

MARCH 2025

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

Dan Foster

Patsy Galati

Don Kowalski

Renee Kullick

Lionel McNeely

Yvonne Richardson

Bernie Szalaj

Abram H. Wilson

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Happy New Year to all our amazing members, volunteers, and City Staff. We had a very busy and productive month planning and preparing for a FULL year of EVENTS at Forest Home Farms, San Ramon's only Historic Park. Our committee work and the enthusiastic response at our Board Meeting set in motion the following events and activities at the FARM!

Save the Dates:

1. Fun on the Farm Saturdays are back (see back of newsletter for weekly themed crafts)
2. St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Saturday, March 15th (watch for our tractors and cars)
3. Sheep Shearing, Saturday, April 26th (look inside for the flyer for detailed information)
4. Bee Sanctuary Open House, Sunday, June 1st (MEMBERS only event – look inside for information)
5. 2025 Summer Speaker Series at the Farm returns on June 27th (Members and guests welcome – look inside for the interesting and exciting topics we have in store for June, July, and August)
6. Annual 4th of July Parade in Danville (watch for our tractors and cars)



Sheep Shearing



4th of July parade in Danville



Bee Sanctuary

We really have a lot of fun activities to look forward to and more to come for the rest of the year, which are in the planning stages. A new feature we are introducing is our **SRHF Historical Corner**. This will be a quarterly column which will be a series of historical articles going through time. The first column starts with the 17th century when the Ohlone Native American tribes first inhabited the land we call home today. Look inside for your first history lesson.

2025 is going to be a great year of new growth at the Farm as we plant more seeds in our garden and watch the trees bloom! Looking forward to seeing you at Forest Home Parks.

We are so fortunate to have this Historic Park in our City. We appreciate your yearly membership as all funds raised go directly back to the Farm for upkeep and events for the public. Spread the word about this amazing 16-acre Park to your neighbors, friends, and family members!

Carol J. Rowley
President, San Ramon Historic Foundation

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Julia Oseland, Vice President and Membership Chair

A huge welcome to the 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 could not do what we do without all of you.

If you are behind in renewing your membership it is not too late to do so. Please visit our website (www.SRHF.org), go to the Support/Membership tab, and renew using PayPal. You can also mail a check for \$50 (individual) or \$100 (family) directly to us at SRHF, P.O. Box 1, San Ramon, CA 94583.

Save the Dates!

Our **2025 Summer Speaker Series** returns this June! These popular events take place on the fourth Fridays of our summer months: **Friday June 27, July 25, and August 22** at **Forest Home Farms** in the **Walnut Barn from 5:30-7:30PM**. This year, we are trying something new – we will be hosting a potluck dinner which will be coordinated by member Barbara Hudson. Guests are also encouraged to bring some wine to sip and their favorite beverage 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.

Friday, June 27

Tractors, tractors, tractors! Did you know we have a Tractor Team at the Farm who manages, repairs, and restores vintage tractors? This event will focus on the history and the importance tractors have played in our local community. You will get to see some antique tractors up close and personal, listen to their engines – while our tractor team will give a talk about the various machines. The Tractor Barn will be open exclusively for our guests to peruse before the lecture.

Friday, July 25

The Alamo Cemetery Tour Reenactment – we have teamed up with the Museum of San Ramon Valley leaders of the Alamo Cemetery Tour where actors will portray significant historical players who are buried in the Alamo Cemetery – these actors will share their stories of days gone by – characters include Charlotte Wood, Ruth Boone, and a mystery guest. You will not want to miss.

Friday, August 22

For our August program, we will feature Mary Ann Simmons, Forest Home Farms Collections Manager, who will share with us an assortment of interesting, local artifacts. Mary Ann is responsible for managing the City's historic objects, archives, and photographs. The audience will get an up close and personal look at these historic treasures and will be able to ask questions to learn more.

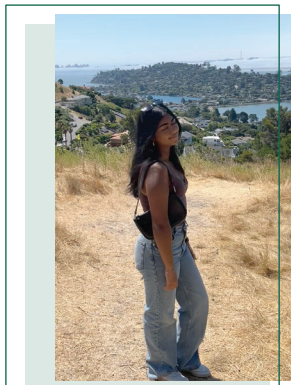
HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR GUEST CONTRIBUTORS?

It continues to be a great experience to have high school students contribute to the quarterly Barn Burner newsletter. Read about our newest guest contributors below. If you know of a high school student who would be interested in joining our guest contributors' team, please contact **Renee Kullick** at rkullick55@gmail.com.

All About Aahana!

By Nika Karpelevitch

Aahana Tayal is a fellow guest contributor here at the Burn Barner. Her passion for writing drew her to the newsletter in January of last year, where she has volunteered ever since. Aahana is currently a junior at Dougherty High in San Ramon, and she hopes to pursue a higher education in economics and political science in the future.



Aahana Tayal

From her time at the newsletter thus far, Aahana has especially enjoyed engaging with the history of Forest Home Farms and interviewing new people. Besides writing, Aahana is also the section leader of her school's choir and an avid volunteer in our community.

Meeting Nika

By Aahana Tayal

Nika Karpelevitch, a guest contributor for the Barn Burner, is a junior in high school. Recently transitioning from Foothill High School, she is enrolled in the Middle College High School Program at Las Positas. After Yuna Karpelevitch, Nika's older sister, left home to attend college at UC Berkeley, Nika recently filled her role and is excited to keep contributing to the newsletter. Nika's passion for the farm started when she visited with her family as a young child.

She thoroughly enjoys writing; in Nika's free time, she writes poetry and has had her work published. She is fond of reading novels, traveling with her family (especially skiing in the winter) and spending time with friends. When asked about her motivations to contribute to the newsletter, Nika answered, "My favorite part is working with Renee and meeting new people." Looking towards the future, Nika aims to study the humanities.



Nika Karpelevitch

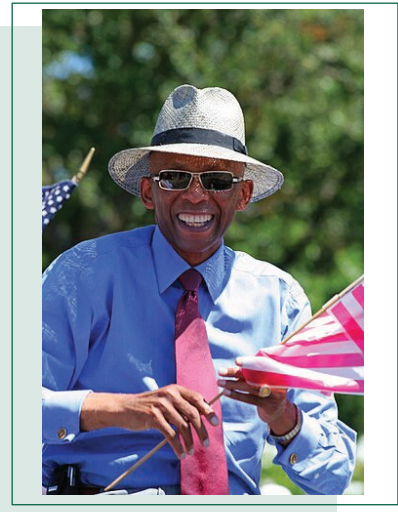
Spotlight on Abram Wilson

By: Nika Karpelevitch

Abram Wilson, a San Ramon resident of 45 years and a dedicated Board member of the San Ramon Historic Foundation, is a cornerstone of our community.

Mr. Wilson has worked tirelessly to improve the city through his roles as Mayor, City Council member, and Parks Commissioner. Among his many accomplishments, he was instrumental in bringing music programs to the schools and advocating for community cultural events as president of the San Ramon Arts Council. A proud veteran, Mr. Wilson helped make the San Ramon Veterans Hall and Memorial Park possible. He did this all being a father of 2 children and is now enjoying being a grandfather, as well.

Some 25 years ago, Abram's role as a Parks Commissioner brought him to Forest Home Farms, then owned by the late Ruth Boone, where he promised on behalf of the City of San Ramon to preserve her property. When asked about his work for Forest Home Farms, Abram replied: "My goal now is to help the city keep its promise to protect and enhance the park...to make sure that it is here for the next generation."



Abram Wilson



HONEY BEES ARE BACK AT THE FARM!

PLEASE JOIN US ON JUNE 1ST

"THANK YOU" OPEN HOUSE FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

The Foundation will host a **members-only** Bee Sanctuary Open House on Sunday, June 1st from 11 AM to 1 PM. Come see how your membership dues and donations have contributed to the Farm. You will be able to see firsthand the beehives and how they help the environment. We will have light refreshments, and might even have a few honey tastings.

SRHF HISTORICAL CORNER

By: Aahana Tayal

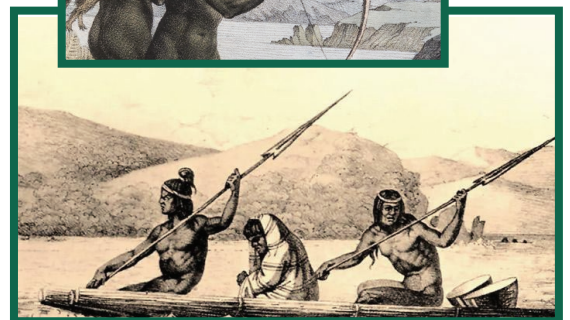
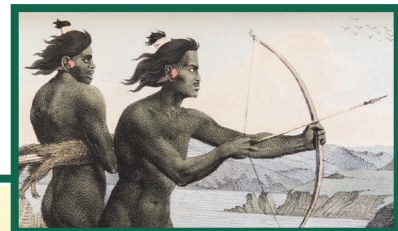
Throughout the 17th century, the Ohlone Native American tribes inhabited the land we call home today. The Ohlone people, also referred to as the Costanoan (a Spanish term for "coast people"), were a mixture of groups with individual cultures rather than a single tribe. Notorious for their hunter-gatherer lifestyle, ornately weaved baskets, and seasonal ceremonial dances, the indigenous people flourished on the coast of California.

Specifically, in the San Ramon Valley, the Seunen and Souyen were the first residents. Residing in the Alamo, Tassajara, and South San Ramon Creeks, these Native Americans choose areas close to water supplies, before Spanish explorers arrived in the late 1700s. Their diet was varied, including acorns, seeds, fish, seafood, and root plants.

Fun fact: San Ramon was named after Roman Nonato, a Souyen Indian vaquero.

Motivated to Christianize the Native Americans, the Spanish government established missionaries along the coast of California. In 1797, Father Lasuén created Mission San José in present-day Fremont. Primarily, the Spanish focused on converting the indigenous people by forcing them to devote themselves to religious study multiple times a day. The males worked in the fields and in new trades like carpentry. The women and girls prepared food and cleaned their living areas, in addition to raising children.

Mission San José had a 30-piece orchestra of Indian musicians led by Fr. Narciso Durán. Estanislao, a Native American who led a revolt and fought the Mexican army for years, also resided in the area. In Mission San José's lifespan, over 2,000 indigenous people were converted. In 1868, the mission suffered an enormous earthquake which destroyed many of the buildings.



MARCH 2025

FUN ON THE FARM SATURDAYS ARE BACK!

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

APRIL

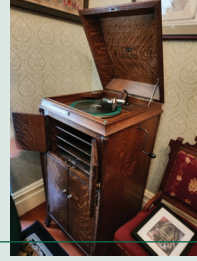
- Apr 5 Pretty Poppies
- Apr 12 Rabbits & Guinea Pigs
- Apr 19 Earth & Arbor Day Celebration
- Apr 26 Sheep Shearing Event
(visit srhf.org to purchase tickets)

MAY

- May 3 Marshmallow Painting
- May 10 Mother's Day Quilting
- May 17 Sewing & Buttons
- May 24 CLOSED
- May 31 Animal Tracking

TAKE A FREE TOUR OF THE GLASS HOUSE MUSEUM

Take a free tour of the Glass House Museum, Saturdays (when docents are available) at 12 PM and 1 PM



Note: Glass House Specialty Tours are offered quarterly, visit www.foresthomesteads.com for further details, dates, and to purchase tickets.