

# TOWER VIEWS

GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

P.O. Box 782. Galt, California 95632. (209) 745-1477

[www.galthistory.org](http://www.galthistory.org)

[galthistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:galthistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

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

April 2018

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

## President's Clipboard!

Members Working Together: Dedication

On March 24<sup>th</sup> at Shop Local's Eggstravaganza on 4<sup>th</sup> St in Old Town, the Galt Area Historical Society had a booth where we displayed our brochures, photos, talked about our projects, sold some of our books and other items, and we signed up seven new members. It was a successful day! Thanks to Ida Denier, Dan Tarnasky, Julie Clark Brownfield, Ralph Cortez, Maria Spannuth, Charlotte Cameron, and Bobbie Koger for manning the booth from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. during some inclement weather. It was our opportunity to show those in attendance what we do and have to offer. This is dedication. Why does Ron Jacobson and Earl Frey and the gang at the McFarland Living History Ranch do what they do? Why does Earl Arrants spend his time making sure the rose garden at the Rae Museum has all the many memorial roses documented? Why do our docents spend their time giving tours of the McFarland Home and the Rae House Museum? Why does the McFarland Ranch seem like Ida Denier's second home? Why does Dan Tarnasky work so diligently archiving our history? Why do we as Galt Area Historical Society members do what we do on a daily basis? I think it is not only our dedication, but our love for our town and the surrounding area. It is our desire that we

preserve our history for future generations who will come after us.

Each of us has our own reasons for volunteering. It certainly is not because we have nothing else to do! We do it because we love our town, its history, the generations before us, and the stories they had to tell. We want to make sure that all of this is still there for those after us. Our members spend thousands of volunteer hours each year restoring, building, repairing, maintaining, fundraising, archiving, and preserving. This is a lot for one organization to achieve. None of us in the Galt Area Historical Society ask for anything in return except that our fellow citizens, our members, and our city officials take the same pride in the history of our town as we do; that they take the time to learn about our history, that they help in preserving our history, and help us continue our mission that we started in 1987.

## March Meeting Report!

The meeting started with Galt High student, Steven Sharp, previewing the new GAHS website he has been working on with two of the Society members. It should be up and running before the end of April! Dan Tarnasky, our Historian, reported that he received two pictures of the Orr Ranch and Orr House. He continues to reach out to our community to access historical photos and documents he can scan, archive and share on

Facebook, in weekly articles in the Galt Herald, and at the Rae House Museum. Our Board has been busy getting bids for a new roof for the Rae House, a new coat of paint for the McFarland House, and gravel for the roads at the McFarland Living History Ranch. Three bids will be requested for the roofing and painting which also includes power washing and some repairs that need to be made due to dry rot and woodpecker damage. It was reported that a few items need to be done to the new bathrooms at the McFarland Living History Ranch including installing rails, posting ADA signage, and obtaining final inspections by the County before the bathrooms are considered "completed". They should be ready for the "Sip N Snack" event this summer. Upcoming fundraisers were discussed including "Kite Day" at the MLHR on April 8<sup>th</sup>, "An Evening in Italy" dinner on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and a "Tea at the Rae" planned for May 26<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed that many of our fundraisers will be designated to pay for Roofing the Rae and Painting the Mac. The Board is also applying for a Community Grant to assist with the funding needed to put a new roof on the Rae House. Finally, our President reported that the Society is doing some preliminary planning on how it can participate in the 2019 Lincoln Highway convoy that will pass through our area as they relive the 1919 Eisenhower trip. More details to come as they become available.

### **Velvet Grill & Creamery Fundraiser!**

The Velvet Grill & Creamery generously offered to donate a portion of every meal purchased during March 19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to those who participated and dined at the Grill during those dates. The Society thanks Kirk and Tina Smith for their gracious support to the Society!

### **Eggstravaganza A Great Success Despite Weather!**

The Society had a booth at the Galt Eggstravaganza held on March 24<sup>th</sup> in Old

Town Galt. Seven new members joined and were eligible to win an Easter Basket. Special thanks to Julia Clark who dressed in period clothes and manned the booth along with other volunteers!

### **In Memoriam!**

The GAHS lost a dear friend in Ray Lane in February. The Society extends our condolences to her family.

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

April 7 – Work Day at Liberty Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. – CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN

April 8 – "Kite Day" at the McFarland Living History Ranch from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

April 8 – Rae House Museum open for tours from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 12 – Executive Board Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Hall

April 14 – Work Day at Elliott Cemetery at 9:00 a.m.

April 15 – "Kite Day" Rain-out date

April 23 – Membership Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Hall

May 5 – "An Evening in Italy" Dinner from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Littleton Center

May 26 – "Tea at the Rae" in the Rae House Gardens (time TBD)

### **Let's Go Fly a Kite!**

The Sixteenth annual Kite Day at the McFarland Living History Ranch is Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rainout date is April 15<sup>th</sup>). Come for a day of family fun!

Tours of the historic McFarland house will be offered by Sue Dean and a few of her volunteers in the Docent Committee. Families are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and children can make their own kite or borrow a loaner. The Galt 4-H will have some small animals for children to pet and view. Food and drinks will be available for sale. Let's Go Fly a Kite!

### **An Evening in Italy!**

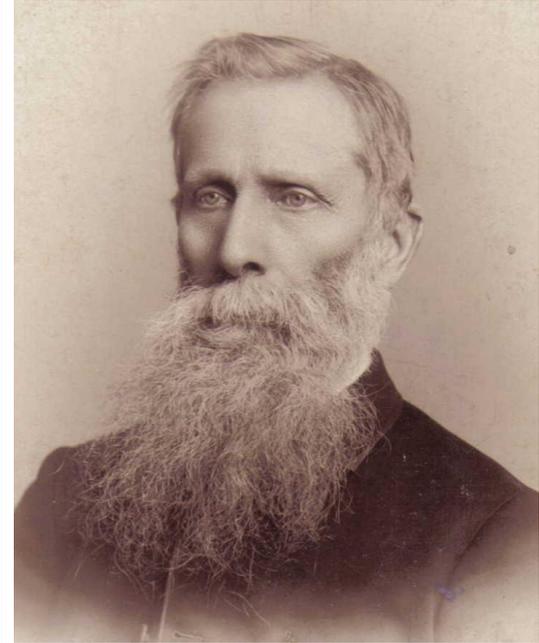
Enjoy Italian cuisine with a no-host bar and a raffle as the Galt Area Historical Society presents "An Evening in Italy" at the Littleton Center on May 5 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person (\$35 at the door) for an authentic Italian dinner catered by Bueno Italiano Café in Lodi. Profits from this event are earmarked to paint and repair the McFarland House. Tickets are available at the Barsetti Vineyard's Tasting Room, by contacting 745-1477 or at the GAHS website at [www.galthistory.com](http://www.galthistory.com). Save the Date!

### **Welcome New Members!**

The Society welcomes the following new members: Edna Breitmaier, Dan Brownfield and family, Trevor Currier, Nikki Hunewill, Andrea Johnson and family, Marcy Meyer, Nicholas Russell and Judy Shipley. Welcome Aboard!

### **Thank You to Volunteers who Helped At Our Scheduled Work Days!**

Thank you to the volunteers who made it to the Liberty Cemetery Spring Cleaning Day: Charles Carver, Gary Berreth, Shawn Farmer, and Julie Clark, her husband and daughter. There was also a Clean-Up Day held at the McFarland Living History Ranch. Thanks to Julie Clark, her husband and daughter, Kirk Swim, Ralph Cortez, Earl Frey, and Trevor Currier. Weeds were pulled, leaves were raked, and grass was mowed!



John Brewster was one of the original commercial businesses in town. His building, the Brewster Building, is still in existence on the corner of 4th and B Streets. No one is 100% sure who built and owned the building. Some people say it was John McFarland because of the thousands of bricks he had stored at his house, and he built some other Galt structures. Others say it was John Brewster himself with the help of Sacramento architect William W. Hamilton. Some of the evidence suggests that it was Brewster because the building said J. Brewster and Co. at the top of the building instead of J. McFarland. One of the causes of John Brewster's bankruptcy could be that he spent too much on the building. When he filed for bankruptcy, he lost the building. If it belonged to John McFarland, it would still have been his. Older writings say John McFarland built a wooden structure on the same site previously and Whitaker and Ray ran their first business out of it. The confusion could have started there. We will never know for sure.