

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL – November 2014

1. Annual Meeting approaching – Each January our members gather to conduct the official business of this Society, which is a California non-profit corporation. We review the prior year, applaud accomplishments and set goals for the ensuing year, and receive a financial report. We vote on the dues, and we elect officers and directors. No firm time and place has been set, but the thinking is for Wednesday evening January 21. There will be a program of historical interest after the (brief?) business meeting.
2. Nominate & Elect – Our corporate Society is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the members. The Bylaws require that we have at least 5 but no more than 7 Directors. Currently the directors are: Tom Panas, Barbara Hill, Joanne Rubio, Debbie Weeks, David Weinstein and Rich Bartke. Several of the incumbents have expressed an interest in serving another year.
3. Why don't you run? If you have an interest in preserving and promoting the history of our community, and have some time, please think about running for a position on our Board. Or if not you, nominate a member who you think can do the job. Call Rich Bartke for information or to express an interest: (510) 235-1315.
4. Board meetings are open to our members. Meetings take place at 4:30 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, in the Shadi History Room in City Hall. The next one is December 16.
5. Dues - will be payable beginning in January. The Board is recommending that they stay the same as this past year, i.e., \$25 for a household, for example. However, the membership will set the amount at the Annual Meeting.
6. Web Site – There's lots of good stuff on our Society web site, and it keeps getting better. Do research, or read for enjoyment: www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org.
7. City's birthday – El Cerrito will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2017. We will need lots of help to insure that this Society provides the historical context to the events. It's not too early to start the brain-storming. Please volunteer, and make your suggestions to any Board member.
8. State membership – The Board has voted to pay dues to the Conference of California Historical Societies, at \$50 a year. This will allow us to share information on the smooth operation of small societies, and to receive the acclaimed magazine "California Historian".
9. Anza - The Society is exploring possible sites for signs interpreting the passage of the Anza Expedition in 1776 (following the first explorations here by Lt. Pedro Fages & Father Juan Crespi four years earlier). The Ohlone Greenway has been eliminated as a possible site since it is dedicated to the indigenous community which was here before.
10. Shadi Display – The annual Shadi Holiday Display will be erected again on Moeser Lane on December 13; docents will be there every evening, 5 to 10 PM. The Display of hundreds of hand-made folk art will stay up through December 26. Sundar Shadi was once President of this Society and also donated the money to include the History Room in City Hall.