

DECEMBER 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.

During the winter the Farm is open Tuesday through Friday from 10AM to 4PM, closed Saturday through Monday.



SRHF.ORG

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

Dan Foster

Patsy Galati

Don Kowalski

Renee Kullick

Lionel McNeely

Yvonne Richardson

Bernie Szalaj

Abram H. Wilson

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We have had an amazing summer at the San Ramon Historic Park. The weather has prompted more families visiting San Ramon's only Historic Park and we welcome visitors with open arms. As soon as you enter, Forest Home Farms entices you back to the early days of 1850 and beyond. Sheep are grazing and the Tractor Museum has amazing displays of tractors and farm equipment. The visits are free and buoy your spirits with peace and tranquility.

The San Ramon Historic Foundation Board is an active, hands-on, dedicated group of volunteers. We plan events which bring adults and children to the farm. Below are a couple of events we had in October.



On October 5th, we held our **12th annual Oktoberfest at Forest Home Farms**. It is such a treat to watch families delight in the dancing in the Walnut Barn, listening to the music, and watching the sheep herding demonstrations. The Olympic Fields Brass Band is such a delightful group and everyone loves the polka. The Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers demonstrated dances and invited the crowd to join them. People in their 80's and children as young as two were strutting their new dance skills with glee. Hats off to our local breweries – Canyon Lakes, Altamont, Danville and Morgan Territory breweries for donating their brews. In addition, thanks to Don Kowalski who donated wine for our wine lovers. Fat Maddie's catered the food and the Kettle Corn was a big hit.

The Foundation hosted a Hootenanny, sponsored by the **San Ramon Chamber of Commerce at Forest Home Farms** on October 17th. Amos enterprise provided all the music and the sound system. Folk dancers demonstrated different dance routines and encouraged everyone to join in the fun. It was a great evening to meet and mingle with other chamber members and to enjoy food and beverages from local businesses and restaurants. Hats off to Heidi Kenniston-Lee, CEO & President of San Ramon Chamber and all the board members and ambassadors for planning such a successful event at the Farm.

We encourage you to renew your San Ramon Historic Foundation membership for 2025. In addition, if you have family or friends who are not members, please pass on the information which is included inside the newsletter.

Come on down to the Farm with your family and neighbors to enjoy the rural farm atmosphere.

Relax, smile, enjoy!

Carol J. Rowley
President, San Ramon Historic Foundation

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP!

Julia Oseland, Vice President and Membership Chair

Yes, it is that time to renew your annual San Ramon Historic Foundation membership. Being a member of the SRHF is a great 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 Farms Gift Shoppe, a quarterly Foundation newsletter, the Barn Burner, mailed to your home and free admission to the popular SRHF Summer Speaker Series.

THE DEADLINE TO RENEW IS DECEMBER 31, 2024!

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:

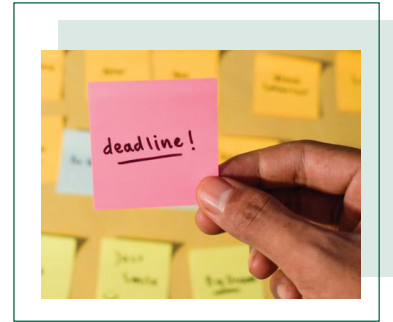
1. Mail a check to SRHF, P.O. Box 1, San Ramon, CA 94583

Or

2. Renew on our website – www.SRHF.org, using PayPal

And of course we welcome new members as well! For information on membership levels, member benefits, how to make a donation or become a sponsor, please visit our website, SRHF.org.

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



MEET DAN FOSTER, OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER!

By Nika Karpelevitch

A San Ramon resident for thirty years, and a volunteer at the farm for twelve, Dan Foster is now a member of the SRHF board! Dan's experience in the automotive industry and a lifelong passion for volunteering drew him to Forest Home Farms, where he serves as the lead mechanic. He and his team work to restore and operate the farm's vintage tractor collection, ensuring the fun and safety of tractor ride events hosted at the farm.

After advocating for financial support for farm projects, Dan was elected as a San Ramon Historic Foundation board member earlier this year. In his new role, Dan serves as a go-between for the tractors and the committee, helps set up events at the farm, and supports the board in fundraising. Dan Foster is eager to continue his work on the board and the farm, calling it "one big happy family."



Dan Foster

WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR SPONSORS, DONORS & MEMBERS

This is the time of the year we look back and realize how fortunate we are to have a community that truly cares about the preservation of San Ramon's early farms and homesteads. As a Foundation, we see first-hand how our efforts make a difference at Forest Home Farms.

But we cannot do it by ourselves. We would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the organizations and people who made it possible this past year.

For several years we have had a sponsorship from **Sunset** and **Chevron**. In addition, this year we received a donation from **Comcast**.

The Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club donated a portion of their profits from their annual Truck Time event again this year.

Dave Hudson, mayor of San Ramon made a major one-time donation to the Foundation during this year's Crab Feed event.

Thank you all for your monetary contributions.

The Foundation's Gift Shoppe under the leadership of Jill Mallory, is an all-volunteer operation. A crew comes in every Saturday the Farm is open from 11:00 to 2:00. They have a great assortment of farm gift ideas for the public to purchase. If you come in you might run into one of the six volunteers, Renee Beck, Connie Douglas, Barbara Evans, Barbara Horikoshi, Heidi Kenniston-Lee, and of course their fearless leader Jill. We greatly appreciate the time these volunteers give so freely to the Foundation and formally thank them for their devotion to the Gift Shoppe.

Finally, we are grateful to our members. For the Foundation events members volunteer to help with set up, take down and other projects as needed. We might not say it enough but we are grateful for your helping hand.

Thank you

“There is nothing permanent except change” – Greek Philosopher, Heraclitus

Yes, there are some changes coming for 2025.

Crab Feed - We know the annual Crab Feed has been a major fund raiser for the Foundation which members and the community looked forward to attending. As we look to our resources (both monetary and volunteers) it has become obvious that as a Foundation we must reprioritize our fund-raising activities. After a long deliberation process, the Board has decided we need to pass on the 2025 Crab Feed. We do this with heavy heart but hope to bring it back in the future.

Fun on the Farm “Winter Break” – The City of San Ramon has decided to close during winter months of December, January, and a portion of February. Therefore, the Forest Home Farms Historic Park will be closed on Saturdays during this time-period and the Fun on the Farm Saturdays will also be on a “winter break.” The Saturday activities sponsored by the Foundation will resume on February 15, 2025. Look on the back page for the themed crafts and hands-on activities when we’re open. We look forward to seeing you then!

SAN RAMON VALLEY NEWCOMERS & FRIENDS ORGANIZATION

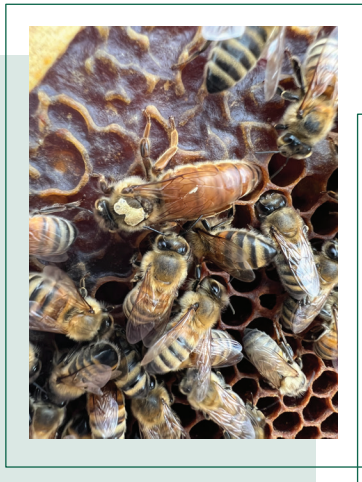
San Ramon Historic Foundation Board members Carol Rowley and Renee Kullick were guest speakers at the monthly San Ramon Valley Newcomers & Friends luncheon this past September. This afforded them the opportunity to discuss the Foundation’s mission statement and the importance of the preservation of the San Ramon’s early farms and homesteads. In return we learned about the activities the SRVNF provide to their members, such as...

Do you enjoy table games, such as Bunco and Bridge, day trips to local points of interest, wine tasting, and dining out with friends? San Ramon Valley Newcomers & Friends welcomes you. They are a community of women who share a passion for socializing and supporting each other. The monthly membership luncheons, featuring a guest speaker, are held at local restaurants. Non-members may attend a luncheon or other activity before joining. They welcome residents of the San Ramon Valley and neighboring communities. Visit the website at www.srvnc.com for more information.

THERE IS A BUZZ IN THE AIR!

The Bees are Back at Forest Home Farms

Thanks to Mark Armstrong, the City of San Ramon, and our Foundation Members’ dues, a newly-built enclosure has been built to install two beehives at the Farm. These bees are from the same genetic line that Mr. Armstrong rescued from an old fallen oak tree in the back of the Farm several years ago. Look in the spring for an event to celebrate the honey bees back at the Farm.



HAVE YOU BEEN CONSIDERING VOLUNTEERING?

The San Ramon Historic Foundation needs YOU!

The Foundation is supported by a group of residents, just like you. All our events take months of planning, preparation, and follow-up and you could be the right person to help us. In addition, we could use help in marketing, administrative support, and computer/website areas.

Finally, we have openings on our various Board committees, such as *Property Management, Communications/Public Relations, Revenue Generation, and Educational Programs.*

Please note you do not need to be a Board member to participate on a Board committee. 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 rkullick55@gmail.com

and share your talents and interests. We will find a spot for you on our team.



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.

**DECEMBER & JANUARY
CLOSED**

FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 **CLOSED**
- Feb 8 **CLOSED**
- Feb 15 **Victorian Valentines**
- Feb 22 **Fun with Felt (Wool)**

MARCH

- Mar 1 **Victorian Tea Time**
- Mar 8 **Old Fashioned Toys & Games**
- Mar 15 **Lovely Ladybugs**
- Mar 22 **Spring Cleaning**
- Mar 29 **Rug Hooking**

TAKE A FREE TOUR OF THE GLASS HOUSE MUSEUM *(when farm is open)*

