



THE BARN BURNER



SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

Dedicated to the preservation of San Ramon's early farms and homesteads

Camille Thompson-Editor

FOREST HOME FARMS HISTORIC PARK

Located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon, Forest Home Farms is the current focus of the San Ramon Historic Foundation's efforts. The property was bequeathed to the City of San Ramon in the 1990s by its owner, Ruth Quayle Boone, with the understanding that it become a City Park.

It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm, closed Sunday and Monday. Family groups are welcome to come and enjoy the rural farm atmosphere.

Visit www.srhf.org to learn about activities and events at The Farm. More information, including tours and Farm Exploration Kits, may be found in the SAN RAMON PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GUIDE, at www.sanramon.ca.gov.

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A Message from The Board

The San Ramon Historic Foundation meets monthly, planning events, and keeping abreast of all activities at Forest Homes Historic Park. The Park is popular with families who enjoy a stroll around the grounds to see the animals, and to visit the Historic Tractor Museum. Everyone wants to get out and enjoy nature after being cooped up with the COVID outbreak. We follow the county requirements for masks, if needed.

On April 23rd, we had our most successful Sheep Shearing event EVER! We had almost 2,000 people in attendance and made over \$13,000, which will go toward restoring the Boone House. The event was so much fun, with loads of volunteers working in the food booth, selling ice cream and water, craft booths, and face painting, throughout the

Park. Hats off to the Olympic Fields Brass Band, kudos to our planning committee, under the capable leadership of Lynnette Gerbert, and many thanks to Patsy Galati and her volunteers. This is an annual event and will return next year on April 22, 2023.

Our next BIG EVENT is the OKTOBERFEST on Saturday, October 1, 2022, from 11am to 4pm. Mark your calendars for this fun event at the Farm. Enjoy wine, beer, food, music, and dancing. Be sure to get your tickets later this summer via PayPal at San Ramon Historic Foundation's website, www.srhf.org.

Carol J. Rowley
Board President



Sum-Sum-Summertime

Jill Mallory, Gift Shoppe Manager

June 2022 marks one year since The Shoppe reopened. COVID crowds, improved visibility and most importantly a dedicated, enthusiastic team of volunteers contributed to our success.

Over the past few months (with the support of The City of San Ramon) The Shoppe's curb appeal was greatly improved. Colorful landscaping created a good first impression on our customers. Moving forward, The Shoppe is scheduled to be painted. "While curb appeal may not close a sale, it sets one up to make a sale."

We're anticipating a busy summer...additional markets/opportunities await at the San Ramon Farmers Market (monthly), Farm Camp (June/July Fridays) and Sidewalk Sales. New vendors are being sourced and product offerings expanded with a focus on all things FARM related. It's time to grow our business here at The Farm.

Summer Membership News

Julia Oseland, Membership

New Member Tour!

On April 16, despite the rain, membership conducted a tour of Forest Home Farms for our newest members. Our tour was led by Dall Barley, SRHF's Treasurer. Highlights included the Old Barn, the Walnut Barn, the Granary, the Meat Locker, the Welcome Center, and the Gift Shoppe. We wrapped up our tour in the Boone

House kitchen and enjoyed homemade coffee cake (compliments of our Gift Shoppe Manager, Jill Mallory) and coffee and tea. It was a fun, and wet morning -- we are so very grateful to our newest members for joining us and for supporting the SRHF.



NEW FOR YOU!!

**San Ramon Historic Foundation
Summer Speaker Series for Members Only**

Friday, June 24,
THE MISSING CHAPTER
Speaker, Harry Lindstrom and
Special Guest, Elaine Ove (Elissondo)

Friday, July 22,
THE NORRIS FAMILY: CONQUEST AND CATASTROPHE
Speaker, Bill Clarkson

Friday, August 26,
JAMES WITT DOUGHERTY: A PIONEERING SUCCESS
STORY
Speaker, Beverly Lane

**San Ramon Historic Foundation
Summer Speaker Series for Members Only**

A FREE special program for members ONLY.
Save the dates and RSVP through your Evite sent by
email on June 1st.
Space will be limited so RSVP as soon as possible.

We invite our SRHF members to enjoy a Friday evening in the old Walnut Barn at Forest Home Farms starting at 5:30 to listen to a lecture on one or all of the historic topics.
The lecture begins at 6:15PM.

Bring a picnic, a bottle of wine, or just some cheese and crackers and a cold drink.
Mingle with fellow Foundation members and learn more about our San Ramon Valley's rich history.



Forest Home Farms Education Programs

Jessica Reaber, Recreation Coordinator



Despite the near-constant changes in health orders and operating with a very small group of volunteer docents, the Forest Home Farms Education program was still able to serve over 1,400 students in the Farm Life Education program and the Victorian Life Education program. Few classes signed up for tours in the fall, but spring saw numbers that were on par with previous years. Only minor adjustments had to be made as most of the tour components are already conducted in open air spaces. Some of the smaller indoor spaces were taught about outside of the respective buildings and children were sent in small groups to briefly look around the buildings such as the Foreman's House and the Meat Locker.

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Education

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The tours were very successful, and many parents and teachers commented on how excited their students were just to be able to go on a field trip. This was only possible with the support of the amazing docents and volunteers who faithfully showed up and even cross-trained in order to meet the needs of the tours. One school even brought their fourth-grade classes who were not able to attend last year due to the pandemic.

Forest Home Farms had to turn away some requests for Kindergarten tours due to the very small number of available docents but was able to accommodate every third-grade class that signed up. Staff looks forward to continuing the upward trend of participation in tours as teachers are already calling and emailing to sign up for tours next year!

If you are interested in becoming a docent or farm volunteer, visit our website at www.ForestHomeFarms.com, or email BJ Byrd at bbyrd@sanramon.ca.gov.



IN MEMORIAM SHIRLEY ERNEST



The San Ramon City Council adjourned on May 10, 2022 in memory and honor of our wonderful Shirley Ernest. Shirley passed away on Easter Sunday, April 18.

Shirley was an amazing friend that I met while working at St. Raymond School. She had just retired from her nursing career and wanted to give back to the community. She had a strong desire and passion to meet and help others.

Shirley became an ardent and dedicated volunteer while accumulating many friends along the way. She was a City Lights volunteer, worked as an usher at both theaters for over 10 years, greeting new and old friends. She served on the San Ramon Senior Center Advisory Board, giving advice on nutrition, always showing up for their bingo games, and supporting other activities at the Center.

Shirley was raised on a farm and Forest Home Farms delighted her and became her second home. She joined the San Ramon Historic Foundation Board, and soon became Vice President. She was always the go-to person on ordering and preparing food for Oktoberfest, Sheep Shearing and other events at the Farm. She enjoyed tackling new projects, making scarecrows for the farm, shopping and storing all the food purchased for events in her gigantic freezer, organizing the cooking crew, and making sure everything was perfect for everyone!

Shirley organized craft parties at her home to sell at local boutiques in order to raise funds for local charities. She also organized backpack gatherings at her home to prepare supplies for students in need. Every day was a productive day for Shirley as she was always ready and willing to help others in need of advice or help.

It was not surprising that she received the California Parks and Recreation Society, Champion of the Community Award and the District III California Parks and Recreation Society, Outstanding Volunteer in the Community Award in March 2019. She accepted the recognition humbly, amazed that she received these awards.

In addition to all her San Ramon volunteerism, Shirley and her husband David joined in all the activities supporting the Niles Canyon Railroad. Shirley involved all her family in her activities. Her two daughters helped when needed, and the five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren enjoyed Grandma GGma, and all the fun they had with her. Family was her pride and joy!

We will miss our friend and energizer bunny, but know she will be looking down on us, encouraging, organizing and giving great advice from above. She was an amazing woman and friend.

The family will have a Celebration of Life at their home on June 25th beginning at 1PM. In Lieu of flowers, then family is requesting a donation to the San Ramon Historic Foundation by visiting srhf.org.

Carol Rowley, Board President

FUN ON THE FARM SATURDAYS!

Visit the website below for information on how to reserve your place.

June

June 4 - Barns
June 11 – Flag Day
June 18 – Sun Prints
June 25 – Corn Art

July

July 9 – Clothespin Bugs
July 16 – Laundry Day
July 23 – Food Painting & Stamping
July 30 – Old Fashion Ice Cream

August

Aug 6 - Chickens
Aug 13 - Kaleidoscopes
Aug 20 – Rope Making
Aug 27 – Yarn Art

http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/our_city/departments_and_divisions/parks_community_services

----- BOARD MEMBERS -----

President: Carol Rowley **Vice President: vacant**
Secretary: Carol Lopez-Lucey **Treasurer: Dall Barley**
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Don Kowalski Sandy Silva Steve Chiapetto Julia Oseland

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