



# The Sentinel

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Newsletter of the San Ramon Historic Foundation

Winter 2007

## Update on the Glass House

Jeff Eorio, Director of the San Ramon Parks & Community Services, came to a recent board meeting to discuss the city's progress in restoring the Glass House. It is very apparent from San Ramon Valley Road that crews are busy inside and outside. Drive by to see the new landscaping which is suggested by vintage pictures of the Glass House.

The Italianate Victorian House was built in 1877 on land purchased by David Glass in 1859 (part of the Jose Maria Amador Land Grant) from James Dougherty. It was sold to the Elissando family in 1932 and has seen many uses since. It was a French restaurant, Sunny Hill Rest Home, a Montessori school and an antique shop. In 1998, it was donated to the city and moved a short distance down San Ramon Valley Road to its current location on the Boone property.

What can't be seen from the road is the work going on inside the house. New wiring, plumbing, cooling and heating sys-

tems are being installed and the walls restored. The interior of the house should be completed early fall of 2007. At that point everyone who has purchased a stone piece to support the Glass House and received a certificate will be invited to an empty house party. The San Ramon Historic House Museum will soon be a reality with groups such as the SRHF and the Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club working to raise money to furnish the home. The San Ramon Rotary Club also made a significant donation designated for the Glass House.

Inside the Glass House will be a room designated as the gift shop and run by the SRHF. When the gift shop is open, drop by to see some unique items and perhaps sign up as a volunteer!



## Successful Lecture Series Continues

The SRHF and the San Ramon Library Foundation are sponsoring a series of free lectures on the history of the San Ramon Valley. The November 9<sup>th</sup> lecture, **Early Life of Native Americans**, with speaker Andrew Galvan was at the San Ramon Library. Mr. Galvan discussed the life of California Indians of the San Francisco East Bay.

On January 18<sup>th</sup> Dr. Gregorio Mora-Torres will discuss **Spanish-Mexican History**. He will examine missionary activities, early settlement, land grants and California Anglo-American interaction. Dr. Mora-Torres, a professor at San Jose State University, has recently published his translation of the reflections of Jose Maria Amador. Amador was granted Rancho San Ramon by the Mexican government; the 20,000 acre ranch included

*(Please see Lecture, page 2)*

## Crab Feed Set for February 3!

Mark your calendars and get your tickets now. Call 828-0586 or 828-9329. Just like last year, the Crab Feed will be at the Dougherty Station Community Center on Bollinger Canyon Road at East Branch Parkway.

The crab is the star, but we are also serving pasta, salad, and bread with cookies and ice cream for dessert. You may buy wine and soft drinks. And once again our raffle features the ever popular prize -- Money.

We sold out last year and expect an early sell out this year, so call now for tickets. The cost is \$35.00 per person. Dinner is served at 7:00pm, but doors open at 6:00pm for a no-host social hour.

## **Lecture** (from pg. 1)

Dublin and San Ramon. Jose Maria Amador was born at the Presidio in San Francisco, fought Indians in Livermore, and was an administrator at Mission San Jose. This presentation should not be missed! The lecture will be at the Dougherty Station Community Center.

A new lecture series is being developed for Spring and Summer 2007. The upcoming events include a March 8<sup>th</sup> presentation by Bill Harlan. His family came to the Valley in a covered wagon, and he will provide a personal look into Valley history. The May 8<sup>th</sup> program focuses on the Glass family and on July 12 the SRHF and Library Foundation will sponsor a panel discussion with our current generation of pioneer families.

## **Spring Events**

Sharpen up your chili making skills for the upcoming **Chili Cook-off**. The Dublin /San Ramon Women's Club is sponsoring the Cook-off as a fund-raiser for Forest Home Farms. It will be held on **May 11** as part of the **Sheep Shearing Day** activities at the farm.

**The Art & Wind Festival** is always a big City event on Memorial Day weekend. Support the SRHF and other city foundations that participate by purchasing a great lunch, snacks and drinks.

## **The Perfect Volunteer**

Enthusiasm, commitment, time and an appreciation of the great gift that our history provides to the current and future generation. The Foundation is always searching for new board members and volunteers to enrich our organization. Your *fundraising, grant writing, marketing, or investment experience* will be especially beneficial to the Foundation and Forest Home Farms. **Contact us at [www.srhf.org](http://www.srhf.org).**

## **Memorial and Milestone Donations**

Memorial and Milestone Donations are a great way to honor special people in our lives. Memorials for loved ones, especially long time residents and pioneer families, commemorate their many contributions to the San Ramon Valley. Your gift in their name represents a living memorial to their memory.

Milestone donations are made in honor of family or friends reaching a significant birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other significant occasion. It's a gift of recognition that lives on through the years.

Donations can be made to Forest Home Farms, or designated specifically to the Glass House. These are new programs and the Historic Foundation is developing ways to recognize these gifts to Forest Home Farms. We welcome your suggestions in making this program meaningful: using name plaques, certificates, memorial books, or other ways.



## **Holiday at the Farm a Big Hit!**

Under a bright sun, with a brisk breeze blowing, Holiday at the Farm 2006 attracted nearly 500 visitors! The Nutcracker Puppet show was standing room only, and Father Christmas, our own Mike Blackford, delighted the children again this year! The cookies and cider were scrumptious! If you didn't make it in '06, don't miss it in '07!

## **San Ramon Historical Foundation**

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### **Board of Directors**

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