



## Expanded Digital Newsletter Content

### Remembering Anna

(Printed Copy Pages 1 & 2)

A variety of people shared memories and anecdotes of Anna. Because of space limitations only excerpts were in the printed copy of the LHG February, 2026, newsletter (also available on this LHG website). The entire text of these submissions is published here.

#### *From Will Bolton, Livermore*

Anna Siig passed away suddenly at her daughter Valerie's home in Livermore on October 31, 2025. Anna's obituary, lovingly crafted by her family, provides the structural framework for the story of her life. I couldn't improve upon that description. Rather, my intent here is to offer a few anecdotes that provide a little more insight and depth to Anna's story.

I worked with Gary Drummond, Anna's second husband, for many years at Sandia National Laboratories. Gary introduced me to the Livermore Heritage Guild and to Anna. I started to get to know Anna better at the Duarte Garage. Anna and Susan Junk are the only two women who would regularly come to the monthly open houses at the Garage. The "Docents for a Day" at the Garage would greet visitors, invite them to sign our guest book, answer any questions, and offer to provide tours of the Garage. Anna, as one of the "Docents for a Day," was quite outgoing and had a great personality for interacting with visitors – making people feel welcome and sharing her knowledge of the Garage, which tended to focus on the history rather than the mechanical aspects of the displays. During periods when there were few visitors, Anna would pick up one of the fuzzy dusters and dust and straighten the display items on the approximately 250 linear feet of library shelves in the Garage.

Anna was in a very good position to provide historical context and details. She was a direct participant or closely associated with many key moments in the history of the Livermore Heritage Guild, starting with preventing the destruction the 1892 Livermore railroad station and the subsequent formation of the Guild in the early 1970s. For example, some of the folk lore of the station rescue involved someone bodily getting in front of a bulldozer to prevent knocking down the Depot. Anna provided the somewhat less dramatic but more accurate account of the various negotiations, deals, and missteps actually involved in the process of saving the Depot. (continued on page 2)



*Left to right: Val Thomey, Sheri Ann Dante, Sally Nunes, and Anna Siig attend the LHG Annual General Meeting, October 15, 2022, at the Duarte Garage.*

*Photo courtesy of Valerie Thomey.*

## Remembering Anna (continued)

Similarly, Anna was present during the negotiations required to save the Duarte Garage and family cottage from destruction. Years later when one of the founder's sons, Earl Duarte and his wife Ida, visited the Garage, Anna talked with them about the family history at the Garage and - with Earl - hand-drew a map of the Garage interior with the location of items of equipment and other details clearly noted. Fran Duarte, the son who was operating the Garage after the retirement of his father, Frank Duarte, visited the Garage late in his life and came to appreciate the work that the Guild was doing to preserve the facility and his family's legacy.

Anna also had an interesting perspective on the Guild itself. Anna told of her relatively brief period serving as Guild President (primarily because of her willingness to confront a difficult situation) and the unfortunate process by which she left that position.

Around 1970, Anna and her first husband, Roger Brown, moved a Victorian house from near downtown Livermore to a more rural location on Tesla Road. Anna said that in the area south of town she met some of the early Livermore families, learned some stories, and really fell in love with Livermore. She said that she remembered and recorded stories and liked to tell them, making her a great local history resource. Anna modestly said, "I've lived in Livermore for over 60 years but I still consider myself a newcomer."

Over the years, I was fortunate to be able to visit with Anna and have many fascinating conversations. Anna had a great ability to compose her thoughts and express them clearly with humor and insight, both in conversation and in interviews. We started recording some of our conversations and Anna's comments on specific topics, for example, about the time she threw a surprise birthday party for Gary Drummond at Mally's Restaurant. After taping the story, we were discussing the décor in Mally's and Anna described it as having "...red flock wallpaper like a high-end warehouse." (except she didn't use the word "warehouse"). I jokingly asked her how she knew what the inside of a "warehouse" looked like. She replied, "Listen, Honey, I grew up in Reno. I know what the inside of a warehouse looks like."

Losing a number of friends in a relatively short period of time, tends to make one experience regret and sadness. Regret for the questions never asked, for the thoughts never discussed, for the experiences never shared; sadness for the finality that none of those regrets can be resolved in the future. Perhaps a lesson is offered by a line, slightly paraphrased, from Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*: "Let us learn to show our friendship for a person when they are alive and not after they are dead." A part of coming to terms with the regret and sadness is to keep this thought in mind: "Try not to be sad that it's over. Be glad that it happened at all." I am very glad that I knew Anna Siig.

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### *From Kimberlee Fox, Bainbridge Island, Washington*

I met Anna in 1972 when I was 12 years old. We both lived seven miles out of town, on Tesla Road in Livermore. I was in 9th grade, and she was a young mother raising children and renovating her Victorian home. We had an instant bond, and I would go over to her house as frequently as possible. We'd sit at her kitchen table and drink tea and talk. She always loved to talk, and no subject was off limits. She was the same age as my own mother, but we had a deep friendship that continued for the next 53 years. We always found time to talk, on the phone or in person, or get together for lunch, and celebrate the holidays. She was my family.

Since she has been gone, there is a deep empty space in my heart, that is overwhelming. I have never lost anyone who meant so much to me, for so much of my life. As anyone who knew Anna would agree, she was a remarkable, kind, and loving person. We all were better for having had her in our lives.



*Kimberlee Fox and Anna. (Gary Drummond in background)  
Photo courtesy of Kimberlee Fox.*

## Remembering Anna (continued)

### *From Susan Junk, Livermore CA*

To me, Anna took Livermore history personally. She was married to Roger Brown, the first President of the Guild (Chairman as 'chairman of the board' in those early days), so that would make Anna the Guild's 1st First Lady. She and Roger saved the old Baughman house (J. M. and Hazel P. Baughman) It was originally at 325 L Street where Casa Orozco's Livermore restaurant is now. They moved it to 11450 Tesla Road. Old buildings seem to have unique noises and can be drafty; Anna took it as a sign that the spirits, possibly Hazel Baughman, approved of the efforts to preserve the house.

Later in life Anna married the widower, Gary Drummond, who was also a Guild member and restored the Thomas Knox house at 567 South L Street. What is unique about this house is the stucco siding, something new in 1898. One of the things Anna and Gary did was remodel the kitchen. They found many items and clues of older times during the remodeling – bottles, metal wine bottle tops, eating utensils, dishes, etc. One thing of note was the remnants of an old well that was covered by the new kitchen floor.

Anna had an interest in how older generations lived and had fun with it. One time she and Gary dressed up in 1880s clothing, went to an ice cream social at Ravenswood and stayed in character as they walked the grounds greeting people.

The door to her house was always open for friends to come and to talk, listen, eat, and drink; I will miss those times.

I think the best 'gift' that I learned from her was a "mmmmm hug" has therapeutic benefits.

I remember that she kept a diary; so sorry that her last chapter has come.



*Left to right: Sally Nunes, Cathie Brown, Anna Siig, Sheri Ann Dante, Susan Junk at an LHG 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at the Vine Cinema, February 19, 2023. Photo by Valerie Thomey.*



*Left to right: Valerie Thomey, Anna, and Carrie Seng. Photo courtesy of Valerie Thomey.*

### *From Carrie Seng, Livermore*

I miss Anna so much. She was the kind of person that would welcome you in for a cup of tea and a chat. She was a student of human nature and the world, so you would never run out of interesting things to muse about. If there was something on your mind, these musings with Anna would always leave you feeling like you had figured things out--clarified in your mind a path to get through some challenge of life or get started on a creative project. And, why do Tim and I often look at each other and say, "Thank you, Anna!?" Because, she is the one who saw us as a couple before we even knew each other!! It was all because of Anna!

## Remembering Anna (continued)

### *From Tim Sage, Livermore*

I met Anna when I attended a Heritage Guild Board meeting at the Carnegie Library building, probably in the late 1970s. A month later I showed up for a second meeting and I guess they figured out I wasn't a bad character, so Anna called and asked if I would like to be on the Board. I ran through a bunch of reasons why I couldn't accept the invitation and Anna patiently listened and handled all my hesitation. Finally, I told her my biggest reason for not joining the Board was that I was a great procrastinator. She took that right in stride and said, "You'll fit right in." That was the last bullet in my arsenal of excuses so I hopped on Board, so to speak.

I was on the Board for a number of years and met so many wonderful people in the Guild over the years. The Schraders, the Sweets, the Fankhausers, the Junks, the Bireleys, the Mauches, the Deans, the Browns, the Kaskeys, the Drummonds, the Crohares, the Richardsons, the Haeras. What an honor to be at the helm of an all-star cast like that! I am forever grateful to Anna and the Guild folks for giving me the opportunity to grow and serve.

Anna and I worked on many projects together, the most memorable being the delightful Guild spaghetti dinner and auction. We had so much fun on those wonderful auction evenings. Quite often we would feed and entertain over a hundred fine folks. Eight or ten of my family would come from Stockton for the fun. I loved introducing family and friends to Anna. Anna was a wonderful, gracious ambassador for the Guild. She was passionate, smart, and loved people. She treasured her Danish roots and family. She loved to laugh. She was a dear friend, one from whom I felt love and acceptance, in fun times and hard times. She was a wonderful, wise person and a great listener. I spent many hours at hers and Gary's kitchen table solving the world's problems over a cup of tea. I treasure those times and miss them a lot.



*Left to right: Tim Sage, Carrie Seng, Valerie Thomey, and Anna  
at the LHG Gala Dinner. October 8, 2023. Poppy Ridge Restaurant. Photo courtesy of Valerie Thomey.*

## Remembering Anna (continued)



*Visiting at Valerie's house to celebrate her birthday with grandkids Miles and Jada. September 29, 2018. Photo by Valerie Thomey.*

### *From Janet Von Toussaint, Florence Oregon*

Anna - such a grand lady!

I loved the time we spent together decorating tables for the Livermore Heritage Guild's Annual General Membership meeting. My tablecloths came straight from the linen closet, but not Anna's! Oh, no. Crisply ironed and hung with precision over hangers. She would tote boxes of carefully packed candles and chimneys to lend her special touch to transforming the old Duarte Garage.

Anna treasured and collected beautiful things and it was such a treat to visit her, enjoy a cup of tea, and see all of the fabulous antiques displayed in her home.

So it was with everything in Anna's world. Beautiful touches of elegance and class. Anna was such a joy to have in my life, with just a pinch of naughty thrown in! The stories she told with that sparkle in her eye!

Anna relished the past and was an expert on Livermore and its citizens and artifacts, old and new. I respected her tenacity in saving Livermore history and her role as one of the founding members of the Livermore Heritage Guild. Thank goodness for those forward-thinkers "Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow"!

We both shared a love of our Danish ancestries, and I enjoyed hearing her reports of family she was in constant contact with, back in the homeland.

I am grateful to have known and loved Anna. I feel honored and privileged to have had her influence on my life. Such a special human. Her beautiful, bright spirit lives on.

### *From Sheri Ann Dante, Wailuku, Hawaii*

I first met Anna when I was in middle school and she lived on Tesla Road, next to my best friend Kim. Anna was such a unique person for her time, not your typical 1960s mom. She would listen to your thoughts as a friend, not as an adult talking to a child. She offered insight without preaching, guidance not advice, and was spiritual without being religious. I truly believe Anna had connections to another time/spiritual world/dimension.

I remember being in her Victorian home as we tried a levitation experiment, and my chair was lifted in the air by the thoughts of the group. I was about 14 years old, and my astonishment of rising in the air has not faded.

In the mid 90s, Anna had a very strong resemblance to Livermore mayor Cathie Brown, as they both had the same Dorothy Hamill haircut. Anna would get stopped at the grocery store or while on yard duty at the grade school, and was asked her opinion on political matters. Anna finally showed up at the mayor's office and asked for a meeting, stating if the mayor wouldn't meet with her, Anna was going to start giving her own opinions as that of the mayor. Of course they met, had a good laugh, and their paths continued to cross with Heritage Guild matters.

Over the years, a visit with Anna provided an update on her many friends and family, including those in Denmark, as she maintained strong connections with the many people in her life. We all carry a bit of Anna's spark for having known her.

## Remembering Anna (continued)

### *From Sally Nunes, Livermore*

When I moved into my house, Anna put a lovely “Welcome to the Neighborhood” note in my mailbox. We corresponded via email and then in person often. I moved in 2020, during Covid, so we were cautious about in person visits. She told me that she would go out on her front porch and howl at the moon to release the frustration of being isolated. I witnessed her howling.....she was quite adept at sounding like a coyote!

Anna’s dining room became the sight of many hours of chats and sharing our life stories. I learned about her two children as well as her grandchildren. She told me about Roger and Gary. She shared with me the horrible details of the progression of dementia and how it changed Gary and changed their relationship. Anna had an unending well of empathy and learned to forget the unintended pain that Gary’s disease caused. She remembered him with love and joy and thankfulness for the many adventures they shared.

As our friendship grew, so did my visits to her dining room. I was struggling to learn how to be alone and happy. Anna, through pointed questions and answers, reminded me of the blessings that fill my life. Through her guidance, I learned how to find joy in my current status. Her love and understanding showed me how to navigate my new circumstances. I am eternally grateful to her for her guidance and love.

Anna told me about the Livermore Heritage Guild and it’s many members. She prodded me to join....mainly to meet new people! I’m glad that I did. I’ve learned so much about Livermore and I certainly have made some wonderful friends.

Anna loved cats. She knew that Sheri Ann Dante was fostering feral kittens and asked me to take her to Sheri Ann’s house to see the kittens. I fell in love with two of the kittens and adopted them. Sheri Ann has become an important part of my life.

My talks with Anna covered many topics. She loved to tell me about her Danish relatives and heritage. She discovered a very distant familial tie to Denmark’s queen and wrote to her. Anna was so thrilled when she received a reply from the queen! Anna told me a lot about the history of Denmark and was very proud of her Danish heritage. She had vivid memories of a sea voyage trip to Denmark in the late 1940s. She also had wonderful memories of high school in Reno and the life-long friends she made.

In my mind, Anna’s legacy is her devotion to her family and friends as well as her passionate commitment to preserving the past for the future. I “see” her in the Duarte Garage and the History Center. Her passion to make the past come alive for all she met will live on through those of us who knew her so well.



*Anna and Sally Nunes standing between their houses. February 14, 2022. Photo by Valerie Thomey.*

### *From Barbara Soules, Livermore*

In my first year or two volunteering for the Heritage Guild I met Anna when sorting things for the auction. She was positive, enthusiastic and direct. Every lot had to have a WOW object with smaller coordinating things around it. Lots were in baskets or cut down cardboard boxes. Auction attire for the ladies had to include pearls to signify the importance of the occasion and our solidarity. By sharing her energy and positivity she made every event fun and successful.

Anna had a remarkable memory and told fabulous stories about Denmark and Livermore old-timers.

## Remembering Anna (continued)

### *From Deborah Fields, Bluffton, South Carolina*

I am grateful for having known my friend of 25 years.

Dearest Anna,

You were loved and cherished for so many remarkable reasons. It was in your quiet, knowing smile. It was in your elaborate phone doodles. It was in your curated eye for the unusual. It was in your love of history and your passion for preservation. It was in the way you wiggled your nose. It was in the letters you wrote and the calls you made to champion the causes you held dear. It was in the inclusive way you loved. It was in the way you mentored and encouraged others. It was in the way you honored and kept your heritage alive.

It was in your excitement for the New Year and how you rang it in with your brass bells and shots. It was in your insatiable thirst for knowledge. It was in the way you personified your kitties and delighted in them. It was in the way you would knock back before you answered the door.

Oh, Anna, I loved you so. I hope heaven's gates opened wide and that you were celebrated and swallowed up by all those who missed you. You were my wise, beloved, funny, kindred friend, and I will keep you lovingly in my heart for as long as I shall live.



*Anna enjoying the Livermore Rodeo Parade, June 13, 2015. Photo by Valerie Thomey.*

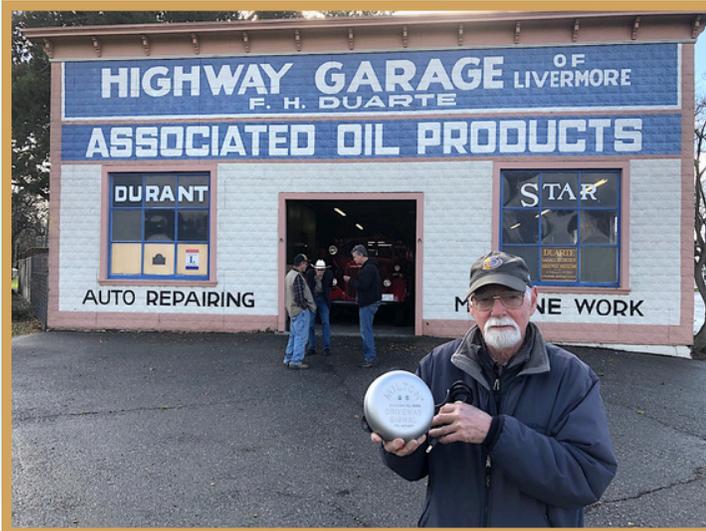
### *From Terry McCune, Livermore*

Several years ago, I was being trained by Harry Briley on how to do accessions at the History Center. After working closely with Harry for a while, he figured I was ready to work independently, and because he was chronically busy, he elected to set me free and get back to his many other responsibilities. It was then that he asked me if I knew Anna Siig. I told him I didn't, and he went on to explain that Anna was a long-time member of the Guild, but she hadn't been active in a while. He asked if I would contact her to see if she might be interested in helping to archive the many donations we had in storage.

Little did I know that I would meet a great friend and a truly fascinating person. Anna and I hit it off immediately. She was very warm and must have known everyone in town. It seemed as if every item we worked on would turn into a story about Livermore history and social connections that had nothing to do with the item at hand. Although I've lived in Livermore since the sixties, I've learned as much from Anna as I did from working on the Guild's collection. It usually went something like this: we would pull an item off the shelf, and she would say, "Hey, this reminds me of so and so. Do you know them?" Most of the time, I confessed I did not, but that was the beginning of another unintended history lesson courtesy of Anna. I began to cherish our afternoons together down in the Harp Room, but after a while, she had to stop as it became too difficult for her to come down to help. Fortunately, for me at least, we kept in touch. We would talk on the phone, I would make the occasional house call to help her with her computer, and we would have dinner at her place with other Guild friends. I always felt smarter after seeing Anna, and I will miss her hugs and funny stories. She had a way of giving you a wink and a nose wiggle that told you how she felt about something, even when she wouldn't say it out loud. She was a great friend and a good lady, and the Guild and our community are poorer for her loss.

**Duarte Garage: “Ding Ding”**  
(Printed Copy - Page 3)

*An idealized version of the 1950s service station experience. Courtesy of Will Bolton.*



*Jay Morris holding the new bell donated by Milton Industries. Left to right in background: Charlie Sweet, Don Keech, Tim Sage. Photo by Will Bolton.*

*Closer view of the new bell donated by Milton Industries. Photo by Will Bolton.*

