



California State Historical Landmark No. 626, 1958
National Historical Landmark, 1962

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bancroft Bulletin

November/December 2023 • Vol. 24, No. 6

From the President's Desk . . .

This is my last column for 2023. How did the year go by so fast? It doesn't seem fair for time to go faster when I'm going slower. Oh well, that's life!

Looking back on 2023, I think that the Spring Valley Historical Society had a very good year. I think you will agree that our member meetings have been interesting and generally well attended. We received a generous Community Enhancement Grant from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors that has helped us keep up maintenance of the trees on the property. We have also applied for a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant from the County to do some much needed maintenance on the Adobe and the Annex roofs. At the time I am writing this column we have not heard whether our proposal has been approved, but we are hopeful.

There has been some sad news as well. Our one and only favorite pony, Trix, passed away unexpectedly in October (see page 3). Our condolences go out to Rick Schudar, who so generously shared him with us during many of our gatherings.

Looking ahead to the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, lots of things will be going on. Our December member meeting will see the return of the traditional Holiday Pot-Luck featuring Jim's famous turkey and fixin's, a salad and other secret stuff. Yours truly will prepare a baked ham and everyone is asked to bring a family favorite side dish (you might want to bring the recipe to exchange with other attendees) or dessert. Also returning after a year's hiatus will be the a cappella singing group *Harmony Galore* to get us into the Holiday spirit. It will be a great time for everyone. No raffle or gift exchange will take place, however. But for those needing an end of the year tax deduction (or use QR code on page 3), there will be a Donation Tree available for your giving.

Moving ahead to 2024, our first meeting will be Saturday, February 3rd. As of this writing, a program on "Notable Women of San Diego" will be presented by the Women's History Museum. More details to come in the next Bulletin.

I wish you a very Merry Hanakwanzamas! I'll see you at the Holiday party.

-- Rob Case

DECEMBER 2nd PROGRAM 2 – 4:30PM

Well, the holidays are upon us, so to get everyone in the holiday spirit, our December program will once again be the lovely voices of **Harmony Galore** - a local group of businesswomen singing Christmas songs a *cappella*, in 4-part harmony.



For those who can't travel after dark, we have moved the meeting time to start at **2PM** this year. The singers will perform at **3:45PM**. Prior to that, we will once again have our potluck meal – first time since COVID shut things down. The society will provide the turkey, ham & stuffing, and drinks (water, coffee & hot cider) - so attendees should bring your favorite holiday side dish or treats for dessert to make a bountiful feast.

There will not be a raffle or gift exchange game this year. But a Donation Tree will be available for your End of the Year donations. And Surfing Santa will make an appearance.

SVHS DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 2 | Potluck Meal – 2:00 pm
Followed by Program – 3:45 pm
@ NOTE EARLIER TIME @ |
| Dec. 18 | Board meeting – 7 pm |
| Dec. 20 | Newsletter deadline |
| Jan. 15 | Board meeting – 7 pm |
| Feb. 3 | Program – 3 pm
<i>Notable Women of San Diego</i> |



SVHS Officers/Committees

President	<i>Rob Case</i>	462-7928
Programs	<i>Sarah Moore</i>	994-1749
Ways/Means	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	433-9792
Treasurer	<i>Carol Serr</i>	
Secretary	<i>Carol Myers</i>	
Membership	<i>Carol Serr</i>	698-1242
Bldg/Grnds Ch.	<i>Chris Hagan</i>	550-8482
Curatorial Ch.	<i>Pat Case</i>	462-7928
Historian	<i>Pat Case</i>	
Publicity	<i>Christopher Pierce</i>	
Hospitality	<i>Nancy Hagan</i>	
Newsletter	<i>Carol Serr (pro tem)</i>	
	<i>e-mail: SpringVlyHistSoc@aol.com</i>	
Caretaker	<i>Jim Van Meter</i>	469-1480

General meetings are held on the 1st Sat. of even-numbered months; Board meetings are at 7 pm on the 3rd Monday of every month - both held at the Museum - at 9050 Memory Lane, Spring Valley (619) 469-1480.

Visiting hours at the Bancroft Ranch House Museum and grounds are 1-4 pm, Fri. thru Sun. Group tours by appointment.

Caretaker Jim Van Meter is always looking for people willing to be docents to help with giving tours; please contact him.

The *Bancroft Bulletin* is a bimonthly publication of the Spring Valley Historical Society. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, either by e-mail (preferably; e-dress above) or to: SVHS, P.O. Box 142, Spring Valley, CA 91976.



DISCLAIMER: Articles printed in this newsletter are informational in nature and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the Board of Directors or the Society in general.



If you help sponsor this publication you can use your contribution as a tax deduction to a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our Tax ID number is **237317982**. Please consider helping us pay printing or postage costs.

Plants for Sale

Check out the Garden Shop near the entrance to the grounds (at gate). There are a variety of plants at great prices! We're always happy to take more plant donations.

Caretaker's Corner

Greetings to all who read this fine newsletter. I'm glad to share more news regarding the Bancroft Adobe Ranch House Museum, Memory Lane, and surrounding area. The constant and on-going efforts to keep Memory Lane litter free and not so cluttered with so many abandoned cars blocking access to local businesses has paid off. Responsible parties efforts showing some success. Circle at end of Memory Lane is looking good, nice. Neighbor to the north, Moose Lodge, is staying on top of weeds and some illegal parking. Spring Valley Alliance member Christopher Pierce is helping with getting cable wires off the ground, Cox has responded, still waiting for AT&T to follow up with their wires. Our members and work parties continue to keep the grounds of the Museum looking great. Pepper tree at front gate has been removed due to a tree fungus that has killed the tree. The two carob trees in front of the Caretaker's Cottage were also trimmed. Work parties being planned.

Walk-in tours on weekends have increased this last summer. We have a new Life member - Jason Kardos, a Spring Valley resident. Jason has been involved with a number of organizations in Spring Valley and is the owner of Mt. Helix Lifestyles Real Estate Services (*see below*).

The Oct. 7 snack pot-luck had a nice group visit on a semi-warm day here. More fun ahead with the coming Holidays.

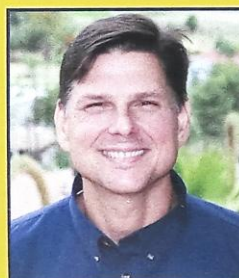
Thanks to all who help and support this wonderful Landmark.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Yours faithfully,
Jim Van Meter - Caretaker/Director/Raconteur



Jason Kardos
Broker / Owner
Realtor®, MBA



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Membership News

Welcome to NEW members:
LIFE *Jason Kardos*
Melodee Hall

Thank you to all members who have continued your support to our society by renewing your dues.

Carol Serr
Membership Chair



Spring Valley Historical Society

DONATIONS

SCAN ME! TO MAKE A DONATION



THANK YOU!

SVHS NOTICES

DONATIONS:

Teresa Petree for her generous \$50 donation, being the first donor to use our new Donation QR code (*above*), which is posted at the museum.

BIG THANKS TO:

Our Buildings & Grounds guy **Chris Hagan** - for resealing the "Bomb Shelter" roof so there won't be any more leaking.

SVHS Publicity **Christopher Pierce** for creating our Donation (*see above*) and Membership Payment QR codes, bringing our society into the 21st century.

REMEMBERING TRIX THE PONY

By Pat Case

Rick Schudar has been a long time resident of Spring Valley and a recent member of the Spring Valley Historical Society. In 2020, Rick rescued a pony named Trix that was 16 years old. Trix had spent most of his adult life in a pony ride at fairs. When Rick acquired Trix he was lean, in poor health, and had arthritis in his joints. Rick nurtured him back to good health with love and a good diet with added supplements to help with his arthritis. Soon, Rick recalls, Trix would run around at the Bancroft Ranch House (*see photo above*) and once he even kicked up his heels with delight.

Rick would ride Trix through the neighborhood and on weekends would visit Jim at the Bancroft Ranch House. Trix's favorite place was under the mulberry tree in the back. He would graze there, sometimes lie down in the grass and would often roll around. Trix's favorite snacks were Julian apples and carrots.

Trix was a good natured pony and enjoyed giving rides to children when they visited the Bancroft Ranch House. He was a very loving pony and would come over to Rick when he was seated and lie his head on Rick's shoulder. We enjoyed Trix visits for the last three years. Sadly, Trix passed away in Oct. 2023 at the age of 19. Trix brought a lot of joy to many adults and children alike and he will be missed!

More photos of Trix are on display in the Annex room.

(Trix donated some of his manure to help in the making of adobe clay for repairs to the bricks)

Editor, pro tem's Notes



Sorry for the late and abbreviated newsletter this issue. I have been swamped at work with little spare time to get this issue out to you sooner.

For those not familiar with using QR (Quick Response) codes, simply hold your smartphone camera a few inches from the code box & click on the link that pops up.

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 142
SPRING VALLEY CA 91976
Visit our website at: svhistoricalsociety.org
Find us on Facebook: Bancroft Ranch House Museum
Or Instagram: springvalleyhistoricalsociety

Get in the Holiday Spirit at our **Sat. Dec. 2nd** program. The singers perform at **3:45PM**, **after** our potluck meal - starting **early** at **2:00PM**.

NOTE THE EARLIER TIME!

 Please save SVHS the cost of printing & postage by having your *Bancroft Bulletin* e-mailed.* Thank you. 

Membership Application / Renewal Form

Fiscal Year: July 1 - June 30

Annual Dues:

Individual	\$20.00
Organization	\$50.00
Life Member (1 individual)	\$300.00

Please make check payable to:

Spring Valley Historical Society

bring this form to a meeting and introduce yourself!

or mail to address shown in upper left corner of this page

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

e-mail: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

Birthdate (day/month) – optional - for notice in *Bulletin* _____

***I prefer a hard copy of the newsletter be mailed** (if box **not** checked, a PDF newsletter will be e-mailed)

AMOUNT: DUES \$ _____ and/or CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR HELP WITH: _____ Work Parties _____ Giving Museum Tours

_____ Serving on Board _____ Rummage Sale _____ Other: _____