

# Livermore Heritage Guild

*Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow*



*Livermore Heritage Guild Photo No. 425 (retouched), President Harding Memorial Services, August 10, 1923.*

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## Carnegie Building Centennial Art & History Fair: May 14<sup>th</sup>

In mid-May of 1911, Livermore's brand new Carnegie Library opened to the public. On Saturday, May 14, 2011, the Livermore Heritage Guild is joining forces with the Livermore Art Association (L.A.A.) to hold an art and history fair in celebration of this anniversary. The fair will be held at the Carnegie Park block (bordered by 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, J and K streets) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The general public is invited, especially children. Admission is free.

The Livermore Public Library occupied the building from 1911 to 1966, constructed in large part with a grant from Andrew Carnegie, the Pittsburgh steel magnate. The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center has been located there since 1977, sharing space with the L.A.A.

Alicia Eltgroth, chairperson of the Livermore Carnegie Library Centennial Commemoration, says that the Art & History Fair will celebrate not only a building, but also an era of great civic pride and prosperity in Livermore. She says that the 1997 movie 'Titanic' is how many modern Americans know the time period. *Continued on p. 2*



The U.S. flag had 46 stars in 1911. Oklahoma was no. 46.

### In This Issue:

President's Message: Guild Auction-May 28, p. 3.  
Livermore's Population Growth: 1900-2010, p. 4.  
Young Volunteers Transcribe Records, p. 5.  
Interview with Barbara S. Bunshah, p. 6.  
Volunteer Form for Carnegie 100<sup>th</sup> Event, Insert.

## Carnegie 100<sup>th</sup> *(Cont'd from Page 1)*

Construction on the ship was completed in 1911; its maiden (and final) voyage was in 1912. Great readers know the era by its literature, such as the last few Sherlock Holmes stories, the early Bobbsey Twins books, the *Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, or *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton. In music, Irving Berlin wrote his hit "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and many others in 1911, when ragtime was all the rage (phonograph era).

The event is intended to engage a broad cross-section of community members and to deepen their appreciation for local heritage, to demonstrate that it is not just "our" history, but "theirs," too.

Anyone who would like to volunteer at the Art and History Fair, please see the insert to this newsletter. Volunteers and attendees are encouraged (but not required) to dress in 1911-era clothing to contribute to the festive atmosphere. See the LHG website for 1911 fashions.

## Carnegie Quilt To Be Raffled

Pat and Clarence Hoenig and friends are working on a special "Friendship & Opportunity" quilt to commemorate the Carnegie Centennial. We expect the quilt to be completed by the end of March. Tickets will be sold \$2 each or six for \$10 starting in April at the Carnegie Building and at the Fair. The drawing will take place at 3:30 pm at the Fair, but you need not be present to win.



## Donations Wanted

The Guild is seeking donation of an old-fashioned "candlestick" telephone (antique or replica) for a hands-on exhibit for the children. These telephones have the bell-shaped earpiece and talking piece and come in table top (like the one shown) or wall-mounted versions (usually made of oak, with a crank).



The Guild is also seeking donations or loans of clothing worn circa 1911 for exhibit during the centennial year. Ideally the exhibit will include one "typical" outfit each for women, men, girls, boys and infants. A new style for women in 1911 was the hobble skirt,

which has a narrow hem. A man's suit would include removable collar and cuffs. The exhibit will be behind glass in the Carnegie building, so there will be minimal handling of the items. Such artifacts demonstrate how daily life changes over the years, yet often remains recognizable.

## Benefit Evening Postponed

The Carnegie Library Centennial Benefit Evening has been postponed to Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. The event was tentatively scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>. Pat and Bernie Skehan, who have traveled throughout California photographing existing Carnegie libraries and collecting images of demolished ones, were scheduled to be the keynote speakers, but illness precludes a May engagement. Their website is [www.carnegie-libraries.org](http://www.carnegie-libraries.org). The Guild wishes the Skehans a speedy and full recovery and looks forward to seeing them in August.

## A Centennial Tea



The "Tea & History" benefit on January 29<sup>th</sup> kicked off the Carnegie Library's Centennial year. Around 30 people attended and over \$500 was made. Alicia Eltgroth organized the event and spoke about the history of tea; her family home hosted the function. Many thanks to the attendees, volunteers (Barbara Frazier, Betsy Eltgroth, Jason Bezis, Jeff & Loretta Kaskey) and Filigree Bakery of Pleasanton.



Yes, friends, we are trying to catch back up to our publishing schedule, so hopefully you enjoy having this issue in your mailbox following so closely after the last one. Being busy is always an excuse, but it is a joy as well. Being and keeping busy here at the Guild means that projects are making progress and volunteers all around the Guild are doing their best to squeeze in a few extra hours to collect, preserve and interpret the touchstones of our heritage. As our friend George says, the problem with saving yesterday is that it keeps getting larger.

A lot of that activity is currently centered around the Carnegie Library Centennial events, especially the Art and History fair on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. We could sure use a few extra hands to help make it a success, so if you can, contact Alicia Eltgroth, the event chair (see cover article and insert). The next newsletter will feature a comprehensive article about the history of the Carnegie Library and park from its genesis to present. For 55 years (1911-66), the building housed the Livermore Public Library. The park has served as Livermore's town square. We are interested in any and all stories, including your favorite nooks and books at the library, memories of library staff and how you have used the park. If you wish to share any anecdotes, mail them to the History Center or e-mail them to [lhg@lhg.org](mailto:lhg@lhg.org).

It is a good time to start you thinking about our annual fundraising auction on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> (see back cover). I have been looking through the accumulated donations so far and can tell you that we are building a great collection for this year's auction. Bill Junk, our "Accumulator-In-Residence" and Anna Siig, "Outreach Stuff Finder," along with the rest of the team, are putting together an amazing auction stash with something for everyone. This may be the best in years. You'll find a clawfoot bathtub, antique furniture, some unique clocks and even a guitar amp among the gems. In your Guild President's household, we start preparing early by donating items into the auction, making room for new auction treasures. Two years ago I ended up with a sailboat. What will your surprise winnings be?

Speaking of making room for new things, in this spot last year I talked about the challenge of deciding what belongs in the Guild's collections and what does not. Many organizations face the same question, evaluating each item against their mission statements or collection policies to ensure they are using their resources effectively. While clearing out our accumulated piles of old Guild calendars, we found our collection included a circa 1930's wooden clothes hanger imprinted with the name of a cleaner from a town on the east coast. Of little interest to us, we contacted a local historical society and shipped it off to them. Similarly, we have been fortunate beneficiaries of other groups' collection audits, and in this issue you will see a page from a journal of Corral Hollow mine claims that came as part of a donation to the Guild from the Oakland Library. (They have a great History Room in their main library.) We are delighted that they thought of us. Equally benevolent, our neighboring historical society in Pleasanton, the Museum On Main, has passed on various Livermore items, including some microfilms of Livermore newspapers and other documents. (And just this week we received some very important local items that we will feature in an upcoming newsletter!)

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I introduce two new board members. First, volunteer and member Paul Caringal has agreed to take on the role of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership Chair. Paul spent many volunteer hours with us last year helping to clean up our research files and cataloging items from the collection into our computerized database PastPerfect. Always cheerful and positive, Paul is a pleasure to have around and is bringing real enthusiasm to the Membership job. Our second new board member fills a position created when we last revised the Bylaws. At that time we created two positions called Directors at Large. Garage Curator Bill Junk was elected to one of those positions to secure his knowledge and experience, and we hoped that by creating a position without specific day-to-day Guild responsibilities, we might also bring in someone with an outside perspective and complementary expertise.

Our newest Director at Large hits those qualifications exactly. Allow me to introduce and welcome Barbara Soules, whose main responsibility is being Executive Director of Hoofprints on the Heart. Hoofprints is an adaptive riding program based at the historic Hagemann Ranch in Livermore and is a successful and important local non-profit. We have worked with Barbara on historic programs at the ranch and have been continuously impressed with her leadership as well as her enthusiasm for the heritage of the Hoofprints site. I hope to write more about Paul and Barbara in future newsletters, but for now please welcome them to the fold!

Jeff Kaskey

## Population Growth in Livermore/Amador Valley: 1900 to 2010

Year	Livermore City	% Change	Pleasanton City	% Change	Dublin Census Place/ City	% Change	"Rural" East Alameda County	"Rural" As % of East County	All East Alameda County (Cities + Rural)	% Change	Tracy City	% Change
1900	1,493	7%	1,100	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,579	64%	7,172	21%	N/A	N/A
1910	2,030	36%	1,254	14%	N/A	N/A	3,686	53%	6,970	-3%	N/A	N/A
1920	1,916	-6%	991	-21%	N/A	N/A	3,297	53%	6,204	-11%	2,450	N/A
1930	3,119	63%	1,237	25%	N/A	N/A	4,476	51%	8,832	42%	3,829	56%
1940	2,885	-8%	1,278	3%	N/A	N/A	4,260	51%	8,423	-5%	4,056	6%
1950	4,364	51%	2,244	76%	N/A	N/A	7,788	54%	14,396	71%	8,410	107%
1960	16,058	268%	4,203	87%	N/A	N/A	9,326	32%	29,587	106%	11,289	34%
1970	37,703	135%	18,328	336%	13,641	N/A	7,983	10%	77,655	162%	14,724	30%
1980	48,349	28%	35,160	92%	13,496	-1%	7,401	7%	104,406	34%	18,428	25%
1990	56,741	17%	50,553	44%	23,229	72%	5,312	4%	135,835	30%	33,558	82%
2000	73,345	29%	63,654	26%	29,973	29%	4,680	3%	171,652	26%	56,929	70%
2010	80,968	10%	70,285	10%	46,036	54%	4,828	2%	202,117	18%	82,922	46%

In April 2010, the federal government conducted the 23<sup>rd</sup> decennial Census of Population, enumerating every man, woman and child who resided in the nation. City-level data for California were released on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The table (above) presents the numbers of inhabitants of the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Tracy in every census since 1900. Dublin became a city in 1982; data for 1970 and 1980 are for the Dublin unincorporated area (suburbanization began in 1960 with San Ramon Village).

The "All East Alameda County" column contains the total population of eastern Alameda County, including Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol and rural areas. Population of the Livermore/Amador Valley has now passed the 200,000 mark, a twenty-four fold increase since 1940, when the Valley had a mere 8,423 residents. Just 100,000 lived here in the late 1970s. The Valley has added around 30,000 people every decade since 1970.

Tracy surpassed Livermore's population in the past decade. Tracy was larger than Livermore until the 1950s. (Tracy was a major steam locomotive hub of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.) Livermore had a larger population than Tracy from 1960 to 2000.

Livermore's population tripled in the 1950s. Pleasanton's population more than quadrupled in the 1960s. Only in the 1930s, 1970s and 1980s did Pleasanton's population expand in larger numbers than Livermore's.

The populations of the Livermore/Amador Valley's three cities have doubled over the past 20 to 40 years: Livermore (since 1970), Pleasanton (since 1980) and Dublin (since 1990). The largest absolute decennial population gain in

Valley cities occurred in Pleasanton in the 1970s, an increase of 16,833, followed by Livermore in the 1990s (16,604) and Dublin in the 2000s (16,063). Tracy exceeded all of these, with an increase of 25,993 in the 2000s. Tracy's population has quadrupled since 1980.

Although today the Valley seems like a perpetually burgeoning locale, its population decreased from 1900 to 1920 and from 1930 to 1940. Pleasanton shed 20 percent of its population in the 1910s. Livermore experienced an eight percent population loss in the 1930s. Livermore's and Pleasanton's slowest growth rates since the Great Depression era were in the 2000s decade.

The share of the Valley's population in "rural" areas (outside of city limits) decreased dramatically during the 20th century. In 1900, nearly two-thirds of the Valley's population (64 percent) lived outside of Livermore and Pleasanton city limits. In the 1950s, more people lived within city limits than in rural areas for the first time. In 2010, just two percent of the Valley's population lived outside of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.

The Valley's "rural" population did not increase much during the 20th century. Whereas 4,579 lived outside of cities in 1900 (many on farms and ranches that have since been annexed to cities), 4,828 did in 2010 (including 913 Sunol residents). The 1940s "rural" population rise likely was related to military bases (Parks, Shoemaker & NAS).

April 2, 2012 will be an exciting date for genealogists because the National Archives will make the name-by-name enumeration sheets for the 1940 Census of Population (sealed for 72 years) available to the public. *-by Jason Bezis*

## Guild's Young Volunteers Transcribe 100 to 150 Year-Old Records

Historical societies, like other museums and arts organizations frequently exercise themselves over what they might do to attract "the younger generation," students and the like. In our organization, the "younger generation" might include post-adolescents well into their 40's and of course many of our more senior members still seem quite young at heart. Nonetheless, I was pleased to step into the History Center recently and find that two of our volunteers were midstride teenagers.

Mary Mumford and Ian Ransom were both working away transcribing our historic handwritten registers: Mary on the 100 year-old tax logs and Ian on our recently acquired leatherbound O'Brien mine claims from the 1860s (John O'Brien found coal in Corral Hollow in 1856). They are not the only volunteers we have who have yet to acquire a driver's license, but having been advised to embrace advanced technology in order to attract more youth, I noted that both were deeply engrossed in delicate, handwritten tomes, not web portals or 3D virtual worlds. Sure, that is partly because we have neither portals nor virtual worlds to offer, but also I think that the more we get surrounded by technology, the more we get excited about something that is truly (not "virtually") authentic and historic.



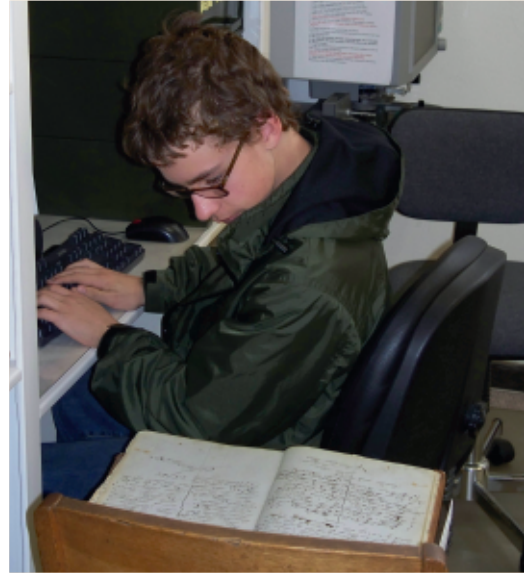
**Mary Mumford transcribed century-old tax records.**

These books are the same that were handled by early area settlers. They were written using dip pens with personalized script that ranges from calligraphically ornate to utilitarian to completely illegible. There is no question of them being faked in Photoshop. And I've never had to reboot one. While there is great power in being able to go to the 'net and search data from billions of sources in an instant, it is also thrilling to be holding an item that is completely unique in all the world. Apparently these volunteers thought so, as they applied themselves to deciphering the sometimes maddening

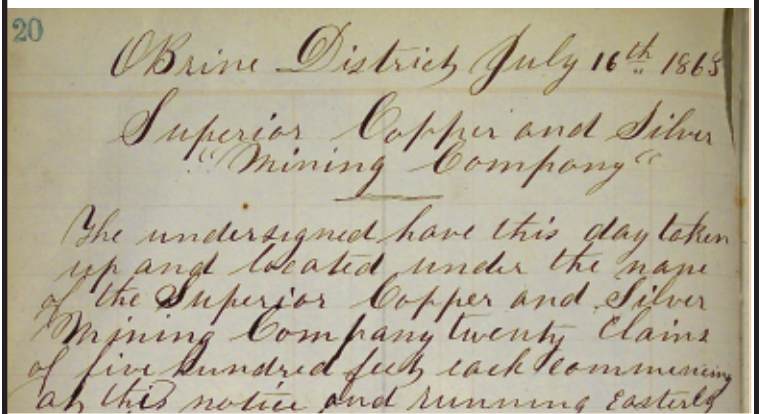
longhand of a hurried scribe.

I am always grateful for the contributions of our many members and volunteers, young and old, helping us preserve or understand pieces of Livermore's heritage and wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to two of them. And it wouldn't be a newsletter article if I didn't entreat you to join them. Please do! -by Jeff Kaskey

**Ian Ransom transcribed mine claims in the Corral Hollow region (southeast of Livermore) from the 1860s. The Oakland Public Library recently donated these records to the LHG.**



The recent Oakland Library donations included a log book of mine claims in the OBrine [sic] District in the Corral Hollow area that would become John Treadwell's mining town of Tesla three decades later. O'Brien's district included the Eureka coal mine, the thickest of the seams found in the area. The Guild has started transcribing selected pages of this log book. Below is a July 16, 1863 entry describing the "Superior Copper and Silver Mining Company," with investors including William M. Mendenhall and signed by John O'Brien. In spite of the name, the mine was intended primarily to extract coal, as were the other mines of the area. For more information about O'Brien and the Tesla mines, see *History of Tesla, a California Coal Mining Town* (2002) by Dan Mosier and Earle Williams, available at the History Center. -by Jeff Kaskey



## Barbara S. Bunshah Recounts Genesis of Her Newspaper Index

"Can you imagine 12,000 pages of historical research contained in 28 binders, all done by one person? Then imagine what Barbara Bunshah has accomplished the last 20 years in her spare time." -"Livermore's ultimate librarian," *Oakland Tribune*, April 21, 2005 by Barry Schrader.

"This is a Reference Librarian's Index. It began twenty years ago as random note taking on half a dozen subjects and continued, after my retirement, as a full-fledged Subject Index to the microfilm edition of the paper." -Barbara Bunshah, June 15, 1983, Introduction to the Index.

The late Barbara Senard Bunshah (1926-2007) was the longtime curator of the Livermore Heritage Guild History Center. She was a Livermore Public Library librarian from 1960 to 1980. One of her legacies is the "Bunshah Index," a selective subject index to issues of Livermore area newspapers in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

Katie Melville, a library assistant at the Livermore Public Library (L.P.L.) and a San Jose State University library student, describes herself as "an appreciative user" of the Bunshah Index. She says, "Rarely a week goes by that I do not consult this valuable resource."

In the late 1990s, the L.P.L. received federal Library Services and Technology Act grants to digitize the Bunshah Indexes for 1899-1929 and 1930-65 and to place them on CD-ROMs. Julie Casamajor was at L.P.L. from 1981 to 2007, when she retired as Assistant Director for Public Services. Mrs. Casamajor says, "(Mrs. Bunshah) was very dubious of the entire digitization project, as she was convinced that the files could be manipulated and history misrepresented as a result ... We did not receive a third grant which would have involved completing the conversion to date and putting it on the web because Mrs. Bunshah didn't want it on the web." She says that Bill Contento suggested the digitization and Sallie Ward did the actual work. Mrs. Casamajor added, "Mrs. B's memory will be cherished by future historians, as much for her annotations as for her index."

The Bunshah Index is published through 2002. Guild member Don Meeker says that she prepared index cards for 2003 and 2004. He is in the process of completing the transcription of her 2003 index and her *Livermore Echo* index.

Ms. Melville interviewed Mrs. Bunshah on September 19, 2006 at the current library, sitting near the bookshelf with the Bunshah Index. The following is a transcript of her interview with Mrs. Bunshah:

As a library student and library assistant at the Livermore Public Library I am very interested in the Bunshah Index. Can you tell me more about this resource?

The index is a key to the newspaper microfilm, starting with the *Livermore Herald*. It now includes the *Independent*, the *Valley Times*, the *Tri-Valley Herald* and the *Pleasanton Weekly*. It lets people know what is contained on the microfilm. Once the papers were filmed and destroyed, there was no way to access the information in the microfilm. The drawers were full of rolls of microfilm, but people could not find the information they were looking for.



Collection of Don Meeker (unknown photographer)

**Barbara Bunshah consults a card index of Livermore property tax records. She and Barbara Groth worked for many years to organize properties by plan, block and lot for the years 1887 through 1960.**

*How was the index developed?*

When I retired in 1980, one of the librarians came to visit me for tea. She asked for help locating various local events as she did not have time to read the newspapers. I now had the time to work on an index that I had started years before.

I had started this index when the hours at the library were extended until 9 p.m. on Friday evenings. The time from six to seven was very slow, so I started working on a subject index to help answer various questions. I used the newspaper headlines and wrote them down on 3 by 5 cards, with the date and page numbers. I started with

the early years, from 1899 to 1919 for the *Livermore Herald*. It is unfortunate that the earliest years, from 1877 to 1899 are missing; they were thrown out. (Ed. note: so was 1905.)

I don't remember things unless I write them down; I have written every entry for the index on legal pads, long sheets of paper or on 3 by 5 cards.

*How did the selective subject headings develop? Who decided upon them?* The subject headings are in my head; from "Accidents" to "Zone 7." They developed as the index developed. The later editions are more tightly indexed and better done than the first ones.

*What is the time investment necessary to create such a resource? How long did it take to develop?* It has taken many years. The long, 10-year indexes take about four years to put together.

*How long does it take to maintain the index?* The Saturday, Sunday and Monday papers are smaller editions and they go faster. I want to get caught up. (Note: the index is complete through 2002.) I am not sure how much longer I will be able to go on with the index, my eyes are bothering me.

*Do you ever redo the pages that have been compiled for some time?* I proof-read later and correct spellings. It is important to make sure that the entry is clear. (Author's note: The introduction to the first index expands upon this issue: "All of the typos are mine. However, please remember that the spelling of proper names was – still is sometimes-erratic. On occasion I have corrected such spellings, at others, not - I can be erratic too.")

*Do you have a CD of the index?* Yes I do, but I don't use it. I don't have a computer and don't want one. It is more fun to work without computers. I don't want the index on the Internet; things get changed on the Internet and it won't be the same. I am the copyright owner of the index. (Editor's note: The Guild now holds the copyright to the index. The Guild intends to place this content on the web in a fixed format, crediting "Bunshah Index" as the source.)

*What advice would you give to libraries who are contemplating replicating this source?* You cannot always trust the headline of a newspaper story to give you an accurate description. One of my favorite headlines said: "Livermore Forests are Well-Protected." This article was about the Foresters group, the Order of Foresters and did not have anything to do with forests in Livermore.

*Did you ever sing at the library?* I have a degree in music but I never was a music librarian. Just a general librarian. Page 7

*How did you become a librarian?* I was told that I would probably not make it as a professional singer. I loved music. A friend was hired by the library and suggested that I would be good at the work. My parents found the money for library school and I attended for one year.



Collection of Don Meecker (unknown photographer)

**Barbara Bunshah outside of the LHG History Center. Her VW bug/beetle is parked behind her on Third St.**

*Who will win the World Series? Do the A's have a chance?*

I like your last question. I wasn't happy when I watched the game last night. (Author's note: the Oakland A's lost 7-2 to the Cleveland Indians on September 18, 2006). I think that occasionally the A's are tired on Mondays. They have played many days in a row without a rest.

*Do you have any final words before we end?*

Remember what I was taught in library school; always have your source in front of you!

Thank you for calling me; I enjoyed this. Now I am going to use the microfilm reader to look up the dates for some obituaries. That is why I agreed to do this interview, I had information that I wanted to verify.

-by Katie Melville, library assistant at Livermore Public Library. (See also Anne Homan's column about Mrs. Bunshah in the Independent of January 11, 2007.)

# LHG Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**History Lecture: Livermore Carnegie Library building history by Loretta Kaskey**, Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Talk starts at 7:30 p.m. Suggested \$2 donation.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> Duarte Garage Open** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on "old" Lincoln Highway, Portola Ave. at L St. (No "open garage day" in May.)

**SATURDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, Carnegie Library Building Centennial Art & History Fair**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See p.1.

**SATURDAY, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>, Annual Livermore Heritage Guild Auction, Duarte Garage/Lincoln Highway Museum**, 5:00 p.m. preview, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. auction time.

The Guild is still looking for donations, as always. And there are some good

donations already waiting at the "Sort'n Store." To donate items call Bill Junk at 447-4561 or Anna Siig at 447-5475.

The "Sort'n Store" is the Guild's space at the old library, where we sort and store donations for the auction. You may also volunteer to help sorting donation and at the auction. Call Anna Siig – see phone number above.

Put the date on your calendar, check in with the Guild in mid-May at 449-9927 for more information and to buy tickets for the dinner. Yes, you can attend the auction without having dinner. *-by Anna Siig*

**SAT., JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> Livermore Centennial Light Bulb 110<sup>th</sup> birthday party** (tentative), LPFD Station No. Six, 4550 East Ave., noon to 4 p.m.  
**Movie - Fri., June 17**, Vine Theatre.

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Annual membership dues are:  
Individual \$25.00, Family \$35.00,  
Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student  
\$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron  
\$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00  
and Business \$300.00 memberships  
are also available. Please make  
checks payable to "LHG." Mail to  
P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551.

The Livermore Heritage Guild  
History Center is located in the  
historic 1911 Carnegie Library  
building at 2155 Third Street.  
History Center hours generally are  
Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30  
a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone: (925) 449-  
9927. Free admission.

Address Service Requested

Livermore, CA 94551

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