging the three historical organizations into one larger organization. I think it is something that we need to

continue to explore and work towards either one larger organization or decide that it will not work.

I thank all of you for being strong supports of Historic preservation. Historic preservation is the one thing that gives a city a sense of place. This year the City of Fremont turns 60-years old. To some of us this does not seem that long ago and we can remember what it was like back then with the cherry and apricot orchards and later the cauliflower fields. I know many of us remember the fragrance of the spoiled cauliflower when it was left to rot in the fields. Yes, those were what our parents called "The Good Old Days".

Welcome to 2016 and we look forward to preserving more buildings, installing historic plaques and having some great speakers at our meeting.

Al Minard

OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS TIM SWENSON

Tim Swenson is our guest speaker for January. He will give a presentation on the Alvarado Grammar School and School District. The District was founded in 1874, merged with Decoto School District in 1965 to form New Haven Unified School District. I will be talking about the three school buildings.

Tim Swenson has been researching and writing on Union City for over 15 years. He has one nationally published book, a locally

published book,

and a number of papers available from the Museum of Local History website.

Tim has served as President of the Union City Historical Museum, and The Museum of Local History. He is currently as the secretary for Washington Township Historical Society.

"To Collect, Preserve and Diffuse Information Relating to the History of Washington Township"

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE NEWS

November 17, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Rena Kiehn writes about Korla Pandit, who was an organist that played on television 50 years ago. Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum has a documentary on this turbaned organist, who they say was not who he seemed.

November 17, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, **Kelsey Camello** writes a letter to the editor about her experience of winning a prize for best costume when she was 13 months old and this year took her own child and her sister with her child to this event. Neither of their children won a prize but it was a lot of fun and continued a tradition that her grandmother started many years ago. She said it “makes out ever-expanding city still feel like the small town it was when I was young.”

November 17, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Seasons greetings from the Niles Canyon Train. The Niles Canyon Train of Lights will run from November 27 through December 28. The train can only accommodate about 500 people per night so you need to purchase your tickets in advance.

November 24, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, **Kelsey Camello** writes about a Fremont State Farm agent, Lynette Fraga-Weems, who is sponsoring a Toys for Tots program. She goes on to say that we need to care about the children who may not otherwise receive a gift.

November 24, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, **Lila Bringhurst** writes about the Museum of Local History which is celebrating 20 years of showing the community the history of the area in artifacts and papers. The first president was Phil Holmes and he was a good friend of Dr. Robert Fisher who captured much of the history of this area in film. Lila tells how the museum started and all of the organizations that worked together to get this to happen.

December 1, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, **Al Minard** invited everyone to enjoy a Victorian Christmas at the Shinn House that is decorated as it might have been in 1905. The Shinn house was completed in 1876 but got electricity in 1905. It has been lived in by many generations of the Shinn family and was donated to the City of Fremont in 1971. Docent led tours are available on the first and second Friday evenings and the first full weekend in December.

December 1, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Save Our Fremont, publishes articles on new developments in the Fremont area. This week they are talking about the demolition of 2

Connolly Furniture building and that entire complex to make room for mostly residential buildings, some are live work. This will convert land that has been designated as commercial to residential. Save Our Fremont opposes the change to residential.

December 8, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, The Fremont Cultural Arts Council and others are sponsoring Las Posadas. This is a fun event that starts at the Old Mission Museum and walks the short distance to the evening venue singing carols and carrying a small crèche of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. Each of the businesses invites them in for entertainment and then refreshments after. This event starts on December 15 and continues every night for 9 evenings, one of those stops is at the Museum of Local History.

December 8, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, **Pat Kite** writes about Popcorn Popping. Popping corn has a 5000 year history and today we pop 900 million pounds of popcorn a year. Popping corn is a special type of corn of which there are many. Cracker Jacks, which is mostly popcorn, was invented in 1885. Pat notes that there is a popcorn Museum in Marion, Ohio and there is also a Cracker Jack Collectors Association.

December 15, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Arathi Satish from the Fremont Cultural Arts Council has another article on Las Posadas. Arathi mentions that when the people come to the designated house they knock on the door and are refused entry until they finally tell the person behind the door that they are Mary and Joseph and that their son will be the King of the Jews.

December 15, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Music for Minors II is starting a children's choir of any student at a Music for Minors II school between grades 3 and 6, currently they have 17 chori members. The choir meets weekly at Niles School from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.

December 15, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, Save Our Fremont writes about a proposed development at the crner of Walnut Avenue and Guardino Drive. This area is where we have able to enjoy getting freshly grown produce from the gardens on this site. The current proposal is for 670 units with 1.7 parking spaces per unit, regardless the number of bedrooms. They talk about affordable housing in the Bay area and how all of the cities are trying to deal with this problem.

December 22, 2015, *Tri-City Voice*, **Patricia**

Schaffarczyk writes about a matching grant of \$5,000 that the Museum of Local History has recently received. This grant will be used to catalog and archive unique and valuable collections related to the area and must be matched on a 1 for 1 basis.

January 5, 2016, *Tri-City Voice*, **Dorothy Bradley** in a letter to the Editor thanking everyone for supporting the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum. They continue to show silent films every week with live music and have been given many new films that are giving them storage problems. Their film collection is not close to 9,000 titles. An anonymous donor gave a challenge grant of \$25,000 towards the \$70,000 cost to support a specialist to work full time cataloging their film collection. They are asking for donations.

January 5, 2016, *Tri-City Voice*, The Niles Essanay Silent

Film Museum wants to celebrate all things Niles. Local author, Don C. Reed, has written a book about "Stem Cell Battles". Reed writes about the story of how California is trying to raise \$4 Billion for stem cell research. The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum is having a book signing on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

January 5, 2016, *Tri-City Voice*, **Pat Kite** writes about "Gopher Goodbye". Pat says that there are many gopher removal methods on the internet which mostly do not work. She also says that when she moved to Fremont she had a gopher and her lady neighbor told her the only way to get rid of it was to put the water hose full blast in their hole and when they come up to hit them with a shovel. She says they did this and the gopher emerged but it terrified Pat so she turned the house "accidentally" on her neighbor which resulted in a lot shrieking but the gopher left and never came back to her yard.

FROM THE MAILBAG

The Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly, January 2016 issue is publishing stories in memory of Jack London. Jack London was born in San Francisco on January 12, 1876 and died in 1916. This edition of the Quarterly focuses on his early life and the next four issues will feature his later life. This issue of the Quarterly also has a nice article on Julia Morgan, renowned architect that built over 700 buildings mostly in California including many of the YWCA buildings, Hearst Castle in San Simeon, and buildings at Asilomar.

LOV Notes from the League of Volunteers, November/December issue, notes that it is time for the 27th Annual Thanksgiving Day Feast. They note that the feast is for anyone who would spend the day alone or who do not have the resources, either money or shelter. They also ask for donations to help this activity. They are also sponsoring a Toy Drive and again asking the community to donated new unwrapped toys. Last year they gave out over four thousand toys. They also list the Concerts that they sponsor which are held at the Thornton Junior High School on Thornton at Dusterberry.

The City of Fremont sent "Bringing the Fremont Vision to Life". They mention new housing developments, comment on housing growth and employment facts, explain how a project moves from the ground up, and include their vision of what they are expecting to see happen over the next few years. This is a slick publication that also has questions and answers as

well as website to check out for more information.

Union City Historical Museum, newsletter of December 2015/January 2016 has information about celebrating the 15th Anniversary of this museum, which will take place with an open house at the museum on Saturday, February 20th from 11 Am to 4 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. There is also two pages of pictures of events happening at the museum followed by a time line of Union City and a comment of Myrla Raymundo, who celebrates her 80th birthday this year.

The Berkeley City Club sent their "News from the Castle". The Berkeley City Club was designed by Julia Morgan. This building as many of Julia Morgan's building was built of reinforce concrete and they have included pictures of the concrete they had to remove to properly ventilate the swimming pool. This project is nearing completion. They note that this building was completed 85 years ago and that the Berkeley City Club Conservancy was founded 50 years ago.

ANCHR (Association for Northern California Historical Research) Publications sent their 2016 informational brochure. This brochure lists some interesting historical events in Northern California, mostly within about 100 miles of Chico. One of the events listed is the Lassen Peak eruptions in 1914-15; another is "Tales From Ishi Country". There are also many new books of the history of the Chico Vicinity area, as well as publications of a smaller nature and less expensive.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY

Upcoming meetings: In March we plan on having a joint meeting with the Museum of Local History at a larger site to hear Jim Griffin speak on Pioneer Women and their Men.

Members who paid their dues since our last meeting is Jean Messick. We thank you for paying your dues in a timely manner.

All dues become due in January of each year. Please pay your dues in a timely manner so that you can continue to get this newsletter and support our organization. Thank You

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

PATRONS MEMBERS: \$50.00 for one year

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Address _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

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