

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL

- Annual meeting. Again in January the membership met and elected a Board of Directors and approved the dues structure. We then heard from Chris Sterba about the 1940's transition of El Cerrito from governance by local merchants to a government controlled by home owners. The applause was enthusiastic, and the comments from the members showed that this was a key topic. Over 80 folks attended.
- Adobe model. The model of the Castro adobe was formally unveiled at a reception in the City Hall on February 1 organized by Joanne Rubio and Tom Panas. In attendance were six descendants of the Castro family. The adobe, formerly where the Plaza now is, was built between 1836 and 1839. The model is accurate to the 1860 adobe with its three main buildings. The builder of the model, Charlie Moran, said a few words, and spoke also about the model of Cerrito Theater which he also made. Castro descendants and guests were given the opportunity to share their thoughts and memories. Lots of folks who attended took the opportunity to visit the Shadi History Room upstairs in City Hall.
- Chung Mei. Congratulations may soon be due to the school's new owners, the Chamberlains, for the fine job they have done in historic restoration. We'll be following the Art Deco Society of California which meets at Bimbo's on April 2.
- City Centennial. This Society has said that it wants to be a major player in planning the City's 100th birthday, August 2017, and in putting on events to celebrate the anniversary. If you too are interested, let us know.
- Notables. Barbara Hill is still accepting suggestions for names to include on our list of noteworthy people who have lived in El Cerrito. Her first draft is available via the Society web site.
- Dues. Notices were mailed a couple of weeks ago.
- Hillside Fest. Several Society members will participate in the TrailTrekkers third annual Fest on Sunday May 15. Gather at the top of Schmidt Lane for talks, hikes, etc.
- Tours. Sponsored by the City, our Vice President Dave Weinstein is proving to be very popular leading bus tours of historic sites in town. The next two, April and May, are all but sold out.