

# EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Bartke

Present: Tom Panas, David Weinstein, Joanne Rubio, Rich Bartke, Barbara Hill

Absent: Debbie Weeks

The Minutes of the July 15, 2014 Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

### **EB Regional Parks History Aug 27 , Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**

The location of this event will be the Community Center Garden Room. Tom will bring a screen. David's bringing food and beverages. Rich will bring pictures taken in early 1950's and a 1947 ariel view of the Rifle Range area and the Rifle Range trail into Wildcat Canyon.

### **EC High School Music History - September 17, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.**

This event will be in the music room at the high school. David will take the book and CD home to listen to a little more and then will bring it back to the Shadi Room. The presenter is trying to invite others who are part of the El Cerrito High School music history. The plan is to have current high school students playing at the event.

### **Big Band Era Music in El Cerrito's History & Tea Dance**

The Board agreed to go forward on the plans for this event. They decided that it would not be a fundraiser for the Society and any monies remaining after expenses would go to the Senior Center.

This would be hosted by both ECHS and the Senior Center. It would primarily be for seniors but would be open and advertised as a community event. It would be on a Sunday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the spring, or possibly February. Beverages and light refreshments would be served. The Board discussed the possibility of childcare.

Joanne outlined a few suggestions for an historical display in the side room of the community center. Those might include photos of bands, posters, local "Dance Locations" (i.e. Lafayette Park, Temperli Dance Floor, Hambone Kelly's, Peek-A-Book dance hall w/orchestra), displays of Lu Watters LP covers, list/photos of musicians who played in El Cerrito regularly during the Big Band Era and perhaps a gramophone and/or old radio set. The Huey White Show Band might be able to play. Two of the members of the band live in El Cerrito and were in the first graduating class from El Cerrito High School. Dr. Breneman's grandson, Joe Staley was part of this band for 15 years.

Perhaps somehow we can bring in this connection Joe had to the music scene and to our first doctor living in El Cerrito (1911). Joanne has been talking with Dr. Breneman's great granddaughter, who is Joe Staley's daughter, about this event. There is a possibility of displaying some of Dr. Breneman's things. The granddaughter does want to donate some of these to the ECHS. Joanne will contact Mickey Casey about bringing a couple of 1920 cars, also.

### **ECHS Website**

Send web site ideas, revisions, up-dates to Tom. Let him know if you see anything that may need to be revised. The Board agreed to add a "*Castro Family/Castro Adobe*" section, just like we have a "Chung Mei Home" section. Joanne is willing to work on gathering material for this section. It might include maps, historical writings, newspaper articles of the time, information on the family, and photos of the family/adobe. There could be links to court records as well.

### **Curator's Report**

Notables - El Cerrito - Barbara has been working the list of "Notables of El Cerrito. She would like to use this list at other events. Perhaps a table with this and other info could always be set up at each event, including membership envelopes. This list will go on our website. Barbara may switch from Wednesdays to Thursdays. She will talk to Christine.

Barbara and Christine continue to work on our photograph collection. Photos are taken out of binders and sometimes removed from their cardboard backing. They write a full description of it, scan it and load it into the Past Perfect. They list the names of everyone in in the photo and subject. Printouts of the catalogue record goes into a binder and another one goes into archival folders with original and paper

### **East Bay MUD**

October 23rd at 7 pm was suggested as a date/time for this event. The location is yet to be determined. Michelle Backman of EBMUD will be the presenter. She will give a history of the water district (EBMUD).

### **Walking Tour Brochure**

Tom presented a draft of the *Walking Tour Brochure for El Cerrito* with photos from our collection. A suggestion was made to lighten the pictures and possibly add several more. Another request was to make sure the Society name was on the front page. Tom will continue working on this document.

### **Materials**

The Board authorized Barbara to purchase Ink for the printer. 10 *Images of El Cerrito* books have been ordered. A new book titled History of Telegraph Avenue is being considered for purchase.

### **Nobel Prize Winners In El Cerrito**

We need to confirm whether there are 8 or 9 Nobel Prize winners that lived in El Cerrito. We will try to make an accurate list by looking in city brochures, records, archive of city records. Perhaps there might be something listed in Chamber of Commerce records of El Cerrito in the 1960's or 1970's. Barbara will work on getting the list of the 22 Nobel Winners listed in the UC Berkeley materials. From there we will check to see if any of them lived in El Cerrito.

### **City Council Tonight - Rodini Property**

The City Council will be asked to vote on several items regarding the Rodini Property on Elm Street. The residents in the area oppose the current plan to build 14 units.

Details of the proposals that have been made are:

- 1) Developers' original plan with 15 units
- 2) Plan 1 but with 14 units and the Rodini house designated for public use.
- 3) Let the creek meander through the south part of the property and design the housing units around the creek.

The City Staff has recommended Plan #2. Tonight the council will take Public Comment and vote.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 16, 2014**