



by Phil Bardsley

He was an immigrant who worked hard and saved a small fortune. In his will, he left his savings to create a scholarship for people in Livermore. He was tall, lean, and strong, and he was sweet. Who was this intriguing man?

His name was Mario Pedrozzi. He was born and raised in Lugano in the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland. Josephine Caratti, his aunt, and her husband Joe invited Mario to work for them in Livermore. They owned Joesville Market and Hotel on Portola Avenue, which stood across L Street from Duarte's Garage. He accepted the offer, and in 1927 at age 19 he immigrated from Switzerland and moved into the Joesville hotel.

By working in the hotel and grocery store, he learned both businesses and was able to save money. But he didn't save all his money – he took yearly trips to Hawaii starting in 1939. There he met Hazel Lewis, a nurse, whose family owned a supermarket and home in Honolulu and another home in San Francisco. The two fell in love.

The romance was interrupted by WWII when Mario served in the Army's military police. He finished his service at the beginning of 1946, but he wasn't able to reconnect with Hazel until he visited Hawaii again in 1949. They decided to marry, and she moved to Livermore where they continued their engagement. But she soon received the tragic news that she had cancer and returned to Hawaii to be with

her family. She died in 1956, two weeks before they would have been married. Mario was 48 years old when Hazel died. Although he had a girlfriend in his later years, he remained single for the rest of his life and never had children.

Meanwhile, by 1949 Mario had saved enough money to open his own business. He bought land and built a grocery store, which he opened in August 1949. The store was at 1931 First St. on the south side between L and M. It was near the Valley Hotel, and he called it the Valley Food Center.

Mario opened his store at a time when many family grocery stores were facing increasing competition. Most family groceries in Livermore closed between 1953 and 1963. While the suburban malls anchored by supermarkets – Livermore at Rincon & Pine, Vineyard at S. Livermore & Pacific, and Granada at Holmes & Concannon – wouldn't open for several more years, competition from the downtown grocery chains, Safeway and Purity, was growing. But Mario opened his grocery store anyway and made it a success.

Charles Crohare remembers the store. "The store was a long, narrow building. There were two registers in front. The shelves weren't very high. There were four or five rows of shelves running all the way back. In the back right corner was the meat counter and the butcher block." Charles Carr, one of the Carattis' grandchildren, recalled, "It was a lovely old store. Slightly dark, cool, redolent of a much simpler time. Mario was always in the store, standing behind the counter. He and my mom would stand there and talk for hours."

Like many smaller grocery stores, Valley Food Center had a meat department that was a separate store at first. Charles Kelly owned the meat counter in Mario's store before opening his own meat market on W. First St in 1952. In later years, after business slowed, Mario ran the store by himself. Charles Crohare recalled, "Mario was a jack of all trades -- he ran the register, stocked



the shelves, cut the meat. We still have the old butcher block." Mario operated the store for 30 years until his retirement in 1979 at age 71. The building has since been remodeled, and it now houses Ryan's Automotive Services.

In later years, Mario's main income was probably rental properties. "He had multiple properties around town. He had the whole block with the little shopping mall at

(Pedrozzi, continued on page 8)

Above: Mario Pedrozzi, photo courtesy of the Pedrozzi Foundation; **Left:** Hazel Lewis and Mario Pedrozzi in San Francisco around 1953. Photo courtesy of the Pedrozzi Foundation.

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Heritage Garden: Grateful for Assistance and Going Fallow

by Loretta Kaskey

Summer sessions in the Heritage Garden are finished. We are grateful for the support of Granada High School's Better Livermore Club. The club president, Ridge Routt, first contacted our Heritage Garden team in September. Ridge and fellow team members Briana Munteanu and Bruvant Hravind showed up and supported the harvesting and tear out of the north side beds over the weekend of October 4. We look forward to additional service from this team in the future. If you're curious about other activities from this group, check them out on Instagram at [granada_betterlivermoreclub](#).



It is sometimes hard for me to recognize the passage of time in the Heritage Garden. It was one of the first areas conceived when the Livermore Heritage Guild began stewardship of Hagemann Ranch. Brenda Kusler, now a director at Fertile Groundworks, was really the designer of the garden's layout. We still get the majority of the heirloom varieties we grow through their seedling sale.

Wanting a space to demonstrate heirloom vegetables or a kitchen demonstration garden, she and I set about establishing the existing nine beds in order to demonstrate grain crops in the winter period and classic spring and summer vegetables that would produce

through to fall. A rancher's wife and children would have tended this garden to provide fresh produce. The woman of the house could supplement her income by selling any "extra" to the town folks through local shops downtown.

We made the concession that the irrigation for the Heritage Garden would not be done solely through manual watering. Brenda laid out a set of mother main lines and then the extensions of the t-tape drip lines that we currently use. That was all back in 2016. Every now and then we mend broken connections or fix a severed line, but we have not seriously replaced any of the drip irrigation t-lines over the years. We have been successful with purging individual lines, but that fix is working less and less as the individual drip spots are also becoming more clogged.

As it has been over eight years, our goal over the winter session is to replace the t-lines. This means we will be going fallow this session. Going fallow is often considered good for soil. A well-deserved rest from years of good harvests, cultivations, and growth.



Top: l-r Ridge Routt, Bruvant Hravind, and Briana Munteanu standing in front of the cleared north beds; **Left top:** l-r Ridge Routt, Bruvant Hravind, and Briana Munteanu harvesting jalapeños and serrano peppers; **Left bottom:** Serrano peppers prior to harvest; **Near Left:** Soraya Rawlings mending an irrigation main line; All photos by Loretta Kaskey

Duarte Garage: Mally's Moving Doors

by Will Bolton

Starting in 1869, the Mally's name was associated with businesses in the Livermore area for 127 years. The Livermore Heritage Guild has some items in its collection that span a significant portion of those years. The largest item is a set of exterior glazed double entry doors from the Mally's Hotel, which sat on the south side of First Street until it was taken down in 1962. For never having left Livermore, those doors have moved around quite a bit.

In 1868, Frederick Mally left his native Prussia for the United States, settling in Laddsville – located around the intersection of what is now Junction Avenue and First Street. He started a shoemaking business; however, after his shop was destroyed in the Laddsville fire of 1871 he relocated to First Street in Livermore. His business evolved as he added a wider variety of goods for sale. By 1880 he represented himself as a merchant. In 1890, Mally was a saloon and restaurant owner, having taken over an established Livermore business in 1889. Frederick Mally passed away in 1914. He and his wife, Minna, had three sons. One of his sons, Chester, took over the Mally's Restaurant business (the "Mally's Restaurant" name survived in Livermore until 1996 – but that's a story for next time). Another son, Frederick M. Mally, bought the old Washington Hotel at the southeast corner of First and L Streets and changed the name to Mally's Hotel.

The entry to Mally's Hotel was through a set of wooden double doors, each containing a thick, beveled glass window. The windows are etched with the name of the hotel and *fleur de lis* arranged around the words. An intriguing detail is that one of the *fleur de lis* is upside down. When viewed from the street, the left door has "Mally's" etched in letters slanting up and to the right and the right door has "Hotel" etched in letters slanting down

Above: Mally's doors today. Photo by Will Bolton; **Right:** Mally's Hotel Annex, southeast corner of First and L Streets. The doors can be seen in the middle entrance to the hotel. Photo courtesy of Livermore Heritage Guild archives.

to the right. The street side of the doors are medium brown stained wood. The interior side of the doors are painted green, although it's not clear at what point in their history they were painted that color.

Anna Siig provided an anecdote about the Mally's Hotel lobby from the 1930s. Tilli (Holm) Calhoun and her grandmother, Ida Holm, would be driven from the Holm ranch a short distance west of Livermore on Stanley Boulevard into Livermore to do their shopping. After they finished shopping, they would go to the Mally's lobby to wait for their ride back to the ranch. Tilli told Anna that the lobby was filled with potted ferns and comfortable seating. It was a pleasant place to wait.

In the 1960s, there seemed to be a surge of interest in the fire safety of older buildings in Livermore. Modifications to meet the fire code were expensive and, as a result, a number of old wood-frame hotels in Livermore were torn down – including the Mally's Hotel. Somehow, in the process of demolishing the hotel, Chet and Henri Fanhkauser obtained the Mally's Hotel doors. Chet and Henri were avid antique collectors and operated the Blue Door antique shop. They moved the Mally's doors to one of the garages that was behind their house and antique shop at the corner of Chestnut and North L Street. The Mally's doors rested in the shed there for about 20 years.

In the 1980s, Gary Drummond – then married to Anna Siig – was completing a long-planned addition to his house on the 500 block of South L Street. Gary heard



that Chet was considering selling the Mally's doors. Gary obtained them and installed the doors between the new kitchen and the new back porch, where they were a frequent source of comment and conversation for about 30 years.

At some point following Gary's passing in 2018, the Mally's Hotel doors were removed from the house and placed in the garage on the property. In 2022, the doors were donated to the Livermore Heritage Guild and promptly put in a rented Guild storage locker. About a year ago, in an effort to consolidate Guild storage, the doors were moved to the Duarte Garage. We are currently planning a display for the doors. While not yet in a display, the doors can be viewed. This is a great excuse to come to the Duarte Garage, look at the much-moved Mally's Hotel doors, and see if you can find the upside down *fleur de lis*. (Hint – it's not hard to find.)



Alan Frank: Professional Grade

by Will Bolton



GMC advertises their trucks as being “Professional Grade,” which they state means that their vehicles are “engineered to a higher standard.” When thinking about Alan Frank after his passing on July 26, 2025, a term that kept coming to mind was Professional Grade. When applied to a person, I think that term suggests a high level of performance and achievement, broad knowledge and experience, high standards of integrity and respect for others, and a high level of respect

among peers. Most people would be doing well in their lives to achieve Professional Grade in one field. I submit that Alan achieved Professional Grade in at least two fields and arguably more.

The August 2024 issue of the Guild Newsletter contained a profile of Alan written by Dottie Eberly and the August 16, 2025, issue of the *Independent* contained Alan’s obituary written by his immediate family. I can’t improve upon those descriptions of his life here. However, I can provide a few more details that provide some depth and context for his life and accomplishments drawn from Alan’s memoir, which his wife, Peggy, is currently editing.

Alan’s memoir creates vivid mental images of growing up and attending school in the Bronx. Early on, he had interest in, and aptitude for, science and music. Alan’s version of a street gang was the “Physics Gang.” Two of the four members became experimental physicists, one a computer expert, and one taught theoretical physics. While in school, his halo of protection was provided by his friendship with John Bonanno, nephew of “Joe Bananas” – notorious crime boss in New York City. In addition to flute technique and music theory lessons - he studied in an after-school program at the Manhattan

School of Music. As the time approached to enter NYU, his father gave him sage advice: “Being a professional musician and keeping science as a hobby doesn’t often work. Being a scientist and keeping music as a hobby can work.” This advice set the course for Alan’s life.

After having acquired skill with several instruments in his younger years, at NYU Alan played in the orchestra and sang bass in the chorus. At a performance of a Mozart opera, Alan was singing but was also the only piccolo player in the orchestra. For the one piccolo line in the opera, he scurried to an open seat in the orchestra, pulled a piccolo out of his pocket to play the line, then hurried back to his place in the chorus. In a concert performance of a Hayden mass, the tympanist from the New York Philharmonic, who was scheduled to play, was unable to make the concert. Alan was pressed into service to play the timpani and sing. He transcribed the timpani part into the choral score so he could do both, simultaneously singing at the top of his lungs while banging away at the timpani. Following the concert, Leonard Bernstein - who attended the concert - approached Alan

(Alan, continued on page 6)

Above: Alan Frank at a Rotary event; Photo courtesy of Peggy Frank.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE LHG
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT THE DUARTE GARAGE**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2025
10:30 AM**

Coffee, donuts and other
treats will be served

There are
Unidentified Funky Objects
in the
Duarte Garage to be found

In Praise of Porches and Stoops

by Carolyn Lord

Editor's Note: I'm excited to introduce a new LHG newsletter contributor, Carolyn Lord. She is an artist who creates both watercolor and oil paintings of gardens, landscapes, and buildings with intriguing architecture. Many of these feature her hometown, Livermore. More than ten years ago, she wrote a series of essays for our online newspaper, *Patch*, sharing her thoughts on local cultural history which was reflected in her paintings. She has kindly given us permission to reprint a selection of these essays. Enjoy! —Dottie

The term "Scene Painting" describes art work that depicts rural communities and small towns, reflecting the day-to-day life at home or work. As an artist who has painted Livermore since moving here in 1980, I noticed a reoccurring motif in my own Scene Painting: porches and stoops! These are the embodiment of a desire for shade, for community, and are easy to see throughout Livermore's new and old neighborhoods.

In many of my paintings, the porches had potted plants and chairs, clues that these outdoor spaces are comfortable, familiar spaces. Other porches were empty. I realized those porches were too small for even a chair. Even though they were picturesque, they were only a platform or stoop at the top of a few steps before entering the house.



With some research, I learned that stoop is from the Dutch word "stoep", meaning small porch. Porch is from the French "porche", which is from the Latin "porticus colonnade" meaning a roofed-over space that is outside the main building.

I also learned that front porches and stoops are a reoccurring element in essays and books about urban or country life. In Richard H. Thomas' essay titled "From Porch to Patio", Thomas describes the key aspect of porches and stoops in providing a bridge from the outdoor, public realm of the

street and sidewalk to the privacy of the home.

Porch-sitters can observe passersby and choose the level of interaction they want: just a friendly wave, a salutation, or an invitation to come up the stairs to the porch and visit.

Stoops are usually just large enough for one or two people to stand momentarily before stepping inside. In spite of these constraints, sometimes the stairs themselves serve as a place to sit, fulfilling the social aspect of a full-sized porch.

Porches and stoops are perfect for the brief social encounters that define neighborly relationships and facilitate asking for the proverbial cup of sugar, checking each other's mail or newspaper when traveling, and keeping an eye on suspicious activities.

In the days before air conditioning, porches and stoops also offered the hope of a breeze as a respite from the summer heat. Painted years ago in July, "Cool Blue Porch" is an inviting example, with the three chairs in the shaded porch. This blue bungalow was on North L Street, next to a garden nursery and barbershop, just south of the railroad tracks. Since it was a hot day when I painted (Porches, continued on page 6)

Top: "Cool Blue Porch"; **Left:** "Aqua Bungalow and Palms"; All paintings and photos by Carolyn Lord.





Porches

(continued from page 5)

it, I sat across the street under the huge shade trees that are still there in front of the Buena Vida Thrift Store.

Another summer porch is “Aqua Bungalow and Palm”, on South Livermore Avenue near 7th Street. I loved how the flowering geraniums provided lively color notes against the aqua. Hanging potted plants and chairs completed this outdoor living room.

Stoops are portrayed in “Springtime in Tubbsville”. Tubbsville was a development of cottages named after George Tubbs who had served as the mayor of Livermore from 1935-1940. It was bordered by the railroad tracks and Railroad Avenue, between M and

N Street and built immediately after World War II to meet the demand for housing. (Tubbsville and the blue bungalow were demolished in the late 1980’s.)

As I pass through the old and new neighborhoods of Livermore, I’m aware of the changing architectural house styles but the desire for porch-sitting endures. By placing chairs on a broad porch, or even crowding them on a stoop, a visual message is sent expressing the interest in informal, neighborly interactions. As Richard H. Thomas writes on the home and the porch, “the need for privacy and the desire to belong to a community is still with us.”

Above: “Springtime in Tubbsville”; All paintings and photos by Carolyn Lord.

Alan

(continued from page 4)

and complimented him, saying, “That was quite a show.”

During his time at NYU, Alan’s brother Ray - quite an accomplished guitar player - organized a blue grass band and invited Alan to join as a stand up bass player. This added blue grass and the bass fiddle to Alan’s musical experiences. Years later, Alan further extended the range of his musical instruments to include the 12-gauge shotgun. While performing Tchaikovsky’s Eighteen Twelve Overture with the Boulder



Philharmonic, Alan provided the cannonade at the end of the piece with a lap full of shotguns firing blank cartridges into a cardboard sonotube.

The bass in the photo above apparently has an interesting provenance. This particular bass had been traded to Alan’s brother in return for some repairs to a guitar. Alan and Peggy were mid-move from Colorado to the Bay Area, and had stopped to visit Alan’s brother. The car was already full with their baby and the rest of their household goods, but Alan commented to his brother that he sure could use a bass. The solution was obvious: Alan traded a suitcase to his brother for the bass (which was by then partially disassembled) and the contents of the suitcase traveled to California in the body of the bass. After repairs, conducted via long-distance phone calls between Alan and his brother, that became Alan’s favorite bass.

After accepting a position as an experimental physicist at LLNL and moving to the Bay Area, Alan continued his involvement in music both in performance and management with many music organizations. This phase of his life was still consistent with his father’s advice to be a scientist and keep music as a hobby. However, Alan’s life-long involvement in music transcends the usual definition of a hobby. Even without mentioning his commitment to his family and his interest and accomplishments in photography, railroading, history, and civic engagement, it’s clear that Alan Frank was truly Professional Grade.

Right: Alan with the bass of interesting provenance; **Far Right:** Alan in one of the Niles Canyon Railroad’s steam locomotives. Alan’s interest in railroads was well known to those who knew him. All photos courtesy of Peggy Frank.



Mendenhall Makin' Hay

By Jeff Kaskey

Over the years we have occasionally talked about hay implements in this newsletter. A recent bit of reading brought this together in a very local way for those of us in Livermore, and in particular for those who have made the trip to historic Hagemann Ranch.

To bring everyone up to speed, while we call it Hagemann Ranch, both parts of the name have merited a bit of debate. The Hagemann Family did indeed operate an extensive property that included today's five acres for over 100 years, with August Hagemann gaining the site around 1897 partly from his stepfather Maas Luders. Maas was husband to Cecilia Hagemann, the divorced wife of Matthias Hagemann, who settled in with his quite young housekeeper (also named Cecilia), and of whom we will no longer speak. The August Hagemann clan then continued to own the site to around 2007 when it was sold. So the Hagemann family certainly has a stake in the name.

But the property had been initially titled by Martin Mendenhall, younger brother of William Mendenhall, the founder of our town. While land deals occasionally modified the property borders, Martin owned the site for 30 years, having settled the title in 1865 as the piece in the legal wrangling that established surveyed land ownership from the loosely described Bernal property of the Mexican Rancho el Valle de San Jose. As a result, when we have Mendenhall family visitors (and they are a large extended family), we sometimes call the site Mendenhall Ranch.

Calling the site a "Ranch" rather than a farm is also up for discussion, as John "Wes" Shaffer, with a PhD in History from UCLA, makes a note of in his 2023 book "Hagemann Ranch, A History". Shaffer writes that from 1860 to 1870, "the vast cattle herds that had once grazed freely in the valley had all but disappeared [and] there now stretched out an expanse of cultivated grain fields enclosed by fences" (p.14). Martin's property was part of that transformation. While he had fewer than 100 head of cattle and hogs, "by 1880 he was sowing the better part of his acreage in wheat

and barley." Farming then might seem a more apt description, but distinct from his neighbors, Mendenhall "devoted much of his operation to raising racehorses. He had some 60 in all, fed by hay mown on 125 acres." So while much of the agriculture was in service of his animals, we'll talk here about Mendenhall's farm. In this discussion we gratefully acknowledge that other substantial parts of our knowledge are also from Shaffer's research.

The ability to profitably or practically farm a property of this size only comes with the invention and refinement of the sickle bar mower in the 1800s. Its broad cutting arm pulled by a horse, the mower dramatically improved the previous state of the art, a skilled reaper, grimly (or not) swinging a scythe alone or perhaps with a crew, on foot across the field. Replacing that labor with a draft horse or two plodding across the field, cutting a 6' to 8' swath, increases the harvest by more than a factor of 10. We talked about sickle bar mowers in the May 2024 newsletter. Mowing was only a piece of the process however. Once it was partially dried in the field, a related

innovation, the horse-drawn dump hay rake, allowed collecting the hay into manageable bundles. Those bundles were then more efficient to load onto the bundle wagon. An additional piece of timely automation was the hay trolley (LHG Newsletter, Nov 2022), completing the cycle of mechanization that allowed a farm like Martin Mendenhall's to produce the grain he needed for his horse ranch as well as extra for market.

The fun conclusion to this story is that Hagemann Ranch, or whatever you want to call it, has within its collection a full story of hay production. On site you can find a sickle bar mower, a dump hay rake, our newly restored bundle wagon, a hay trolley and a couple of hay forks. It was this bundle of innovation that really allowed the Mendenhalls and others in the Livermore area to turn the broad dry grassland into a profitable community.

Below: Bundle wagons deliver another harvest from the fields. Photo courtesy of Livermore Heritage Guild archives.



Pedrozzi

(continued from page 1)

Olivina and P St where McDonald's is now [called Olivina Plaza]. He owned the block between Chestnut St. and the RR tracks, where the DMV was for many years [242 North N St]." Another income source was the Valley Hotel.

In 1950, Mario bought the Valley Hotel at the corner of L and First Streets. The hotel had a long history. Built in 1874, it was one of three hotels clustered around the intersection of First and L Streets only a block from the train depot. Called the Morning Star Hotel and Restaurant at first, it was a two-story wooden structure (the left half of the hotel pictured here). It had a second building of rooms on L St. as well as a bird house and an Italian bowling alley in the garden. In 1896, the owners redesigned it to cater to traveling salesmen and called it the Commercial Hotel. A new owner in 1908 added a two-story cement wing (the right half of the hotel in this picture) and changed the name again to the Valley Hotel. The picture shows an inviting restaurant on the first floor with big curtain-lined windows.

This was the hotel that Mario bought 42 years later. Over the years, the hotel evolved from a travelers' temporary lodging to a "rooming house" that "provided an inexpensive residence for many who could not afford better." The historic wooden structure was demolished in 1962, and the newer concrete wing was torn down in 2007. Mario continued to operate the hotel until health issues made it impossible.

Mario had an interest in politics and ran for Livermore city council in 1960 but lost. Two years later, he campaigned by knocking on doors and introducing himself.



This got him a seat on the council for the next four years, where he was involved in many important votes, such as moving the airport and annexing Springtown. During his first year on the council, Mario's hotel was declared a "nuisance", and Mario had to remove the original wooden structure. Another blow came when the Joesville hotel and store burned on the evening of April 15, 1965. Although the building wasn't a total loss, it, too, was demolished.

After the historic wooden portion of the hotel was demolished, Charles Crohare says, "Mario built a very small building right on the corner where the wooden hotel had been. It was Travel Bug, a travel agency. That poor old building had multiple cars go through it. Cars would get in an accident at the intersection and veer off into the building."

In addition to his properties, Mario invested in stocks and bonds. He lived very frugally in a small house on North N St. by the railroad tracks. While he owned both a mid-50s Buick and an old tan pickup, he often walked or rode a bike around town. In 2002 Mario died after an accident at the age of 94. His will stipulated that the bulk of his investments, about \$9 million, be used to provide scholarships to help Livermore residents further their education and training. The Pedrozzi Foundation was established to administer those scholarships. Since 2008, the foundation has awarded \$7.1 million to 1,936 students.

Many people recalled how cheerful and friendly Mario was whenever they saw him at the store or around town. A woman on Facebook wrote, "He was without a doubt the sweetest gentleman ever." One person on Facebook recalls that Mario sent flowers to his mom to congratulate her on his birth. Mario's legacy is secure as a community-spirited entrepreneur who was also both a sweet and generous man.



Above: Livermore City Council, 1963. Seated, left to right: Robert J. Patterson, Mayor Manuel Medeiros, Vice Mayor Dr. John B. Shirley. Standing, left to right: Milo D. Nordyke and Mario R. Pedrozzi. From *Livermore California Con Survey Directory 1963*. Mullin-Kille Co and The Livermore Herald & News. Photo courtesy Susan Junk. **Left:** Valley Hotel after 1916. Photo courtesy of the Livermore Heritage Guild.

Hageman Happenings

by Barbara Soules

Volunteers are the heart of the Heritage Guild. There is not one paid staff member in our non-profit organization. This was strikingly obvious when I was planning the recent volunteer recognition dinner in late September. Over seventy-five people were on the invitation list. The variety of talents and skills of these folks is amazing. They included carpenters and computer jocks, ranch hands and event planners, mechanics and gardeners, docents and crafters. Our publicity says, "Whatever your passions and talents, the Heritage Guild has a place for you" to volunteer. Some positions are short-term, such as working at an open house once a month, while others require a higher level of commitment, perhaps once a week, to accession donated treasures. Working at the Duarte Garage or Hagemann Ranch usually requires some physical activity while working on publicity or bookkeeping are "sit-down" jobs and can be done at home. The common thread through all of these positions is a desire to preserve our local history and share it with the public. Plus, by volunteering, you meet and work with some very friendly and interesting people.

The volunteer recognition dinner on September 21st was the first time we ever hired a caterer for an event. The goal was to limit the amount of work for volunteers. The Guild was only responsible for set-up, drinks and desserts and only a few of us had to work. Kathy Lee was the exception. She organized the food service with grace and efficiency. The food was delicious and about sixty volunteers enjoyed dinner and socializing with like-minded



friends under the trees at Hagemann Ranch.

The Guild can always use new volunteers, so if you would like to share your talents and passions, please contact us. Presently we especially need more docents at the History Center. These volunteers commit to one or two afternoons per month to welcome guests, sell a book or two and have a chance to learn a lot of history.

In addition to LHG volunteers, about 85 community volunteers arrived on the ranch for Community Service Day in September. They painted fences and the side of a barn and pulled many, many weeds along the back lane in preparation for the Halloween hayrides. The general appearance is much improved.

Open Houses at Hagemann continue on the last Sunday of the month. In September we launched a new theme, 1900s Innovation Expo. Items common to the early 1900s, like an old phone and a butter churn, were hidden all over the ranch to create a scavenger hunt for the kids. Because there were prizes for finishing the hunt, our young visitors were very focused, and all prizes were awarded. Joey T and his friend Matt provided entertainment and were very well received. The Amazing Cervantes, a magician, chose to provide a bit of the history of magic and replicated tricks from some of the masters. The climax of his show is pulling a live rabbit from an empty box. Two members of the Tri-Valley Woodcarvers also joined us and

displayed some fascinating wooden toys. There were also three new vendors who are quickly becoming regulars, Synthia, a face painter, Good News Bears, and Busy Buzzy Bots who sell STEM kits for kids to assemble.

Halloween at Hagemann is an eight-year tradition. Many visitors come in costume. The main attractions are the hayride around the ranch lane and the fortune teller. Frank Bona and the Halloween Players will do several marionette shows. This is one ranch event you don't want to miss. The date is Sunday, October 26, from 1-5pm. This is one ranch event you don't want to miss!



Left and Top Center: Volunteer recognition dinner: **Above:** The Amazing Cervantes performs at the September Open House. Photos by Barbara Soules.

LHG Out and About



Clockwise from Top: Jeff Kaskey showing off his roping skills to visitors at the September Hagemann Ranch Open House on September 28, 2025, photo by Richard Finn; L-R: Harry Briley, musicians Joey T and Matt, and Barbara Soules at the September Hagemann Ranch Open House, photo by Dottie Eberly; Craft making in backyard at the at the September Hagemann Ranch Open House, photo by Dottie Eberly; Students from the Livermore High School Civil Engineering and Architecture class listen to Susan Canfield during their Historic Downtown Livermore Walking Tour on September 18, 2025, photo by LHS Teacher Dorothy Morillos.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW
LHG 2025 - 2026
EXECUTIVE BOARD!

WILL BOLTON, PRESIDENT
LORETTA KASKEY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
DONNA STEVENS, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
SYLVIA CHATAGNIER, SECRETARY
DEBI IRBY, TREASURER

MEET THEM AT THE AGM, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH
DUARTE GARAGE, 10:30AM



Top: Students from the Livermore High School Civil Engineering and Architecture class are greeted by Susan Canfield during their Historic Downtown Livermore Walking Tour on September 18, 2025; A second set of students from the Civil Engineering and Architecture class listen to Susan Canfield and Dottie Eberly during their Walking Tour on September 17, 2025; photos by LHS Teacher Dorothy Morillos.

Free Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays AT Hagemann Ranch

Holiday Celebration

November 30, 2025, 1-5 pm



Hispanic Heritage Center Piñata



Diwali Festival of Lights
Visits with Santa
Artisan Boutique



Ongoing: *Good News Bears, Busy Buzzy Bots, Synthia's Syn-Sational Smiles Face Painting, Refreshments, Tours, Blacksmith Shop & Art Demonstrations*

LEVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
Presents



Historic
HAGEMANN RANCH
www.lhg.org

455 Olivina Avenue, Livermore

Sundays at Hagemann are free events held on the last Sunday of every month except December.

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Saturday, November 8	10:30 am	Annual General Meeting	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, November 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, November 16	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Saturday, November 22	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, November 30	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Holiday Celebration	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, December 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
January, Date TBA	TBA	Then and Now Talk: Livermore Turn of the Century Schools	Livermore Public Library
Wednesday, January 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, January 17	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, January 18	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, January 25	1-5pm	Self-Guided Walking Tour	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, February 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, February 14	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

July - September 2025

Sponsor

Fred Gentler
Carol Stoker

Individual

Sylvia Chatagnier
Jessica Dennis
Kara Hepner
Don Milanese
Linda Milanese
Heliana Oden
Karen Parkinson

Household

James Arnold
Ben Barrientos and Ann Lopez
Susan and Rich Canfield
Victoria Colgan
Ken and Ginger Common
John Dill/Suzanne McCann
Tom and Dot Eberly
Mark and Judy Eckart
Richard Hurtz & Margaret Fazio
John Grondalski
Karen and Tom Jefferson
Jim and Peggy Kervin
Dan and Page Mosier
Wes and Paula Nelson
Carol and Mark Sampson
Barbara and Tom Soules

Life

Dona Crawford

Patron

Richard and Wanda Finn
Livermore Lions Club
John Taylor

Senior

Kathryn Becker
Kathryn Braun
Lou Caputo - NEW
Carolyn Cordrey
Renata Dowdakin - NEW
Jane Drummond-Mullarkey
John Drummond - NEW
Laura Drummond-Aranda - NEW
Margaret Drummond - NEW
Madelynn Farber
Marilyn Fraser
Richard Knowles
Vicki Leary - NEW
Kathy Lee
Opal Mendenhall
Nancy Mulligan
Kerry Nelson - NEW
Sally Nunes
Patricia Smith
Marie Timmer
Joanne Volponi

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2nd Vice Pres. Membership Chair

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The Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter is an official publication of the Livermore Heritage Guild. Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions.

The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center is located in the historic 1911 Carnegie Library building at 2155 Third Street.
925-449-9927

Hours for the History Center are varied at this time. Please call ahead or check the website for updated information as it becomes available.
www.lhg.org

Annual membership dues are: Individual \$25.00, Household \$35.00, Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00 memberships are also available. Please make checks payable to "LHG."

Livermore Heritage Guild
P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551

In Appreciation

Donations

Thomas and Karen Jefferson
Jeff Kaskey
Richard and Jean Lerche
Charlotte Lofft
Tom and Barbara Soules

Richard and Jean Lerche
in memory of Don Smith

Donations for Midway School Project

Mary and Alan Burnham

Richard & Jean Lerche
in memory of Arlene Folkers
in memory of Alan Frank

Errata: Credit Due

In my article on Don Smith in the August newsletter, I failed to mention that Janet Gulbransen, a teacher at Emma Smith Elementary School, now retired, worked with Anne Anaya to create the new 3rd grade history curriculum for Livermore schools. Don and other Guild members contributed to their work with historic research. Their collective effort stands on the shoulders of work by Marilyn (Tilli Holm) Calhoun with her 1973 book *Early Days in the Livermore-Amador Valley*. Their work, across the decades, has created a local history curriculum that is both comprehensive and also highly engaging for the 3rd grade students. -Jeff Kaskey

If you have not heard about our various events, then maybe we don't have your email. Please update us at lhg@lhg.org and we'll let you know about all the heritage happenings!

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