

MARCH 2024

THE BARN BURNER

SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

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

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 Forest Home Farms.



SRHF.ORG

More information on 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

The Winter storms cleared up magically and *Holiday on the Farm* was a success! Families arrived in holiday dress to have their picture taken with Santa and the Olympic Fields Brass Band played holiday music. SRHF Board members sold delicious donuts, cookies, hot chocolate and coffee. Two puppet shows entertained the crowd of families, while others enjoyed the tractor rides. The Glass House was decorated for the holidays and docents wearing Victorian dress greeted the visitors.

Also, for the holiday season, the SRHF Board decorated a huge 16-foot Christmas tree, which was displayed in the City Hall Rotunda. The entire rotunda was filled with decorated trees (completed by city departments and other foundations).

When Santa arrived, he was pleased to see the sparkling trees, as were the many families who came to see them!

On January 27th, the San Ramon Historic Foundation hosted the Annual Crab Feed in San Ramon's Community Center. Steve Cox from the San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department was once again the evening's Master of Ceremonies. A slide presentation created by our Vice President Julia Oseland, showcased all the activities and events held at the Farm through the ages - also highlighting our sponsors, the City of San Ramon, the City's Mayor Dave Hudson and Bellissimo Foods, who donated the delicious pasta and mozzarella sticks (thanks to Don Kowalski).

A big thank you to our chief on-site Crab Feed coordinator and Board Member, Sandy Silva! Everyone enjoyed the delicious crab, pasta, salad, and French bread served by the mother and daughter teams from the National Charity League. Hats off to Council members Mark Armstrong and Sridhar Verose for helping to put the tasty crab into serving containers. Attendees had the opportunity to bid on scrumptious desserts. This live auction was officiated by our favorite Auctioneer, Jeff Eorio. Topping off the event were the 50/50 drawing and silent auction.

We are thankful for our volunteers and everyone who attended to help us raise money for the Sheep Barn restoration. We met our goal and had fun too!



SRHF has a lot in store for you this Spring! Our popular, family fun, Sheep Shearing Day event will take place on Saturday, April 13th at Forest Home Farms from 11AM to 3PM. This year we have partnered again with the Dougherty/San Ramon Rotary Club for their annual Truck Time event on May 4th in San Ramon which benefits the San Ramon Valley Education, the San Ramon Historic, and the Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club foundations. More details on both events are included in this newsletter.

Carol J. Rowley

President, San Ramon Historic Foundation

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Julia Oseland, Vice President, and Membership Chair

A huge welcome to all our newest SRHF members! And a big thank you to all our loyal, renewing members! Your membership contribution helps provide the necessary support for the Foundation's education programs at both the Farm and the Glass House as well as the ongoing restoration work at Forest Home Farms.

We couldn't do what we do without all of you.

If you're behind in renewing your membership, please visit our website www.SRHF.org, go to the Support/Membership tab, and renew using PayPal. You can also mail a check directly to us at SRHF, P.O.Box 1, San Ramon, CA 94583.

We have some fun things in store for members this summer.

Save the dates!

Our 2024 Summer Speaker Series returns in June. These popular events take place on the fourth Fridays of our summer months:

Friday June 28, July 26, and August 23 at Forest Home Farms in the Walnut Barn from 5:30-7:30PM. Guests are encouraged to bring a picnic, snacks, and some wine to sip as they sit back and enjoy an informative evening learning about our rich, local history. Invitations will be emailed via Evite on the first of the month (June 1 for June's program, July 1 for July's, and August 1 for August's program), so please keep your eyes open for your emailed invitation! RSVPs will be required to attend, as seating is limited.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE FARM

Grant Approved for Manure Spreader

By Yuna Karpelevitch

The San Ramon Historic Foundation recently acquired a 1960s-era manure spreader with the help of a San Ramon Rotary Club grant. The manure spreader will be used to fertilize the organic garden at Forest Home Farms. It is a great tool for evenly distributing manure through the soil, allowing plants to get necessary nutrients, and avoiding any problems otherwise caused by uneven fertilization. Keep an eye out for the upcoming demonstration of the manure spreader in action!

We Have a New Sheep Barn Floor

We are so excited about the restoration of the 1920 Sheep Barn floor. The Foundation Board approved funding for the project in late 2023 and with the help of proceeds from the annual Crab Feed were able to get the project completed in early 2024. The City's Public Service staff was a great partner in framing and pouring the cement. The Sheep Barn now has new concrete floors and a deck for hay storage. In Patsy Galati's words (FHF very own shepherd), "the hay storage is readily available to feed the sheep, especially during the raining season. No more soggy hay!" While we don't really know what the sheep are thinking, they probably really do appreciate this!

Friday, June 28

Living on the Land: The Ohlone Indians, the Amadors, and the Russells
The human and agricultural evolution of Forest Home Farms

Our Speakers: Beverly Lane and Bill Clarkson

Friday, July 26

The Farm Life Tour of Forest Home Farms for Adults

Small group tours of the Farm by the FHF Docents

Friday, August 23

Trivia Game Night!

Join us for a fun game night based on local history trivia.



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD OFFICER

Eva Howard-Phelps worked for the City of San Ramon as the Administrative Services Director overseeing the Division of Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology. She retired from the City in 2021 after 35 years of service. In addition, Eva has been a resident of San Ramon for the past seventeen years.

Eva was recruited by other board members H. Abram Wilson and Carol Rowley to join the Foundation Board. Eva was unanimously voted on to the Board as the Treasurer in August 2023. The Foundation is grateful for Eva’s willingness to volunteer her time and expertise for this important function. And in Eva’s own words “because of my love for this beautiful City that I have been blessed to live, work, and play in, I was excited for the opportunity.” Welcome, Eva!



THE SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION NEEDS YOU!

Have You Been Considering Volunteering?

The San Ramon Historic Foundation is supported by a group of residents, just like you, who volunteer their special talents and technical computer skills. We can always use help in the following areas:

- Ticket Sales** Help us sell tickets at fund raising events
- Marketing** Join us for various events, such as parades and activities to promote the Foundation and membership; help promote the Foundation’s activities at other community organizations
- Fundraising** Help us identify and obtain grants and sponsorships from community organizations
- Computer/Website** Help us keep the Foundation’s website updated as well as develop a robust management system to archive documents
- Special Event Organization** Help us to plan & set-up for various annual fundraisers such as Crab Feed, Sheep Shearing, Octoberfest, and Holiday on the Farm
- Administrative Support** Help us with general office duties such printing and mailings

In addition, we have openings on our various Board committees (you do not need to be a Board member). If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please send an email to **Julia Oseland** at Julia.Oseland@gmail.com or **Renee Kullick** at rkullcik55@gmail.com and share your talents and interests.

We will find a spot for you on our team.



THANK - YOU ISABEL LAU AND CAROL LOMBARDI

The Barn Burner Newsletter has been managed by Isabel Lau and Carol Lombardi for the past several years. They worked “behind the scenes” to ensure the newsletter was issued quarterly. Isabel will be devoting her volunteer time to manage the social media efforts for the Foundation, while Carol returns to her responsibilities with the American Association of University Women. Thank you, Isabel and Carol, for your past support to the San Ramon Historic Foundation’s newsletter.

AND SPEAKING OF THANKS

This current issue of The Barn Burner was a group effort. There were several board members who provided input for the March issue. We also had help from the community. Our special thanks to Camille Thompson, for stepping in to edit the articles and Iliana Chirikhanova for coordinating the layout for this issue. We greatly appreciate your contributions and efforts.

FUN ON THE FARM SATURDAYS

Enjoy themed crafts and hands-on activities at Fun on the Farm, Saturdays 11 AM to 2 PM.

These Programs are sponsored by the San Ramon Historic Foundation.

MARCH

- Mar 2 Tea Time
- Mar 9 Rope Making
- Mar 1 An Irish Tradition
- Mar 23 Beautiful Butterflies
- Mar 30 Eggs on the Farm

APRIL

- Apr 6 Dairy Days Cows S
- Apr 13 Sheep Shearing Event
visit www.srhf.org to purchase tickets
- Apr 20 Arbor Day
- Apr 27 Yarn Art

MAY

- May 4 Healthy Garden Bugs
- May 11 Thinking of Mom
- May 18 Hay Painting
- May 25 Closed

SUPPORT SRHF BY ATTENDING TRUCK TIME

Turn imagination into real-life. Join us at an interactive outdoor family festival that encourages children (and their adults) to explore the trucks and vehicles they see around them all the time, and maybe, some they might never have seen before. Some of the farm's tractors will be at the event, as well as fire trucks, school buses, autonomous vehicles, classic cars, and more!

VISIT: <http://www.TruckTimeSanRamon.org>

for additional details and to pre-purchase tickets.

TICKETS: \$7 per person (age 1 and over) if purchased in advance
\$10 on the event day.



This event is presented by the Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club. It benefits the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation, the San Ramon Historic Foundation, the Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club and its Foundation.