

The Pioneer Press
 West Side Pioneer Association
 Tracy Historical Museum
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Upcoming Events



Date	Time	Event	Location/Presenter
Sunday Mar. 20, 2016	2:00 pm	<i>St. Patricks Scholarship Dinner</i>	Tracy Community Center
Wednesday Apr. 20, 2016	7:00 pm - 8:30	<i>Women's Rights in Iran</i>	Mitra Behnam
Wednesday May 18, 2016	7:00 pm	<i>Railroad Origins of the Tracy Mexican Community</i>	Larry Gamino

Please Note: Programs are subject to change.
 Call the Museum, to confirm schedule



THE PIONEER PRESS

West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum

1141 Adam Street, Tracy, California 95376

Phone: (209) 832-7278

E-Mail: tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net

Web: www.tracymuseum.org

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March - April 2016

WSPA President's Message

Larry W. Gamino - President

*"St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time
a day to begin transforming winter's dreams
into summer's magic."*

Adrienne Cook

On the eve of our Spring St. Patrick's Day Scholarship Fundraiser dinner on Sunday afternoon on March 20th at 2 PM, we recognize the importance of education. The WSPA is a firm believer in the value of education. By investing in our high school seniors through two scholarships, we financially assist one 2 year college student and one four year university bound student to pursue their dream of acquiring a college degree. These two \$500 scholarships are a result of your community support by attending the delicious Irish corned beef and cabbage dinner. By way of food, we light the fire of learning by sharing the food of thought as students grow into intelligent adults. Since 1921 when the WSPA was founded, we have preserved and passed the value of learning from one generation to another.

Through financial support of our St. Patrick's Dinner, educating our youth is a responsibility that our community gives to itself. To this end, we thank you for attending our festive corn beef and cabbage dinner catered by the outstanding Mike Bacchetti & Crew. Please join us under a four leaf clover at the Tracy Community Center at 2 PM at 950 East Street. Reservations are required-RVSP by Friday, March 18th *Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!*

Get your IRISH on!



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Join us for our annual

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, March 20, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Tracy Community Center, 950 East St., Tracy

Reservations Required – RSVP by Friday, March 18, 2016
Tickets - \$20/plate, includes door prize ticket; Take-out available

Cut along this line and mail reservation form with your check to Museum.

March 20, 2016 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner – RSVP by March 18, 2016

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Tickets @ \$20/plate _____ # Take-out plates@ \$20/plate _____

Sponsored by West Side Pioneer Association/Tracy Historical Museum
1141 Adam St., Tracy CA 95376, 209-832-7278, tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net

If you've been wanting a reason to clean out your closets, garage or storage units we have just the right reason for you. The Tracy Museum is having a....



***Who:* Tracy Museum**

***When:* May 15, 2016**

***Time:* 8:00 am—5:00 pm**

***Where:* 1141 Adam Street**

We will be accepting all those treasures that you want to clear out of your house on Friday, May 14th. Your donations are tax deductible. Please no clothing.

Railroad Conductor Stephen Ridolfi Trained on SP San Joaquin Division

By Larry Gamino

On Wednesday of November 18th, Southern Pacific (SP) Conductor Stephen Ridolfi spoke on the life of a trainman in the San Joaquin Division. A brief autobiography of a 41 year railroad career beginning in Tracy, Mr. Ridolfi describes the myths and fortunes of a vagabond on the wheels of steel.

After graduating from Tracy High School in 1964, the former Bulldog hired on the Southern Pacific as a brakeman for two summers before establishing his permanent seniority date in the San Joaquin Division. The Division consisted of Tracy, Roseville and Fresno including all intermediate locals and turns. On call as an extra brakeman with little seniority, Stephen was ready to catch a train 24 hours a day with only one hours notice, a suitcase packed for overnight terminals, a car full gas and a pocket full of money to survive each trip.

The lifestyle of a railroad man was unpredictable and hard but with monetary rewards. The long hours of a daily 16 hour day and a seven day work week aged the young brakeman. Living in flophouse hotels was part of being paid well because of all the over time. Stephen recalls the happiest days working on the railroad were payday, vacation and retirement. The worst days were tragic car deaths and being away from home on holidays.

In an audience generated question and answer session, Mr. Ridolfi shed light on the decline and end of the monopolistic Southern Pacific Railroad Company known as the Giant Octopus. He had witnessed the demise of classic railway of telegraphic communication, hand signals by day and lantern by night, full train crews of engineers and firemen with conductors and two brakemen and occasional swingmen, dying on the law, deadheading by train, cabooses and engine signals. Soon modern technology replaced engineers called hogheads with Remote Control Operators (RCO), two man crews instead of four and replaced telegraph train authority with automatic block signals.

Finally, with great insight and relief, SP Conductor Stephen Ridolfi was pleased to admit he had survived the dangerous railroad life as a conductor and brakeman. Facing constant sleep deprivation and hazardous weather conditions, Mr. Ridolfi was proud to be a part of the railroad family known as the Southern Pacific Railroad Company for 41 years.



Railroad Conductor
Stephen Ridolfi
Trained at SP San
Joaquin Division

SP Conductor Ridolfi explains railroad sub-
culture to interested audience in Tracy
Historical Museum.



SP Conductor Ridolfi demonstrates importance of RR hand signals in classic train communication.



SP Number One Conductor in Stockton District Leroy Rickman double checks facts presented by fellow rail Ridolfi.





WSPA Member Ray McCray Selected as Professional of the

President Gamino congratulates WSPA member Ray McCray as 2016 Tracy's Professional of the Year.



WSPA Member Ray McCray Selected As 2016 Tracy's Professional of the Year

Ray McCray was appointed by the Tracy City council to serve the remaining term of the City Treasurer in 1995 and continues in that capacity today as elected Treasurer. He is a member of the California Municipal Treasurer Association. Ray also serves on the county Employee's Retirement Board, has served as its Chairman and was elected President of the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS). Ray has served on various non-profit boards such as the Community Foundation of San Joaquin, San Joaquin County Schools' Foundation Board, Tracy Chamber Board and 2nd District Agricultural Association Board.

Mr. McCray owns a consulting business in Stockton where he works with the Hartford on Institutional Deferred Compensation Plans. Prior to his current employment, Ray spent 14 years in banking, 3 years as an aide to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and several years as a legislative assistant at the State Capitol.

Ray is married to the former Ellen Boothroyd of Tracy, a second grade teacher at New Jerusalem School, a rural public school. They have two children. Mr. McCray is a member of the Methodist Church, the Tracy Golf and Country Club and West Side Pioneer Association.

Because of his superior professionalism and continuous community involvement through serving on regional boards, Mr. Ray McCray has been named 2016 Professional of the Year in Tracy.

2015-2016 Scholarship Application Now Available



The Tracy Historical Museum/WSPA Scholarship Application packet for 2015-2016 school year is now available. The Scholarship is a great way for graduating seniors to get involved in local history and have a chance to win a \$500 scholarship. The application deadline is March 31, 2016.

The Tracy Historical Museum and West Side Pioneer Association offer two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from schools in the Tracy Unified School District (TUSD) area. One scholarship is targeted for a graduating senior planning to attend a 2 year junior college and one for a graduating senior planning to attend a 4 year college. Applicants must demonstrate some involvement in local history, for example through volunteer work at the Historical Museum or a local history project, research paper or essay. Applications are available through the Counseling Office at each high school or at the Museum's web site www.tracymuseum.org.

Spring Cleaning

ANY TIME TO SPARE?

The Tracy Historical Museum is in need of a GRAND DUSTING! We are looking for anyone with some "Dusting" power that can come in Tuesday and/or Friday at 9:30am. Two rooms in particular need "DUSTING". Rags are provided. There's soap and water to wash up afterwards! Please! Come and help! Let's get our Tracy Historical Museum in tip-top shape!



Contact Jean on Monday at the museum to set up a date when you can help out, call 832-7278. For anyone wanting to take on another task: like moving a cabinet or a desk or writing down numbers???? PLEASE CALL!

Volunteers needed for Museum and Living History Program

Our Historical Museum is run by volunteers. We need your help to volunteer to staff the Museum when it is open and the wonderful 3rd grade living history programs that Museum operates.

- Regular Museum Hours:

- Monday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

- Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

- Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm OR by appointment for groups.



- 3rd Grade Program at Museum: Mondays 9:00-11:00 on school days

- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program: School days in January-May (one or two days a week)

If you can commit to a few hours one day a week or every month, or on special events, we can use your help to keep these wonderful programs going. Please call the program coordinator for more information and to lend a helping hand:

- Museum Coordinator - Open - 209-832-7278

- 3rd Grade Museum Program Coordinator – Judy Lee - 209-814-3358

- Historic Lammersville Pioneer School Program Coordinator – Wes Huffman - 209-879-3155



Come out and volunteer and have fun at the same time.

Museum Launches Web Site

www.tracymuseum.org



We are pleased to present our new web site at our existing URL, www.tracymuseum.org. We have not only updated basic organizational information, but we can also now easily post announcements and program updates on the site. We will also start to build an online archive of many written documents and photographs that are in the Museum library archives.

Special thanks to Kevin Harb for his technical expertise to develop the site.

Check back regularly at www.tracymuseum.org for the most current news from the Tracy Historical Museum and West Side Pioneer Association.

Have you forgotten to provide your Email Address



Although we are a historical museum, there are some technological advances we need to adopt! Because email is now a common form of communication, we are going to start to update our membership records with email addresses. We will continue to issue the *Pioneer Press* in print. Please consider providing your email to us as it is the most cost effective way for us to communicate with members about program updates and reminders. You can add your email to the Annual Dues Payment Form included in this issue when you send in your check, or you can email the Museum at tracymuseum@sbcglobal.net with your name and address. Thank you for your help and support.

West Side Pioneer Association Board of Directors for 2015-2016

<i>Elected Board Officers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Telephone #</i>
President	Larry Gamino	209-836-9687
1 st Vice President	David Lee	209-814-6658
2 nd Vice President	Open	
Recording Secretary	Janice Johnson	209-836-3770
Treasurer	Mitra Behnam	209-740-2764
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Shipman	209-835-8933
Museum Chairperson	Open	
Old Lammersville School	Wes Huffman	209-879-3155
3rd Grade Tour Director	Judy Lee	209-814-6658
Landmark Committee	Pete Mitracos	209-835-0270
<i>Elected Board Members at Large</i>	David Middleton	209-835-3797
	Ruth Sanford	209-835-6023
	Virginia Mynatt	209-836-1171
<i>Appointed Board Members</i>	Johanna Nunley	209-835-1560
	David Castro	209-835-2478
	Kathy Bergthold	408-569-8931
	Celeste Garamendi	209-914-0792
<i>Ex-officio</i>		
Immediate Past President	David Lee	209-814-6658