



Fontana Historical Society Newsletter

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Fontana Historical Society

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Who We Are!

The Fontana Historical Society was founded in April 1974.

We are devoted to keeping the civic pride in the City of Fontana alive. The Fontana Historical Society preserves and protects Fontana's heritage through the active conservation of record and buildings.

Our goal is to inform the public on the benefits of restoring and preserving the numerous historical homes, buildings and artifacts throughout the City. Fontana has many landmarks such as the popular Pepper Street House and the Pagliuso Family Chapel. Through the restoration and preservation of landmarks like these we are able to raise public awareness to Fontana's history.

Our specific and primary purpose is to foster research and education in the history of the Community of Fontana and surrounding areas, To create and maintain collections of artifacts and to preserve the relics, past cultures, and records of pioneer days.

Our First Restored Site was a building located at 8459 Wheeler (in Miller Park), it was originally the Fontana Farms Company Tract Office. In 1925, Fontana Farms Company donated Public Library System, and so it became Fontana's first library building. It was later moved to Miller Park on Arrow Avenue and became Fontana's first Chamber of

Commerce.

In the early 1950's, it was used as a teenager canteen. Then it became the Fontana Parks and Recreation office. Later it was moved to its present site and used by the Parks and Recreation Department for storage of equipment and materials,

In September of 1976, the City leased the building to the Fontana Historical Society.

The building was restored as near as possible to its original condition. The Historical Society has used it as an office and meeting room. The interior has been restored to a library through Block Grants. Now it is being used for a Research Center for the Community, located at 16830 Spring Street.

Our Second Restoration Project was the Pepper Street House. After searching several years for Camp #1 of Fontana Farms through Joe McKamie, it was learned the Camp Site was 8863 Pepper Street. The city was going to condemn the property, but the Historical Society contracted the City, and it was arranged not to condemn it we were interested in purchasing and restoring it.

After trying for two years to obtain the property, an anonymous individual borrowed the larger share of the cost and paid the interest for one year. The City of Fontana furnished



Fontana Historical Society Research Library.

the other \$3,000 and handled the transaction for us. At the end of the year, another anonymous individual paid off the loans, and the Fontana Historical Society became the sole owners in November 1, 1982. It is also listed as a California Point of Interest Site. On May 9, 1986, the Museum Site was dedicated, and a plaque presented by L&B Video Products to The Fontana Historical Society to be put on the property. The Pepper Street House is open to the public by appointment.

Our Third Restoration Project was the Little Chapel, one block east of Live Oak on Jurupa Avenue, known as the Decluz Ranch, Felice Pagliuso Winery/Chapel. The house/winery was built in 1908, and the Chapel was in use in 1926. The Windmill was installed in 1913; the windmill and the chapel were relocated next to the Rose Garden.



Our new sign!!!

“We are here to preserve local history and to serve the community.”

Yearly Round Up

The Historical Society, we try to plan events to bring the community more involve with the history of the city. The following stories are of our past events in 2015.

Health Walk

The Health Walk event, sponsored by The City of Fontana, to get the citizens of Fontana moving again. This was a great event for us to be involved in and get our name out there in the community. This event was a great turn out for us because many people came to our booth and were interested in the organization. We had extra help from the Desert Storm Division Sea Cadets. The Desert Storm Division Sea Cadets help develop young men and women between the ages of 10 and 18. As well, their program allows these kids the opportunity to sample military life without ever making any commitment to joining any branch of the Armed Forces. For information check out their website: <https://sites.google.com/site/desertstormseacadets/>.



FLIP Kids

Every year we have the FLIP Kids, a group of 30 kids, that help us clean up and replace wore out plaques at the Rose Garden. FLIP is a program that provides options of interventions for at-risk students. FLIP is an intensive 16-week program facilitated collaboratively with the City of Fontana Police Department and Fontana Unified School District. Without these kids, our Rose Garden would not be in its great shape it is today. For information about the

FLIP program, check out their website: http://www.fusd.net/announcements2/2012_13/FLIP_Students.stm. If you want more information about purchasing a rose bush, contact us for prices.



Stephanie Mora with some of the FLIP Kids.



Don Lewis and Jonnie Long, explaining to the FLIP Kids how to replace the plaques .



The FLIP Kids working together to clean up the Rose Garden.

Pepper Street House Event

The Pepper Street House Event is our biggest event of the year. This event typically falls on the third week of October. This event, we wanted to not only do a great job but to make sure we were able to bring the stories and events to life with eye-catching artefacts, guided tours, and presentations.

For instance, the wedding dress of A.B. Miller's mother shows us the fashion in

the late 1800s. Along with items pertaining to A.B. Miller, who became president of Fontana Farms Company and Founder of Fontana. This was a great opportunity for visitors to see how Fontana Farms functioned during its hay day. The Barn was such a popular interest for visitors to see how metal work was produced during the operations of Fontana Farms. As well, to acknowledge the

history behind the development of Fontana.

This event was such a great success with special appearances by Acquanetta Warren, Mayor of Fontana, and the Princesses of Fontana. Again, this event would not be possible without the support of our members, visitors, and donors.



Tonia Lewis speaking at the Pepper Street Event.



Quarterly Membership Meeting

Our Quarterly Membership Meetings are designed to get the community involved with our organization. In other words, these are meetings where the public can be informed of upcoming events, budget concerns, and board elections. As well as, give us the opportunity to get to know people who are interested in society. These meetings are also

another way to educate the community about local history by presenting short presentations. Our recent Quarterly Meeting, we had Jeffery Staggs, who gave an amazing presentation on Kaiser Steel and the important role trains had in the transportation of iron ore, which was instrumental for the production of steel. Our next Quarterly Meeting will be on Jan. 23, 2016, at the Cypress Center.



Bert Bene, Joy Kuester, Marybeth Snider, and Toni Lewis, introducing our presenter at our meeting.

FONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We are on the Web!
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Nonprofit Organization

Fontana Historical Society

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Membership Application

Tax ID # 95-3097795

Student: \$10.00 annually

Corporate: \$1,000.00

Individual: \$25.00 annually

Family Plan: \$40.00 annually

Name: _____

Address of Residence: _____

City, Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____ Birth Date: _____

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

How did you hear about us?

Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Fontana Historical Society?

