



CALABASAS-LAS VIRGENES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judy Jordan



Our beautiful area is enjoying a spectacular spring with a gorgeous display of flowers. We are looking forward to many interesting events as we begin celebrating our 40th anniversary. Our annual

meeting on April 25 at 5:30 will feature Dina Pitt, from the Leonis Adobe, speaking about the French Basque influence in early Calabasas. We will elect our 2019-2020 Board. The newly nominated officers are: Marty Fadaei - Recording Secretary, Stella Collins - Corresponding Secretary, and Norma Citron - Librarian. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. We want to publish a photo directory. Pia Coleman will be there to take photos of all members or you can submit your own photo.

We are reaching out to all community groups to help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary. The Friends of the Calabasas Library, the Calabasas Rotary and Calabasas Senior Center have sent their congratulations and have agreed to mutual support of our programs. Please see the event calendar in this issue for what is planned!

Our Zigzag Moderne Fountain

By Arlene Bernholtz

The Calabasas Las Virgenes Historical Society, formerly The Calabasas Historical Society, is approaching their 40th Anniversary on July 3, 1979.

As a charter member, I have been reflecting on our purpose, which is "to promote and preserve the historical interest of Calabasas and surrounding environs." I am pleased with their accomplishments. The fear of encroaching development which could have led to the demise of Park Moderne, an artists' colony built in the first subdivision of Calabasas in 1927, was an immediate concern.



Preserving the stylized Zigzag Modern Fountain, by architectural designer Jock Peters and dedicated in 1931, was their first project. The 8'tall fountain obelisk stands in a rectangle basin with chevrons and glass to enhance the streamlined fountain. A bronze plaque rests at the base, noting that the foundation was established in 1931.

With the help of the Los Angeles County Building Department, the Society was able to restore the remaining American Indian path and maintain the area.

On November 1, 1993, the Society rededicated the fountain along with Marvin Lopata, Mayor of Calabasas, Mike Antonovich, our representative from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, friends and neighbors. For the occasion, wooden signs carved with the Park Moderne logo were placed at the top of the path (Blackbird Way) and at the bottom (Meadowlark Lane).

Take a trip back in time as you drive the meandering roads, formerly dirt paths and view this Calabasas work of art, that has been featured in architectural magazines and books as an example of the Zigzag or Art Deco style of the day that still remains elegant.



PRESERVING THE PAST. PROTECTING THE FUTURE.

CalabasasHistoricalSociety.org

Karyn Foley 1936 - 2019

By James Foley & James R. Bozajian

The City of Calabasas is sad to announce the passing of founding Councilmember Karyn Foley, who died on March 9, 2019, in West Hills, California.

Karyn was instrumental in helping to create the Calabasas Cityhood Committee, a group whose efforts led to cityhood for Calabasas in 1991, making it the 466th city incorporated in the State of California and the last one incorporated in Los Angeles County. She served two terms on the City Council, from 1991 to 1997, and was the City's first female Mayor in 1994-95.



As part of the first Calabasas City Council, Karyn devoted countless hours toward building the infrastructure of a new municipality. Calabasas thrived during her tenure in office. Thanks in no small part to Karyn's work, the City carefully built a strong and sustainable foundation for future success.

After leaving office, Karyn served on the City's first Library Commission. She remained very active in City government through involvement in the Art in Public Places Committee; Friends of the Calabasas Library; Friends of the Calabasas Orchestra; the Calabasas Players Theatrical Group; and numerous other civic organizations. She also served as host of the CTV program, "Author's Night," taping 107 episodes during its run.

Karyn (Jacobs) was born on July 17, 1936, in Detroit, Michigan. As an infant she moved to California with her family, settling in Los Angeles. She attended Wilshire Crest Elementary School, John Burroughs Junior High School, and Los Angeles High School. Karyn went on to UCLA, where she graduated with a degree in Physical Education.

Her professional career had several different facets. When younger she sang and played guitar and piano professionally (including gigs in Greenwich Village). She worked in the field of recreation in the public sector, and as a salesperson in the private sector. Karyn eventually became a real estate broker, and was a top producer for many years at different companies. After retirement from real estate, she became a part-time substitute teacher with the Las Virgenes Unified School District.

Karyn married James Foley in July 1969, and in 1976 they settled in Calabasas to raise their family. She was a volunteer parent in LVUSD, and was President of the Round Meadow Elementary School PTA.

Karyn and James were heavily involved in the formative years of the Calabasas Park Homeowners Association. They worked to convince the requisite two-thirds of Classic Calabasas Park residents to become a mandatory homeowners association, thereby enabling CPHA to take ownership of Calabasas Lake. This move saved the lake from being drained and converted to additional housing. They also started the traditional and now wildly popular July 4th lakeside races and pet contests. Both Karyn and James served terms as Presidents of CPHA.

Karyn had a keen interest in local history, and was a charter member of the Calabasas Historical Society—now celebrating its 40th anniversary. She was a prolific writer, and for many years penned a regular column in the Las Virgenes Enterprise covering a variety of contemporary subjects.

Karyn had a wide, diverse range of hobbies and passions. As reflected in her volunteer activities, she enjoyed just about everything pertaining to music, theater, and the arts. She loved to travel and explore new venues and experiences. In her youth she worked overseas with the United Service Organizations. She was also an expert skier, often hosted foster children and exchange students, and assisted with a suicide prevention line.

Karyn is survived by James, her husband of 49 years; daughter Megan and son Patrick; grandchildren Parker, Jackson, and Milo; sister Iris; and many extended family members and close friends. The City of Calabasas sends condolences to the Foley family, as well as our heartfelt thanks for her many years of dedicated service to the community. We will miss her dearly.

Historic Preservation Commission

The Calabasas Historic Preservation Commission was created 10 years ago by the city of Calabasas to safeguard the heritage of Calabasas by protecting our unique historic places for the education and enjoyment of the people. Thus far, there have been seven properties placed on the Register of Historic Places.

Below here, we are featuring the Masson House, our first designation.

The commission consists of five Calabasas residents with an interest in the history of the area. Each council person makes an appointment subject to the approval of the entire Council. One nonvoting member is appointed by the Calabasas Historic Society, established in 1979 to promote and preserve the historical interests of Calabasas and surrounding environs. The current members of the commission are:

Chair: Lynne Tracy Vice Chair: Alan Ross, Marty Fadaei, Judy Jordan, Carol Steffen and CLVHS representative, Martha Duley-Sweeney -Judy Jordan



CITY of CALABASAS

Historic Designation: Masson House



The Masson Residence was built during the “Homesteading Days” in the early 1900s. At this time, settlers rushed to file claims to acquire 160 acres of land by way of the Homestead Acts. William C. Masson received a land patent in 1904 for his 160 acres. The Masson Residence, located on Old Topanga Canyon Road was strategically placed on the only route to Santa Monica, where the 1910’s Port of Los Angeles Long Wharf was built. Therefore, this location was beneficial to settlers because goods were accessible to them and transported through this road. The Masson Residence is an excellent example of a homestead home built during this time period and represents the early settlement of Calabasas. It is also the only remaining homestead in the city and one of the few remaining in Southern California.

Other owners of the property include George C. and Jessie E. Tucker, the Forbes family, the Carlson family, and Patsy R. Miller. Today the house is part of Headwaters Corner, the headquarters for the Mountains Restoration Trust.

A Salute to Veterans

The San Fernando Valley Historical Society will host a free Memorial Day Observance at the historic San Fernando Pioneer Memorial Cemetery in Sylmar from 11 a.m. to Noon on Monday, May 27, 2019.

The cemetery is located at 14451 Bledsoe Street at the corner of Foothill Boulevard (exit Roxford or Polk off the 210 Freeway.) Established in 1874 and closed in 1939, the heavily-vandalized cemetery is the second oldest graveyard in the San Fernando Valley where local residents, immigrants, and five Civil War veterans are buried.

The 17th annual observance will include a wreath laying ceremony, U.S. flag-raising, and “Taps”.

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A Salute to Veterans (cont.)

Other program participants include Communities in Schools, the Marine Corps League-San Fernando Detachment #1277 and American Legion Post 176.

“Our Memorial Day program not only pays tribute to our fallen military heroes who’ve perished defending our freedoms,” says Ron Van Deest, president of the historical society, “but we also present information about our history, such as how Memorial Day began after the Civil War ended in 1865, just nine years before Pioneer Cemetery was founded.”

There will be limited parking at the rear of the cemetery, so please carpool if possible, and come before 10:30 a.m. for the best seating. Gates open at 10 a.m. For additional information, visit www.sfvhs.com or call 818-970-1286.

Upcoming Events

May 30 - Professor Patricia Colman, on leave from Moorpark College, will give a talk on women homesteaders in the Calabasas area. We are thrilled that she did some of her research in our Archive room.

June 2 - A walking tour of old Calabasas followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The 2019-2020 Board will be installed at the luncheon.



Speakers Needed

Do you know a local historian, author, researcher or other person who can share historical information with the CLVHS? If so please contact Martha Duley at 818-451-3104

Join the CLVHS!

The Calabasas-Las Virgenes Historical Society is making an incredible offer. With a \$25.00 membership, you will receive 2 books by Catherine Mulholland: **Calabasas Girls An Intimate History 1885-1912** and **Calabasas Lives Pioneers of Western Outpost**. Read of the hardships and often dangerous life the original settlers of this area.

Join today at CalabasasHistoricalSociety.org

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The Calabasas-Las Virgenes Historical Society is:

Elected Positions:

President Judy Jordan
First VP & Program Chair Martha Duley
Second VP & Membership Chair Julie Shy-Sobol
Third VP, Ways & Means..... James Bozajian
Treasurer Pia Coleman
Historian Bradley Bobbs, Ph.D.

Appointed Positions:

Parliamentarian Arlene Bernholtz
Past President Taryn Wayne
Librarian Norma Citron
