



The Sentinel

Volume III Issue 3

Newsletter of the San Ramon Historic Foundation

Spring 2009



The Farmers Market at Forest Home Farms

As a sponsor of the Farmers Market, the Foundation is excited to see local, fresh produce back again beginning May 2 (and don't forget the wonderful flowers.) The people who bring their fresh goods to us each Saturday definitely deserve the support of our community. Not only do we have access to their products, the great prepared food and frequent children's activities and music, it is also a great place to run into friends and neighbors.

Make it a point to drop by every Saturday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

April features three city events at Forest Home Farms

April 16, 7:00pm in the Tractor Barn *Civil War Veterans of the Tri-Valley*

This lecture by Richard Finn, past president of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, describes the lives and achievements of Tri-Valley Civil War veterans. Admission is \$10.00 (with a discount for foundation members) and for each ticket purchased attendees will receive a free ticket to the Civil War Re-enactment on Saturday

April 18, 10:00am to 4:00pm *The Battle of Forest Home Farms Civil War Re-enactment*

The Civil War Re-enactment is new this year but promises to be a great addition to city events. Encampments are open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, Remember that Foundation members receive a discount at the door and children under 13 are free. You may pre-register with the City of San Ramon on its website. Please note that parking will be limited, so arrive early, walk or ride your bike!! The Gift Shoppe at Forest Home Farms will be open during this event so stop by for a look at our new merchandise.

April 25, 10:00am to 2:00pm *Sheep Shearing Day*

The dogs will round them up very efficiently and then the sheep will receive their annual haircut. In addition, this popular event has tractor rides, tours, 4-H animals, games, spinning, live music and many other activities for adults and children. A great family day out in our beautiful valley! Stop by the hot dog booth to buy a hot dog, drink and chips and of course please make a visit to our Gift Shoppe. This event also allows Foundation members to receive an entry discount and member's children under 13 get in free.

The Board Meets

On March 21 the Board had a day long retreat to discuss our progress and set goals for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Carol Rowley, our newest board member, facilitated the meeting.

We began by reviewing our many accomplishments for 2008-2009 which included opening the Gift Shoppe, forming an advisory committee, revising our brochure, organizing the David Glass Open House Parties, purchasing bedroom furniture for the Glass House, supporting the education program at Forest Home Farms and organizing and running successful fund raisers such as the Crab Feed, Wind Festival and Victorian Tea.

The list kept growing, so after patting ourselves on the back, we discussed a few things that didn't go well and quickly moved to potential new projects. Some great ideas were brought up – some we will share later when they are “off the ground.” For now, we are committed to technology, so look for more web information and updates and maybe even a few “twitters” from us. We are committed to increasing community awareness of Forest Home Farms and improving the farm with our fundraising dollars.

Members Meeting

The Foundation wishes to acknowledge its growing membership and to thank each member for their support at a general membership event at FHF on May 5 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Please join the Board and other members for a short general information meeting to learn more about the Foundation and its future. A social gathering will follow with a tour of FHF for interested members.

If you are not a member but would like to join, go to our website www.SRHF.org to download a brochure or call 828-0586 to be mailed a brochure and application.

The Wind Festival

Memorial Day weekend (Sunday and Monday) is traditionally reserved by Tri-Valley residents for a visit over to Central Park to enjoy a number of children-friendly activities (some involving kites) and a great selection of retail booths and food booths. This year the San Ramon Historic Foundation will have a hot dog booth sponsored by **Whole Foods Market**. This partnership allows our customers to have the finest food and to know that their purchases will directly benefit Forest Home Farms.

Thank you **Whole Foods Market** for your generous support, and thanks to all the other San Ramon non-profits that operate booths and provide support for the Wind Festival.

Special Donations

The Foundation would like to gratefully acknowledge the members of the community who through special donations and pledges have become our treasured lifetime members. Plaques will soon be placed in the foyer of the Welcome Center at Forest Home Farms.

1877 Club - Supports restoration and furnishing of the Glass House

Guerdon Churchill Jr. Arlita Smith
Claudia Nemir Kaye Wightman
Wayne and Elaine Ove

1600 Club - Supports improvements to Forest Home Farms

David and Shirley Ernest
Herb Moniz

Other Major Donors

Joel Geldermann Cyrina Elissondo Al Kaplan

What Being a Member Means

Two Kinds of Members

A Foundation Board of ten members act as the decision making body of the Foundation. We are responsible for meeting all requirements of a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization, upholding the Bylaws of the Foundation, and the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of San Ramon and the Foundation. The Board meets monthly to consider the business of the Foundation. We have a strong fiduciary responsibility to wisely use the funds provided by membership dues or other fundraising activities.

The broader membership includes individuals or families who have signed up and paid their annual dues to support the Foundation. Many of the members are also volunteers at the farm, but being a member certainly does not carry any requirement to volunteer. That's always an individual decision for those who are interested.

Discounts Benefits

Membership in the San Ramon Historic Foundation offers not only great personal satisfaction but significant discounts to events at the Farm including free admission for all your children (or grand-children) under 13 years of age. In addition, you receive a 10% discount in our Gift Shoppe located in the Forest Home Farms Welcome Center.

Corporate Sponsors

Businesses big and small have supported the Foundation in our quest to improve Forest Home Farms and make it the jewel of San Ramon. Among the most impressive contributions is the bridge donated to the farm by **Shapell Homes**. The bridge was built by the company to connect the Boone side of the property with the David Glass House. In addition the company has provided the Foundation with a foursome of golf at Bridges as a prize at the Victorian Tea. Many guests at the tea were intent on winning that great prize!

Whole Foods Market has donated repeatedly to our events and this year has offered to sponsor our booth at the Wind Festival and provide support for the Victorian Tea. Because of this generosity, our events will be more profitable and more money will be available for improvements at FHF.

Support the Farm

The Foundation membership dues, gifts and event profits are all used to enhance FHF and support special programs. The education program (provides half day field trips for third graders) has received Foundation sponsorship with a cash donation for supplies, a refrigerator to store food supplies, ponchos so the tours can occur whatever the weather and of course volunteer docents.

The Foundation has provided funds for period home furnishings for the David Glass House, consultants to ensure the integrity of the period pieces and a special flat file cabinet for documents.

In addition, the Foundation co-sponsors the Farmers Market with **Whole Foods Market** and **Shapell Homes**. The market brings area folks to the farm every Saturday morning May through October.

Be Involved

Volunteers are always welcome to help staff the Gift Shoppe, cook hot dogs at various events and work at the Crab Feed, Wind Festival or Victorian Tea. Volunteers are also needed to help plan and implement these events. Perhaps you would like to stuff envelopes or make copies for one of our membership drives or newsletter mailings. The Foundation has recently formed an Auxiliary Committee for members (or non members) who would like to work at some level or on a particular activity. Or maybe you have some special talent or interest that makes you a perfect Board member!

San Ramon Historic Foundation

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