

TOWER VIEWS

GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

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

February 2018

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

President's Clipboard!

Educating Our Community on Galt Area History

Many people think we represent only the history of the City of Galt; when we, actually support, preserve and protect the history of the Galt area communities. Those areas are Thornton, Elliott, Liberty, Herald, Colony, Hicksville/Arno, and Clay as well as Galt. It is obvious from the excitement that our Historian, Dan Tarnasky's "Snapshots of Galt History" on Facebook has generated, we have residents and former residents who are very interested in our past; and enjoy looking at the old photos of the town and our people. We also have people who live here now but do not know about our past, how did Galt come to be where it is, who named Galt, what significance is Liberty?

It is our role to educate our residents and the children about our history. Many school children come to Pioneer Days at the McFarland Living History Ranch each school year. However, most of those children are not from the Galt area.

I have contacted the Superintendent of the Elementary School District in Galt and we are going to meet to see if there is a way that Galt History can be presented to the students. If we can formulate a plan, we want to bring Thornton, Archoe (Herald and Clay), and Oak View (Elliott and Liberty)

into this also. It would be great if we could have the field trips again to the Rae Museum and to the McFarland Home. Perhaps our walking map of downtown and old town Galt could be worked into this. We have the momentum going with the Snapshots of Galt History. Remember one day these students will be our next generation of Galt Area Historical Society members. These student's excitement of what they learn, will be taken home. Their parents will want to explore more too and see what we have to offer.

Let's make our goal to continue to educate our area about our history. Our archives are extensive. It is like parents passing on their old photos, mementos, and personal effects to their heirs. We are passing on what we have saved and preserved for the future generations to continue with our work. We want them to be educated so they can continue to pass our history along and to love our community as we do. I am very proud of the Galt Area Historical Society. We have done so much in the 30 plus years since we organized. For a city our size, we have archives that ranks next to some of the biggest. That is because of our members and what was passed along and told to us. We have an obligation to future generations to do the same through education.

January Meeting Report!

Society members have been busy planning upcoming events including Rose Pruning at

the Rae House in February, Kite Day in April and An Evening in Italy dinner in May. Members are considering doing a Fireworks booth but no final decision was made. A solar light will be purchased for the flag pole at the Rae House Museum. Members were reminded to turn in their volunteer hours and were asked to come up with a list of potential speakers for upcoming meetings in 2018.

After the meeting, our Historian, Dan Tarnasky, presented a film on the 1947 Sacramento County Fair. The Sacramento County Fair was established in 1937 on what is now the Galt Flea Market, Chabolla Center, Galt Swimming Pool and Fairsite School. It remained in Galt until 1954 when it was moved to Sacramento. The film showed local participants showing horses and cows in the ring, horse racing, and pre-fair entertainment of motorcycle trick riding. Members enjoyed going back in time by watching the film while munching on appetizers and desserts!

Rose Pruning at the Rae!

Thank you to all of the Society members and to Gino Farinelli and all of his Liberty Ranch FFA students who did a tremendous job removing, planting, fertilizing and pruning the roses in the Rae House garden! In addition, they did some organizing in the Museum, cut down overgrown vines, and spread mulch. A big thank you also goes to the wonderful members who made and served food for the work crew!

Welcome New Members!

The Society would like to welcome some new members: Julie Clark, Shawn Farmer and family, Alan Posey, Curt and Denise Rohrbach, and Diane Weiss. Welcome to the Society!

In Memoriam

2018 began with the loss of former Society President Al Baldwin who served in that capacity in 2012 and 2013. Al was Santa for many years at the Rae House and would volunteer as announcer for the Old Car

Shows and in whatever capacity needed for the Society. We will miss our dear friend and enthusiastic member, and we extend our condolences to his family.

The Society also lost another dear friend, Gladys Brown. Known by so many in the community, Gladys helped the Society with many of its pie sales and fundraisers. Again we will miss Gladys and extend our condolences to her family.

As always, those wishing to make a donation in Al or Gladys' memory may do so by sending the donation to GAHS, PO Box 782, Galt, CA 95632. The family will be notified.

Calendar of Upcoming Events!

February 8 - Executive Board meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Hall

February 26 - Membership meeting & Young Historian Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Hall (please RSVP – no dinner tickets sold at door)

March 3 - Scanning Picture Day at the Rae House Museum (bring old photos to be scanned by our Historian)

March 3 – Workday at the Liberty Cemetery starting at 9:00 a.m.

April 8 – Kite Day at the McFarland Living History Ranch from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Let's Go Fly a Kite!

The Sixteenth annual Kite Day at the McFarland Living History Ranch is Sunday, April 8th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rainout date is April 15th). Come for a day of family fun! Families are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and children can make their own kite or borrow a loaner. Food and drinks will be available for sale. Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Thank You for Reporting Volunteer Hours!

Thank you to the six members who have turned in their 2017 volunteer hours! These hours are compiled and used in applying for various grants. We know there are more of you out there who have volunteered. 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. 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

Time to Pay Your Dues!

Don't forget – if you are not a Lifetime member, it is time to pay your 2018 dues! You can pay by check and mail to P.O. Box 782 Galt, CA 95632 or by PayPal! Thanks for your prompt payment!

Graffiti Cleaned Up at Rae House Museum!

On January 29th, one of the Society's board members discovered that someone had spray painted the entire length of the fence at the Rae House Museum. The Galt Police were notified and the City of Galt's Graffiti Removal contractor responded quickly and the Society is happy to report that the graffiti has been removed! Thank you to the Galt Police Department, the City of Galt, and numerous residents who offered to donate paint and volunteer to help! A special "shout out" to Shawn Farmer who got the word out on social media which resulted in a wonderful community response.

Save the Date!

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 for an authentic Italian dinner catered by Buono Italiano Café in Lodi. Profits from this event are earmarked to paint the McFarland House. Tickets are available at the Barsetti

Vineyard's Tasting Room or by contacting 745-1477. Save the Date!

RSVP for Dinner at February Membership Meeting!

Don't forget to RSVP for the dinner at 6:00 p.m. on February 26 at the Hall. We will be honoring a Young Historian! Please RSVP by February 23 by calling 745-1477 or emailing galthistoricalsociety@gmail.com and let Ida Denier know how many are attending. The menu is yummy Swiss steak, salad, cheesy potatoes, a vegetable, bread and dessert. Dinner is \$15 per person and no meals/tickets will be sold at the door!

Alice's Attic!



Dr. Frederick William Harms was a native of Pleasanton, Alameda County, and graduated from Stanford University Medical School in 1895. After practicing medicine in Berkeley for three years, Dr. Harms moved to Galt in 1898 where he practiced for the next fifty-eight years. At the time of his retirement, he was thought to be the oldest practicing physician in Northern California. His community involvement included the Galt Masonic Lodge #267, Valley Oaks Grange, and Order of Eastern Star.