

# Tower views

GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

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Arno. Clay. Colony. Elliott . Galt. Herald . Hicksville . Liberty . Thornton

December 2017

## Our Goal - To preserve the irreplaceable in the Galt Area !

### **President's Clipboard!**

This is the time of year when we look back and celebrate all the good things that have happened in our lives and in our organization. It is also a time to reflect on ways that we could have improved and done things better. To me, it has always been about having a positive outlook on whatever I do. I do not let negative people or situations dominate me. For that matter, negative has no place in my world. Things do not get accomplished when negative people surround a situation or a project. In 2017, the Galt Area Historical Society has accomplished so much that it is almost unbelievable how one group can make so many things happen. You should all be proud to know the good that we do by preserving the history of the Galt Area for the generations that will follow us. There are so many people to thank for their sacrifices and hard work and their donation of time and money. Whether or not you are told this on a regular basis, you are appreciated. You are the unsung heroes of our organization. I want to thank the businesses who have contributed to our society whether monetarily, by your labor, or by donated supplies. Thanks to Supervisor Don Nottoli for his constant support, Director of the Department of Regional Parks, Jeff Leatherman for his guidance on our projects, and to the City of Galt whose City Council has always known

the importance of preserving the history of our town; and has worked with the Galt Area Historical Society to insure we not only preserve but educate about our past.

In sadness, this year we lost several of our members and one our founders, Genie Olson. They may be gone but their touch on our society and on our town will remain forever.

My wish for 2018 is that all of us could live and work in harmony and peace. Without the positives in our lives, we are always "back peddling" from success. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and that your 2018 brings you much happiness and good health.

### **December Membership Meeting – Toys, Bingo and Eats!**

Be sure to attend the December Membership meeting to be held on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will be collecting toys for local children who are less fortunate so please bring an unwrapped toy to the meeting. Lavonne Riddlesperger has joyfully volunteered to drop the toys off at our local Police Department for delivery to the children in need in the Galt area. Following the regular meeting, we will enjoy appetizers and desserts and play BINGO! Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and come and get your BINGO game on!

### **Holiday Shopping Using AmazonSmile!**

It's the holiday shopping season and we at the Galt Area Historical Society are hoping you shop at AmazonSmile. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price (.5%) to your favorite charitable organization, the Galt Area Historical Society. Type <https://smile.amazon.com/> into your browser, select Galt Area Historical Society, and start shopping!

### **It's Beginning to Look A Lot like**

#### **Christmas . . . at the McFarland House!**

Come and visit the beautifully decorated McFarland House on Saturday and Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from noon until 4:00 p.m. Santa will be there for the children and the young at heart! Enjoy some cookies and hot apple cider after partaking in a tour of the historic Galt home provided by our Society docents. Thanks to all of Santa's Elves who helped clean, decorate and will provide tours and Christmas cheer. A special thanks to Santa for visiting from the North Pole!

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events!**

December 9 – Christmas Open House at the McFarland House from noon until 4:00 p.m.

December 10 – Christmas Open House at the McFarland House from noon until 4:00 p.m.

December 11 – Executive Board Meeting at 5:30 at the Hall

December 18<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting and Christmas BINGO and refreshments at 6:00 p.m. at the Hall

### **Guest Speaker!**

What started as a 4-H project as a child to clean up at Liberty Cemetery has turned Barbara Filbin into a Historian of pioneer cemeteries. Barbara was our guest speaker at the November membership meeting where she presented information about Civil War Veterans buried at the Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville and Galt cemeteries and informed the Society how they may acquire headstones for them from the Federal Government. Many of these veterans came for the Gold Rush and settled in the area due to the fertile farmland.

The Society owns and maintains the Liberty and Elliott Cemeteries. The Liberty Cemetery holds nearly 475 known burials. Barbara shared that when Highway 99 was built, 19 unmarked graves were moved to another part of the Liberty cemetery but only three were identified. The Elliott Cemetery contains several headstones from the Fairbanks Cemetery, a lost cemetery in San Joaquin County.

For those of you who missed this interesting and history-filled meeting, her books are available for sale online at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) and include books on the pioneer towns of Elliott, Hicksville, Liberty and Galt.

### **Collecting Items for Future Yard Sales!**

A big "Thank You" to LaVonne Riddlesperger and Sue Dean for cleaning the small shed in the back of the Society Hall. Now that the space has been cleaned and organized, there is room to hold items for future Society Yard Sales! The next one isn't planned until 2018 but if you have items to donate, please call LaVonne or Sue at (209) 200-2203 and they will coordinate a drop off time at the Hall. Please no furniture! Knick-knacks and housewares are the best sellers!

### **2018 Calendars for Sale!**

The Galt High Yearbook team, under the direction of Advisor/Teacher Brooke Beckett, has made a 2018 "Galt: A Glance

Into Galt's Origins" calendar. The calendar juxtaposes historical pictures of Galt (provided by the Society) with current pictures of the same sites taken by the Yearbook team. This fundraiser is to assist in keeping yearbook prices low for all students at Galt High School. A few students will be attending the Society's December membership meeting and will have their beautiful calendar for sale for \$20. They make a wonderful Christmas gift for any current or former Galtonian!

### **Rededication of Flag Pole and World War I Memorial Plaque!**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, two pieces of Galt history were rededicated. A new plaque memorializing the Galt Flag Pole was unveiled along with a World War I plaque memorializing two fallen Galt soldiers, Attilio George Lippi and Joseph Fred Smith. The original Flag Pole was set up some time around 1869 when Brewster's General Store became the first Post Office in Galt. The original plaque honoring the fallen soldiers was added to the Flag Pole in June of 1919. These plaques have been relocated just north of their original locations now that the new promenade on Fourth Street is complete. Members of the Lippi and Smith families were in attendance.

### **Christmas at the Rae House!**

Thanks to Leesa Klotz who decorated the house and porch so beautifully for Christmas at the Rae House held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you also to all of the Society Elves who helped clean, docent, baked goodies, and coordinated the event. A special shout-out to Santa and all of the holiday crafters who braved the brisk morning to make Christmas at the Rae a beautiful Galt Christmas tradition.

### **Tower Views On-Line!**

Please email Rhonda Smith, our Membership Chair, at [Rhonda@galtsmiths.com](mailto:Rhonda@galtsmiths.com) with your email address. If you do not get the email, please let Rhonda know.

### **Report on Volunteer Hours Needed!**

If you volunteered at any events in 2017 for the Galt Area Historical Society, we need you to record your hours and send them to the Society. These hours are compiled and used in applying for various grants. Please write your name and address, your hours (in aggregate or detailed by event/date) and send them to:

Galt Area Historical Society  
Post Office Box 782  
Galt, CA 95632

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request!

### **Alice's Attic!**

The call for archival materials has gained some interest from our fellow members. John Melhaff was gracious enough to allow us to scan his six albums of photographs that added about 250 to our Digital Library. We gained another dozen or so from Tom Kenefick. Dan Denier gave us his great aunt's photo album which produced about 40 and he has since donated another 20 more. Ken and Polly Johnson let us scan a few of their family photos and are looking for more. Through our Facebook page, "Snapshots of Galt History," other Galtonians have donated several like the Carvers and the Pratton families. The largest photo scanning project we're involved in comes from the Galt Herald. They are allowing us to scan and return boxes of old, loose photos they have stored in a back room. So far we have scanned about 3,000 and we're only half way. We are still looking for more to fill in the "holes" in our Digital Library. If you would like to add your family's story to our archive, get ahold of Dan Tarnasky at [blckrssn@hotmail.com](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com) so we can arrange to scan and return your photos or documents. If you're not sure of what you have, contact us so we can evaluate your materials. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and each one we get makes the story of Galt even larger.