



LOS MEGANOS

Newsletter of East Contra Costa Historical Society

Serving Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Oakley

Volume 26, Issue 3

October, 2026

Coming Up

Member Night at the Museum

November 5th 5:00-7:30

November Member Dinner

November 15th

Brentwood Community Center

Christmas on the Farm

December 6th 11:00-dusk

38th Annual Community BBQ a Huge Success!



Members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon visiting with friends, listening to toe-tapping music by Durt Cheap, visiting the museum, and watching the blacksmithing and hit & miss engine demos!

A good time was had by all!

Your Board Members

Elected Officers

Mary Black

President

Randi McCall

1st Vice -President

Dennis Nunn

2nd Vice-President

Sharon Johnson

Recording Secretary

Shirley McCall

Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Bushman

Treasurer

Doreen Forlow

Past President

Community Ambassadors

Ted & Geri Alesna

Bethel Island

Maggie Northcut

Brentwood

Lori Favaloro

Byron

Pam Moore

Discovery Bay

Melissa Cakebread

Knightsen

Kim Ambrosino

Oakley

Tony Campagna

Board Member at Large

The annual ECCHS Barbeque is the major fundraiser to keep our museum operating.

It is made possible by dedication of many volunteers and generous donations by community members and organizations.

See full list of Thank You's on page 10



The Windmill

Keeping ECCHS Members Informed

The Windmill is a brief email sent monthly to update ECCHS members on current projects, inform them of special activities, and to call for help on museum events and projects. They are intended to 'fill the information gap' between longer, more informational newsletters.

If you have an email address and have not been receiving *The Windmill* please contact ecchs@eastcontracostahistory.org

We will figure out why and make sure you do receive them!

Keep up with ECCHS online www.eastcontracostahistory.org

SHOUT OUT TO OUR BREAKERS

Monday and Wednesday mornings, the museum comes alive with the sights and sounds of Breakers working on multiple projects.

You may see historical artifacts being restored, maintenance tasks being done to keep the museum running smoothly, or preparation for museum events.



Detail work on the white farm & produce wagon that is currently being restored will require use of a router – a tool we do not have!

Does anyone have a router (and possibly a router table) they no longer use that would be a good addition to our Breakers' tool collection?

Contact Tony Campagna 650-457-9136
<mailto:bdmbmlarge@eastcontracostahistory.org>

★ MEMBER NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM ★

1986 40 YEARS 2026

East Contra Costa Historical Museum
'pulled itself up by bootstraps'
for 40 years

'Saddle Up'
as we gallop
into the next 40!

Member Night will honor
and recognize the many
individuals who built what
the museum is today.

And share where the
museum is headed.

Member Night
— AT THE —
MUSEUM
NOVEMBER 5 ★ 5:00 – 7:30

Invitations are emailed to all members.
Watch for yours!
No email address? Your invitation will be mailed

Welcome New Members!

Sharon Ball
Mark & Sondra Brynildson
John & Kathleen D'Agostino
Bill Leighton
Tim Manning & Athena Charis
Danielle Morris
The Rusty Porthole
William Aristole Veloso

Michael & Diana Beal
Byron Community Library Club
Nolan Evola
Michael Lund
Dianne Melgoza
Simoni & Massoni Farms
Brooke Trost
Stephanie Williams-Rogers

Keith & Lynn Bryan
Oliver Cannon
Amy Fink & Ken Ibarra
Paula Madison
Thomas F. Mello
Linda Tarantino
Beverly C. Turner

Welcome aboard! Let's Bring Local History to Life!

Bakeless Sale – Raises \$4,300!

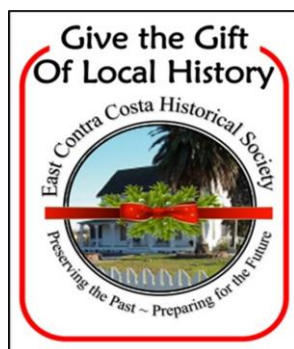
2025 - \$3,600

THANK YOU to members who donated to the Bakeless Sale.
ECCHS greatly benefited from this fund raiser AND no one had to turn on their ovens!

Ted & Geri Alesna
Frank & Diane Alexander
Tony & Cheryl Allegro
Deborah Allison
Kim Ambrosino
Steve & Sherri Ayers
Dall & Pat Barley
Catherine Bartling
Barbara Bartz
Diane Beecher
Jerry & Mary Black
Brentwood Auto Parts
Patty Bristow
Kathy Bushman
Celia Bustos
Bob Byer
Nick & Kathy Canata
Billie Casey
John & Jody Casey
Gladice Celoni
Pat Cheney
Blanche Clark
Jeanne Chrestenson
Bob & Terry Damico

Vickie Del Colletti
Dewey DeMartini
Paul & Dawn Dougherty
Julie Elam
Randy & Debbie Enos
Ron & Lindy Enos
Russ & Julie Enos
Phyllis Ferguson
Marian Ferrante
Robert Fletcher III
Gursky Ranch
Kathy Hampton
Leanne Hipkind
James & Dina Holder
Carol Jensen
Mark & Sharon Johnson
Paul Krey
Christine Lerch
Lana Lewis
Dennis & Patricia Loosli
Jim & Lynn Machado
Rich & Jayne Marchioni
Orlando & Megan Martinez
Cathy Massoni
Alan & Randi McCall

Ben & Lindy McCall
Doug McCall
Shirley McCall
Michael & Robin McClellan
Pat & Lisa McLaughlin
Cindy McMillan
Moffat Ranch
Merry Nail
Joel & Isabel Novero
Dawn Onalfo
Danny Raymond
Robin Robello
M.J. Rock
Amy Spanger
Dennis Sparacino
Dorothy Strauch
Susan Stuart & Rich Colla
Joe & Gretchen Tovar
Nancy Treichelt
Dave & Jean Wallace
Dolores Ward
Peter & Jane Wolfe
RoseAnne Yanes
Terry & Judy Yates



Looking for a unique holiday gift?

Inspire a love for local history!

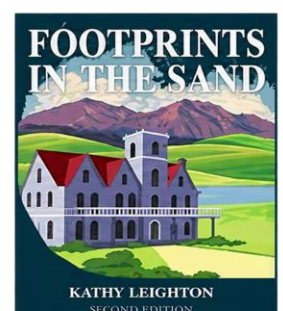
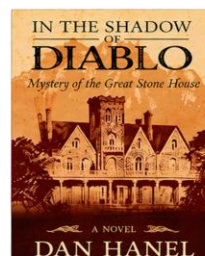
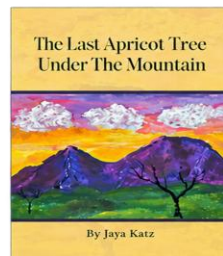
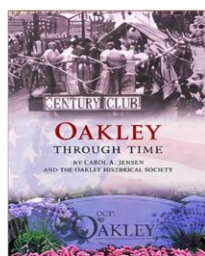
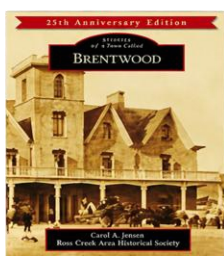
Books of Local History ~ Learn about where you live!

A Year of ECCHS Membership ~ Engage interest all year with museum events, member dinners, newsletters

All gift items can be purchased on our website, or at the museum.

Call to set time to purchase at museum.

Contact [Resource Center on website](#) or call/text 925-813-1936



Ambassadors Connect ECCHS with our Communities

Boats & Berries on Bethel Island

ECCHS proudly showcased Bethel Island history at the annual **Boats and Berries Festival**, hosted by Chamber of Commerce, Women's Club and Lions Club of Bethel Island.



A wonderful presentation of Island history that has been donated to the museum was on display to engage locals and visitors in local history that the museum is working hard to preserve.

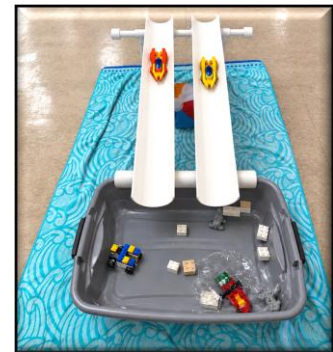
Chuck Hunter shared a video that captured the excitement we are feeling about the plans for the new Wheeled Vehicle building at the museum. (see page 7)

Splash Down Boat Races by **BrickTime** added to the fun of the event.



Community Ambassadors

Ted Alesna, Geri Alesna, Lori Favaloro, Kim Ambrosino
Melissa Cakebread, Maggie Northcut, Pam Moore



Satellite Museums Bring Local History to Communities

Establishing Satellite Museums is one way ECCHS moves local history from the museum out to you in the community.

We appreciate the organizations and businesses who have set aside space to display local history.



Favalora Vineyards Tasting Room
204 Second Street, Oakley



Oakley Women's Club

Purchased in 1916 to be clubhouse & library
Originally built as Congregational Church

Oakley Satellite Museum Opens

Thank you to **FAVALORA Vineyards Tasting Room** for treasuring and keeping Oakley history alive!

Attention to detail and dedication to local history that Julie Del Barba Favalora built into revitalizing the original Oakley Women's Club building into the tasting room creates great ambiance.

As a boutique winery owner, Frankie Favalora farms grapes from the estate vineyard in Oakley and sources grapes from Del Barba Vineyards, which are among the oldest in the Oakley area.



Kim Ambrosino

ECCHS Ambassador to Oakley

has created a display of Oakley history to be on display in the Satellite Museum area of the Tasting Room.

Display will be continually updated and bring interesting pieces of local history for your enjoyment!



Byron Satellite Museum Welcomes Visitors!

Byron Community Library Club brought back a long time Byron tradition at the Chili Cook Off & Tri-Tip BBQ on October 4.

The Byron Satellite Museum, open next door, featured a new display of historic downtown Byron maps, including one from 1896!

This display will remain in the window of the Byron Community Library Club for all to enjoy.

Byron Community Library Club is working hard to restore the caboose located on Main Street. Roof has been repaired. Now on to install landscaping and windows so the interior can be restored and the importance of the railroad in Byron's history kept alive.

Thank you, Wild Idol, for hosting this event!



ECCHS shared pictures of Hispanic celebrations of the past at this event sponsored by Brentwood Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Maggie Northcut, ECCHS Ambassador to Brentwood, shared binders of family histories from ECCHS collections. She connected with families to encourage them to submit their family's 'story' to ECCHS Family Files.

Do we have YOUR family's history on file?

All of us make up the history of East County and ECCHS depends upon you to share your history for our archives

Contact ecchs@eastcontracostahistory.org

Visit ECCHS at these Upcoming Community Events



Heart of Oakley Festival

Hometown pride was on full display!

Visitors to the ECCHS table were invited to be a Thing-a-ma-Jig Detective



Do you know what these Thing-a-ma-Jigs are?
answers below



THANK YOU, BRENTWOOD LIONS

For your generous monetary donation to ECCHS!

And your help throughout the year on ECCHS events



Answers to Thing-a-ma-Jigs
Corn planter
Almond knocker
Skirt hem marker

Make a Lasting Gift to ECCHS

Buy-A-Brick

Honor family members, organizations, special occasions with an engraved brick!

Look for Bricks Recognizing These Community Members

Jack & Margie deFremery
purchased by Cathleen Griebling

Maggie DeLuna Liz Ramirez Skip Zehnder
purchased by Lions Club of Brentwood

\$125 per brick

Addition of symbol or logo - add \$10
Full information about logos available online



Contact: Kathy Bushman 530-519-2404 or Shirley McCall 925-634-4049

Online: Brick Sponsor form available at www.eastcontracostahistory.org/donate

Memorial Donations



A gift to East Contra Costa Historical Society is a special way to remember or honor friends and loved ones.

The person's name will be honored on a plaque displayed on the Rose Garden Memorial Board.

Memorial Donations June–September

Honoring	From
Doug Adams	Dana & Renee Eaton
	Jim & Lynn Machado
Barbara Byer	Dennis Nunn
	Jo & Jerry Tennant
Bill Smith	Jim & Lynn Machado
Jerry Tennant	Jerry & Mary Black
	Richard & Gail Garnas
	Barry & Kathy Gursky
	Bob & Maryann Hussey
	Mark & Sharon Johnson
	Daniel & Joy King
	Keith & Marilyn Lampert
	Jim & Lynn Machado
	F.A. Maggiore & Sons
	Cathleen Massoni
	Alan & Randi McCall
	Ben & Lindy McCall
	Shirley McCall
	Simoni & Massoni Farms

Memorial Roses

To Honor Barbara Byer
purchased by Bob Byer & Family

To Honor Beverly Krey
purchased by Paul Krey & Family



Unfortunately, spaces for the purchase of a rose bush in memory of a loved one have all been filled.

ECCHS is hoping to find available spaces for planting more, but at the present time rose bush purchases are not available.

When more spaces are allocated, purchase price will be \$250 which includes the rose bush, plaque, planting and care in perpetuity.

Monetary Donations

Anonymous Givers
Randy Burastero
Gloria Canada
Mike & Roxanne Casey
Julie Elam
Robert Fletcher III
IHM Widow/Widowers
Support Group

THANK
YOU

*ECCHS is solely funded through membership, fundraising, and donations.
All donations are deeply appreciated!*



Keeping the History is what makes Christmas on the Farm Unique!



Community Christmas Trees highlight each ECCHS Community
Special Museum items from each community featured
History Scavenge Hunt for kids
Blacksmithing Demonstration * Hit and Miss Engine Demo
Old-fashioned Ornaments and Christmas Décor Making
Cookie Decorating * Wreath Making



Helping hands are needed to create the magic of *Christmas on the Farm*, a family favorite museum event!
Be a part of making 2026 *Christmas on the Farm* the best yet!

Santa Needs Elves!

Help needed the day of the event

- Ticket Sales
- Raffle
- Scavenger Hunt
- Parking

Contact Lori Favaloro
925-584-1717

Sponsors & Donors Needed!

*Can you donate toward raffles
or sponsor a part of this event?*

A letter describing many ways
our members can contribute to
this event will be mailed Nov 1

Contact Mary Black
925-206-5087



Do you know where Baker's Drug Store was?

We are honestly asking if anyone has information about this sign.

It has hung in our Pole Barn for many years and we do not know its history.



Resource Center Treasures

Newspaper Room Inventory Project Completed!

A huge thank you goes to **Robin McClellan** who devoted two years to organizing and documenting the content of 13 filed cabinets with four drawers each.

A total of 52 drawers carefully inventoried!

The now alphabetized drawers contain a variety of photographs, artifacts, scrapbooks, articles, and a wealth of information on the John Marsh House.

Due to this herculean effort, this catalogued material can now be leveraged and utilized for access, research, and educational purposes.

Thank you, Robin!



Special Thank You's

Mark & Sharon Bowers

cultivator for use on museum grounds



crushed rock to improve museum grounds



Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery
Trusted + Proven + Essential
year-round garbage service

Our Museum Collection

ECCHS depends upon the donation of photos, documents & artifacts to build collections and displays.

Thank you to these Donors

Ted Alesna	Batteries of Ahooga horn
Belinda Bittner	Dock cleat, Hatch dog wheel
Debbie Bloomfield	Bloomfield Kadota Fig labels
Gladys Biseno	1927 Apricot Festival book & 1929 apricot thinning picture
Bob Byer	GI Joe action figures and Jeep
Jim Clark	1920's wooden chest
Dirty Jobs & Hauling	Little Giant Model 75 ice breaker
Vernon Fajardo	1950's Oakley Grammar School clock and bus stop sign
Doreen Forlow	1917 typewriter book, Alan Jones' car photos, US Navy break basket, Burroughs Dairy cream bottle, Fruit picking buckets
Hayward Hist Society	Railroad spikes
Carol Jensen	Byron Hot Springs sink bracket, Glover Oil 1956 calendar
Louise Joanes-Allen	Book <i>A Pair of Kings & a Joker</i>
Phil Kammerer	Tablecloths
Brenda Long	Mop bucket with wringer
Charlene Margesson	1940's G.E. iron
Mick McClelland	Buggy/Carriage jack
Don Minor	Meat Saw
Pat Sanduik	1960 Knightsen Elem Yearbook
Jo Tennant	Early 1900's Cookbooks
Joe Tovar	Vintage game box, lunch box, children's books
	Oakley & Knightsen Volunteer Fire Dept items

November Member Dinner

Sunday, November 15

Brentwood Community Center 35 Oak Street, Brentwood

1:30 Gathering/Socializing

2:30 Dinner served

3:00 Harvest Time – Celebrating 50 Years!

President Jessica Enos will share about Harvest Time, U-Pick Capital !



Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the Trimmings!

Prepared by Chef Robert

\$40/Dinner

Reservation Letters have been mailed to members
Reservations due Tuesday, November 10th



NONPROFIT ORD
US POSTAGE PAID
BRENTWOOD, CA
PERMIT 42

East Contra Costa Historical Society
P.O. Box 202
Brentwood, CA 94513



Support Those Who Support ECCHS

ECCHS values and appreciates our Business Members

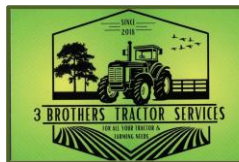
We encourage all members to frequent these local businesses who support YOUR ECCHS



380 W Country Club Dr, Suite G
Brentwood, CA 94513
925-754-OILS (925) 754-6457



Danielle Louise
Photography



Knightsen
Garden Club



F.A. Maggiore
& Sons Ranch

Qualified Charitable Distribution (Q.C.D.)



As we head into final months of 2026, it's time to plan how to actively maximize gifts to causes in which we believe and reduce our tax load on Required Minimum Deductions we must take (*age 72½ and older*).

Qualified Charitable Distribution is one way to do this!
Brian Sullivan of Tomgren Sullivan Wealth presented this legal process to members at an April luncheon. Your personal financial advisor should be able to help you initiate this process.

We always make an annual donation to ECCHS, but before setting up a QCD, we paid taxes on the money first, then donated. With a QCD, ALL of the donation plus amount paid in taxes goes directly to ECCHS!
~Jerry & Mary Black

An RMD added to your gross income can impact your Medicare cost, potentially pushing you over an IRMAA threshold causing additional payment of an income-related surcharge. A properly executed QCD can keep that amount out of your income, thus keeping you below that threshold
~Kathy Bushman

If you're planning your retirement withdrawals and charitable giving, this makes **year-end tax planning** particularly important.

BBQ Thank You's

Special Thank You to Chairperson, Joe Trebino

BBQ Serving Line Lindy McCall
BBQ TakeAway Melissa Cakebread
Ticket Sales Shirley McCall

BBQ Committee Members:

Tony Campagna Mary Black Randi McCall
Kathy Bushman Bob Byer Robin Robello

*And to the numerous members who set up,
served meals, sold tickets, prepared grounds,
helped take down tents, tables, and chairs*

You made the day a success!

THANK YOU to individuals and businesses
who donated to offset costs of BBQ:

G & S Farms Brentwood Fine Meats
Joe Trebino Brentwood Café
Rotary Club of Brentwood

THANK YOU to groups and individuals who
contributed their time and talent to making
the event a success

Oakley 4-H Brentwood Lions Club
Stanley Pereira Rotary Club of Brentwood
R12 Window Cleaning American Legion Post 202
Brentwood Lions Club Boy Scout Troop 152
Mt. Diablo Resource Durt Cheap Band
Brian Connery Tom Bushman
Sons of American Justin Milam



38th Annual Community BBQ

September 13, 2026 11:00-3:00

East Contra Costa Historical Society

Our Community BBQ is ECCHS' longest
running and largest annual fundraiser.

As a totally non-profit, all volunteer
organization, ECCHS is funded solely by
membership, fundraising, and donations.

This fundraiser has been our mainstay
through the years to keep the museum and
ECCHS programs running.

RAFFLE DONORS

Lowe's Home Improvement
Caesars Republic/Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Gursky Ranch
Rock Slough Farms
Ted & Geri Alesna
Favaloro Family
Jerry & Mary Black
McCauley Olive Groves
Danny Raymond



THANK YOU to our Raffle Committee

Ann Corridon Robin Robello
Lesley Brush Lill Pierce

2026 BBQ brought back some favorite activities to Bring History to Life!



Jeff Krey signs copies of his book
The Last Apricot Tree Under the Mountain
And donated all proceeds to the museum!
Thank you, Jeff!



Tom Bushman kept the
Hit and Miss Engine running and
pumping water



Brian Connery demonstrated early
year blacksmith skills

Bringing Local History to Life through Artifacts & Displays



A two wheeled cart called a '**TRAP**' functioned much like a pick up truck on the farm years ago.

Two 'traps' on display at our ECCHS museum create a connection to these carts of yesteryear.



But we are about to bring that connection to life by helping visitors generate images of how these traps were used in real life!

Using AI to enhance actual photos of local scenes in which traps are found, large photographic backgrounds will be generated to set the traps into a realistic setting showing how they were used. These displays will be part of the new Wheeled Vehicle Barn to be built on museum grounds.

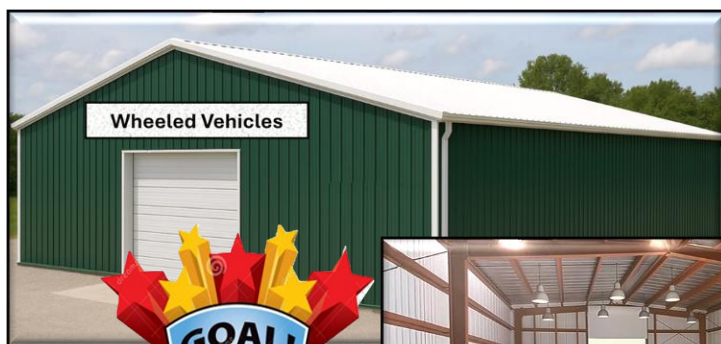


For example, this photo will be enlarged to become a backdrop to depict a trap being used to deliver lunch to a farmer and fieldhands in the field. After cleaning up breakfast and an hour or two for chores, the farmer's wife prepares dinner, which we call lunch today. When it is ready, she hitches a horse to the trap, loads the meal, and leads the horse to the field for workers to have lunch.

This type of display will allow us to incorporate other interesting items already at the museum as well.

Currently in the kitchen is a **caloric cooker** (an early crockpot of sorts).

It is encased in a wooden transport box that could have been used on a trap to take hot meals to the fields.



**If costs don't continue to rise!*



See Chuck's video on Wheeled Vehicle Barn on ECCHS website

Wheeled Vehicle Barn Update

Our initial permit application has been submitted to the Contra Costa County Planning Department for review.

We hope to have this initial Use permit approved soon so we can apply for actual building permits to 'get the wheels turning'!

You can donate to the Vehicle Barn Fund on ECCHS website

DONATE
button