

JUNE 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 sponsored by the Foundation at Forest Home Farms.

SRHF Board Members

President: Carol Rowley

Vice President: Julia Oseland

Secretary: Sandy Silva

Treasurer: Eva Phelps

Steve Chiapetto

Robert Downum

Patsy Galati

Renee Kullick

Don Kowalski

Lionel McNeely

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Abram H. Wilson

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Sheep Shearing Continued Despite the Rain

Sheep Shearing day at the Farm was an amazing feat! The weather was gorgeous at the beginning of the week and then rain was predicted for the day of the event! Fortunately, we had a rainy-day plan and the event went forward. The photos taken by Dominique Mintz at the event show families enjoying all the activities and smiling brightly. While waiting their turn to see the sheep, Flavio, the clown entertained the children. Thanks to all the participants, volunteers, and planning team from the San Ramon Historic Foundation, City Staff and to our fearless leader Sandy Silva (who is featured later in this issue). The sheep were very happy to have their winter coats removed for when the warm weather comes! If you missed the fun or want to relive the day, Isabel Lau was able to upload photos to our website www.srhf.org.



Save the Dates!

The Summer Speaker series for all foundation members, starts Friday, **June 28** at Forest Home Farms in the Walnut Barn from 5:30 to 7:30 PM with guest lecturers Beverly Lane and Bill Clarkson. There will be two other speaker series lectures on **July 26** and **August 16**. Look inside for more information.

Oktoberfest at the Forest Home Farms is scheduled for **October 5th** and it is the perfect place to have a lively and fun Fall celebration. Breweries will offer different styles of beer and wine is served as well. The Olympia Fields Brass Band will once again play lively music to entertain us throughout the day. More information and ticket prices will be released in the coming months.

The **San Ramon Chamber of Commerce** is having a **Hootenanny** at Forest Home Farms on **October 17th**. It is the second annual event put on by our Chamber. Last year it was very successful and featured live music, great food, and camaraderie. Bring your cowboy hat and enjoy meeting new friends while you support local businesses.

Have a free Saturday? Look on the back page to see the free Fun on the Farm Saturdays sponsored by the Foundation. All are welcome to stop by. The farm is beautiful place to visit with all the spring flowers blooming. We look forward to seeing you!

Carol J. Rowley
President, San Ramon Historic Foundation

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2024 Summer Speaker Series – Time to Mark Your Calendars!

When? Fridays June 28, July 26 and August 16 - 5:30pm -7:30pm

Where? Forest Home Farms, Walnut Barn

We invite all SRHF members to enjoy a Friday evening in June, July and August with us in the Walnut Barn at Forest Home Farms from 5:30pm -7:30pm to learn about San Ramon Valley's rich history from one of our local experts. This summer's speaker line-up is a sure not to miss! Hear stories about where it all started, **Living on the Land with the Ohlone Indians, the Amadors and the Russells**, with our local history experts, **Beverly Lane** and **Bill Clarkson**. In July, we will get up close and personal with **Forest Home Farm Historic Park** where we have four distinct tours to offer you given by the Park's trained docents. And to wrap up the summer season, you can polish up your accumulated knowledge about our local history at our Local History Trivia Night - with Game Show Host, **Terry Koehne** - and of course this will include prizes for the winning team.

Invitations to the Summer Speaker Series Events will be emailed to our members via Evite on the first of the month (June 1 for June's program, July 1 for July's program and August 1 for August's program). RSVPs will be required to attend, as seating is limited. Members will be allowed to bring a guest. We encourage everyone who wants to attend to be there - with a nominal \$15 admission fee for non-members not attending with a SRHF member. Keep your eyes open for your Evite invitations!

Arrival time is set for **5:30pm**, with the lecture running from 6:00pm -7:00pm. We encourage you to bring a picnic, a bottle of wine, or some cheese and crackers and a cold drink. Water will be available; however no additional food will be for sale.

This is a great opportunity to mingle with fellow Foundation members before and after the program!

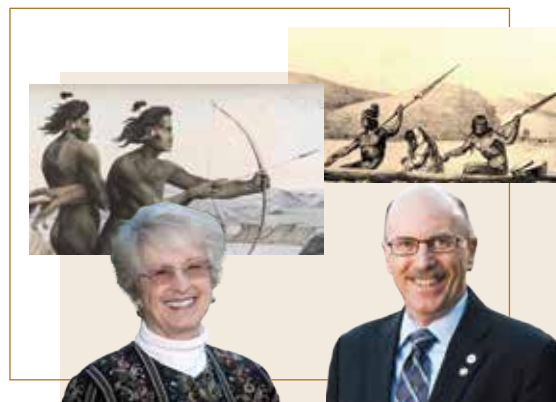
HERE IS THIS SUMMER'S LINE-UP:

June 28, 2024

5:30pm -7:30pm

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



July 26, 2024

5:30pm -7:30pm

Are You Smarter than a Third Grader?

You may select two of the four tour sections:

Walking tours include: The Organic Garden and/or Tour of the Property (Boone House & Tractor Museum).

Non-walking tours include: Grandma's Museum and/or Food Preservation.

Our Docents: City of San Ramon trained volunteers who work with the Third Grade Classes



August 16, 2024

5:30pm -7:30pm

Local History Trivia Night

Game Show Host: Terry Koehne

For more details, please visit our Events Page on our website, at <https://srhf.org/index.php/summer-speaker-series/>

Watch for your invitation via email! We look forward to seeing you there!



WITH GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION

Thank you, Carol Lopez-Lucey, for 20 years of service to the San Ramon Historic Foundation. Carol learned about the Foundation through the City of San Ramon's Parks & Community Services back in 2004. The Foundation Board was just beginning to get organized to honor the wishes of Ruth Boone for Forest Home Farms Historic Park. With Carol's background as a legal assistant for 20 years, she helped the Foundation obtain its non-profit status. Carol held various positions on the board and ended her tenure as Secretary of the Board. As secretary, Carol played a critical role ensuring proper management of important organizational records and minutes of Board meetings. In addition, under her leadership Carol was instrumental in establishing one of the Foundation's biggest fund raisers, the Annual Crab Feed held in January.

Throughout her life, Carol has always given generously of her time to support many organizations. She was honored with the San Ramon's Citizen of the Year in 2005 and Recipient of the California Park Recreation Society in 2017. She continues to be on the Board of the San Ramon Parks & Community Service Commission and Chair of the Administrative Board for Grace United Methodist Church. If that is not enough to keep her busy, she continues to be an active member of the California Federation of Women's Club, GFWC Mount Diablo District, GFWC Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club, and General Federation of Women's Clubs, International.

So where did Carol get her love for farm life? Carol grew up on a farm in Kansas and continues to return to the family farm annually to visit the beef cattle. In her words, "once a farm girl, always a farm girl." As she closes this chapter of her volunteering for the Foundation, Carol plans to travel with husband Richard, and of course, spend time being a grandmother.



Carol Lopez-Lucey (left) at the Farm with Carol Rowley

MEET SANDY SILVA, OUR NEW FOUNDATION SECRETARY

By Aahana Tayal, Guest Contributor

Beginning as a garden docent in 2019, Sandy Silva introduced San Ramon Valley 3rd graders to Forest Home Farms, explaining the significance and practices of farm life in the 1900s. Sandy immediately resonated with the Foundation's values, which includes increasing awareness of the Boone house property and involving the community in protecting local historical landmarks. These functions combine two of Sandy's passions – gardening and history. Sprouting from her previous role, Sandy soon after became a board member and unofficially took over the secretary's responsibilities for the past few months.

In April, 2024 Sandy was unanimously voted as the new Secretary for the Foundation's Board. As Secretary, she oversees meeting minutes and procedures. Additionally, she has taken over the planning of the Foundation's annual fund raisers, Crab Feed and Sheep Shearing. As she has gotten more involved, Sandy has become passionate about preserving the original Foundation member's legacies, especially as they transition out and new generations take their place. Sandy expressed, "I feel a tremendous responsibility to make sure we preserve their legacy, expand on their efforts, and make sure we continue to move to a place that gives greater visibility to the Foundation and the Farm."



Sandy Silva in her garden

NEW TK PROGRAM ON THE FARM

By Yuna Karpelevitch

This spring marks the start of the brand-new TK Program at Forest Home Farms! Serving all TK students within SRVUSD, the program runs three weekly classes that teach children about nature on the farm.

The classes include a Five Senses Tour to explore taste, touch, smell, hearing, and seeing by doing things like sampling oranges, feeling wool, smelling flowers, listening to the creek, and looking at animals.

Through the TK Program, younger children can get an introduction to the natural world in the San Ramon Valley, which we can find right in our backyards!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OUTSTANDING TRACTOR VOLUNTEERS!

By Yuna Karpelevitch

Forest Home Farms has over 50 antique tractors and engines, which are maintained and cared for by our very own tractor volunteers. This February, the tractor volunteers received the Outstanding Volunteers in Parks and Recreation Award, granted each year by the District 3 chapter of the California Park and Recreation Society.

Along with this award, the volunteers received the Volunteer Appreciation Month proclamation at the San Ramon city council meeting on April 23rd.

Congratulations to our hardworking Tractor Volunteers for these important recognitions!



Dan Foster accepting the award at the City Council Meeting

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.

JUNE

- June 1 **Baseball Cards History**
- June 8 **Farm Horses**
- June 15 **Thinking of Dad**
- June 22 **Bubble Prints**
- June 29 **Radical Redwoods**

JULY

- July 6 **Closed**
- July 13 **Pinch Pots**
- July 20 **Making Ice Cream**
- July 27 **Sun Prints**

AUGUST

- Aug 3 **Fun with Kaleidoscopes**
- Aug 10 **Weather & Time**
- Aug 17 **Bread & Jam**
- Aug 24 **Hello? Operator?**
- Aug 31 **Closed**

TAKE A FREE TOUR OF THE GLASS HOUSE MUSEUM, SATURDAYS 12 PM AND 1PM.

