



THE BARN BURNER



SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

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

Carol Lombardi, 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 10 AM to 4 PM, closed Sunday and Monday. All are welcome to come and enjoy the rural farm atmosphere.

Visit www.srhf.org to learn about activities and events at Forest Home Farms. 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.



A Message from the Board

After a busy Summer, it is time to sit back and be thankful for all the positive things that are happening this Fall at the Farm.

- The leaves are starting to turn beautiful colors and the garden is flourishing at Forest Home Farms Historic Park.
- Attendance at the Saturday Fun on the Farm Programs is increasing each month as families learn about these creative free events.
- The Third-Grade Educational Programs are offered Tuesday through Friday and are almost full for the 2023–2024 school year. A Transitional Kindergarten Educational Program scheduled for Mondays has been added and will start in March 2024.
- The Gift Shoppe, operated by volunteers, has been busy this year providing thoughtful gift items for families.
- We are grateful for the volunteers who keep our tractors in The Tractor Museum in tip-top shape, as well as the volunteers who make our programs and tours in the Glass House run successfully. Glass House tour attendance is increasing!
- We appreciate all the community members who came out on a hot Fall Saturday to enjoy Oktoberfest. People of all ages danced along with the Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers to the lively music of the Olympic Fields Brass Band. Breweries and wine concessions were busy, and Back Forty Texas Barbecue served up a delicious lunch. Adults enthusiastically took part in games; it was a perfect event from beginning to end! We so appreciate the Boy Scouts, the mother and daughter teams from the National Charity League, and all others who assisted!
- We thank all the volunteers and sponsors who dedicate their time, energy, and talents throughout the year to support San Ramon's only historic park.

In this season of giving, now is the perfect time to commit to sharing your talents and time with our Foundation, and it's also time to renew your annual membership. Our programs and gatherings take planning and more volunteers as our number of attendees grows. Don't be shy—there's a place for you! Being a member and volunteering is fulfilling. It's a great way to meet people and help our historic park flourish. Email us at sanramonHF@gmail.com to express your interest.

Carol J. Rowley
President of the Board



We participated in the City of San Ramon's 40th Anniversary Light Parade last month.





Grants Help Fund Ongoing Needs at Forest Home Farms

By Renee Kullick

The San Ramon Historic Foundation depends on grants from the community to fund continuing educational programs and special projects at Forest Home Farms. In 2023, we were privileged to receive the following grants:

The **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** grant helped fund an audio tour program at Forest Home Farms.

- Visitors can pick up a tour brochure at the kiosk near the Welcome Center or the Gift Shoppe.
- The tour brochure explains how to access **Otocast** via their cellphones.
- The self-guided audio tour allows visitors to learn about the historical site and enrich their experience at the Farm at their own pace and convenience.

The **Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club** grant helped fund the elementary school program, which educates students about early farm life in the San Ramon Valley at Forest Home Farms Historic Park.

- This year, almost every third-grade student in the area will have visited the Farm to participate in hands-on activities and learn about local history and life in the San Ramon Valley during the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Meet Our Board Members

By Yuna Karpelevitch, Guest Contributor



Carol J. Rowley
SRHF President

Carol Rowley, a 54-year resident of San Ramon, has served our community as an educator, school administrator, and civic leader. Because of her love of children and interest in developing more parks, she volunteered for the San Ramon Parks & Recreation Commission in 1990. She was therefore one of the city representatives who met with Ruth Boone to discuss the possibility of her donating the property to the city as a historical park. Mrs. Boone felt very strongly about preserving this land. Carol is proud to have played a key role in preserving the Boone House and paving the way for the Forest Home Farms Historic Park we know and love today.

As Country Club Elementary School Principal, she and her staff created the first farm life curriculum. Her students were the first to attend what is now the Third-Grade Early Farm Life School Program. Carol saw the looks of amazement and delight on the children's faces as they learned about pioneer lifeways in San Ramon.

As a City Council member (elected in 2003), Carol's involvement in the Farm continued to grow. She joined the SRHF Board in 2011 and has been president since 2016. Carol shares Ruth's profound love for the property, and is passionate about preserving, in her words, "living history." She encourages anyone interested in contributing to their community to reach out and learn how they can help.



Julia Oseland
SRHF Vice President

Julia Oseland currently serves as the San Ramon Historic Foundation's Vice President and Membership Director. As VP, she has been instrumental in increasing membership and bringing a fresh perspective and new ideas forward. Additionally, she created the popular Summer Speaker Series for the Foundation members, now going into its third year. Julia has always been enamored of historic properties, the stories they tell, and the value their preservation brings for future generations.

Julia was an executive-level marketing leader for Architectural Resources Group in San Francisco—a firm focused on preservation architecture and historic properties. She is especially proud of organizing the ribbon-cutting celebration for the renovation of Coit Tower with the City of San Francisco.

Julia joined the board in the summer of 2021 as Membership Director and was appointed VP in 2022. In addition, for the past five years, Julia has served as a San Ramon Parks & Community Services Commissioner. She considers Forest Home Farms Historic Park a "gem" for the community. She encourages others to become members and to get involved in the Foundation's mission of preserving and keeping the property viable for future generations.



Membership News

By Julia Oseland, Vice President and Membership Chair

It's Time to Renew Your Annual Membership!

Yes, it's that time! Being a member of the San Ramon Historic Foundation is an effective way to support the preservation of our region's rich history and a great way to support our local community. Membership benefits include a 10% discount on purchases at the Forest Home Farm Gift Shoppe, *The Barn Burner* quarterly newsletter mailed to your home, and free admission to the popular SRHF Summer Speaker Series.

The deadline to renew is December 31, 2023!

The San Ramon Historic Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit. Memberships are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

TWO SIMPLE WAYS TO RENEW:

Mail a check to SRHF, P.O. Box 1, San Ramon, CA 94583

Or

Renew on our website via PayPal at <https://srhf.org/index.php/membership/>

For more information on membership levels, member benefits, donating, or becoming a sponsor, please visit our website at <https://srhf.org/>

Thank you for helping us preserve the history of pioneer life in the San Ramon Valley. We very much appreciate our valued SRHF members!

OKTOBERFEST 2023



FUN ON THE FARM SATURDAYS!

Fun on the Farm Activities are *FREE* crafts and activities that highlight farm life in the late Victorian era. These Saturday events are an opportunity to step back into history and enjoy the simple things of life.

December	January	February	March
Dec 2 Candle Making	Jan 6 Calling Cards	Feb 3 Tin Punching	Mar 2 Tea Time
Dec 9 Holiday on the Farm	Jan 13 Jacks & Marbles	Feb 10 Victorian Valentine Cards	Mar 9 Rope Making
Dec 16 Victorian Christmas Cards	Jan 20 Snowflakes	Feb 17 Groundhog Day	Mar 16 An Irish Tradition
Dec 23 – Jan 2 CLOSED	Jan 27 Building Barns	Feb 24 City Chicks	Mar 23 Beautiful Butterflies
			Mar 30 Eggs on the Farm

Take a free tour of the Glass House Museum, Saturdays 12 PM and 1 PM
 Enjoy themed presentations and hands-on activities at Fun on the Farm, Saturdays 11 AM to 2 PM

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

President: Carol Rowley Vice President: Julia Oseland Secretary: Carol Lopez-Lucey Treasurer: Eva Phelps
Steve Chiapetto Robert Downum Patsy Galati Rene Kullick
Don Kowalski Lionel McNeely Yvonne Richardson Sandy Silva Abram H. Wilson

--Advisory Committee--

Dall Barley Pat Boom Herb Moniz

How to Reach Us

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 San Ramon, CA 94583

Follow Us!

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 925.973.3284
<http://www.srhf.org>

San Ramon Historic Foundation
 sanramonhf






SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, JAN. 27, 2024
6 PM - 9 PM

ANNUAL CRAB FEED



LOCATION:
 San Ramon Community Center
 12501 Alcosta Blvd.
 Fundraiser for the maintenance and preservation of
 Forest Home Farms Historic Park

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