

**SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL**  
**NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**September 2016**

OUR CITY'S CENTENNIAL -

2017 marks the 100th year since incorporation of El Cerrito as a city. What came before? What has happened since? For what is El Cerrito noteworthy? Who were the "movers & shakers" and what are some of the interesting stories to tell?

If your local organization would like a speaker on these or related topics, the El Cerrito Historical Society has a speaker's panel available. Contact David Weinstein at 524-1737 or at [davidweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:davidweinstein@yahoo.com). Alternatively, you can contact Rich Bartke at [richbartke@aol.com](mailto:richbartke@aol.com).

FREE SHOWING -

The El Cerrito Historical Society is pleased to announce a free showing of the award-winning documentary film, "This Ain't No Mouse Music," on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 10 a.m., at the Rialto Cinemas Cerrito.

This documentary tells the story of Mr. Chris Strachwitz, owner of Down Home Records and Arhoolie Records, the two music businesses at 10341 San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito. Since 1960, Mr. Strachwitz has traveled the country seeking authentic American "roots music" and recording it on the Arhoolie label, often in open air rather than in sound studios. His recordings are now destined for the Smithsonian Institution.

When the film debuted a couple of years ago at the Rialto Cinemas Cerrito it sold out and many Historical Society members did not have a chance to see it. The Society is pleased to offer this special repeat performance as part of October's "Arts Month," with co-sponsorship by the City of El Cerrito Arts & Culture Commission

Seating is limited. Doors open approximately 20 minutes before the screening begins. For those unable to attend, a DVD of the film is available from the Contra Costa County Library and the Albany Library. It can also be purchased at Down Home Music or on Amazon.com. For further information, contact Barbara Hill (510) 525-3074.

ARTS MONTH -

As mentioned above, October is National Arts and Humanities Month. The City of El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission is sponsoring a kick-off celebration this Saturday, October 1st, from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M., at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Performances will include "Guarandinga" playing Afro Latin Pop music; Chinese traditional dance and folk dance from the Ah-Lan Dance Studio; songs from "My Fair Lady" sung by cast members of the current production at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre; El Cerrito's first Poet Laureate, Maw Shein Win, reading selections from her new chapbook; an origami workshop; and more. For more information, check out [www.El-Cerrito.org/ArtsDay](http://www.El-Cerrito.org/ArtsDay).