
Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 46; Number 2

March 2022

March President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

Well, we have certainly had some ups and downs with the Covid Pandemic. As of now, we are planning on having our in-person meeting on March 22 at the Aurora History Museum. We have a great speaker. Historian Dr. Jack Stokes Ballard will talk about Ivy Baldwin the daredevil at 6:00pm. We will also vote on the proposed bylaws changes. There will be door prizes as well. Bring a friend along. I think it will be well worth your time.

We have rescheduled the potluck for May 24th and our speaker will be Elsa Wolff portraying Annie Oakley. We have a great speaker and there will be great food, and hopefully we are safe from snow storms in May.

The AHS is looking at getting curtains for Centennial House and doing some work on the garden this spring. If any of you are avid gardeners or just willing to lend a hand, I will let you know the date of the garden cleanup soon. We can always use the help. If you have ideas for speakers or field trips you would like to take, let me know.

Until I see you again stay safe and well.

Lynne Evans

Aurora Historical Society President



March 22, 2022 Ivy Baldwin: Colorado's Tightrope Walker and Daredevil – by historian Dr. Jack Stokes Ballard at 6pm at the Aurora History Museum.

Annual AHS Potluck May 24th at the Aurora History Museum. Our speaker will be Annie Oakley (portrayed by Elsa Wolff, "America's Shooting Star" Living History Program). More information about the potluck in the May newsletter.



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES
It is time to send your dues payments for year 2022 to Michael Lockwood, 1100 Windflower Lane, Woodland Park, CO 80863. Our membership dues come due in January each year now and with the New Year arriving please send your dues payment. **NOTE: A proposed bylaw change may change the dues categories and amounts in February. See bylaws later in this newsletter.**

Memberships:

Family	\$15.00
Contributing	\$30.00

Business/Corporate	\$200.00
Life	\$200.00
Newsletter mailing	\$5.00

You can now pay your dues online at the AHS website on the join today page using PayPal if you would like, or you can mail them in.

<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/join-today/>

Historical Society Officers

President, Newsletter, & Website: Lynne Evans
 303-671-0874 lyevas@comcast.net
Vice President: Nadine Caldwell
Secretary: Gregg Chase
Treasurer: Michael Lockwood
Directors: Susan Hicks, Sandy Sweeney,
 & Karen Schwieder
Membership: Michael Lockwood
Hospitality: Vacant
Historian: Michael Lockwood
Program Committee: Susan Hicks
Education: Vacant

If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne Evans 303-671-0874 lyevas@comcast.net

If anyone is interested in taking over the Newsletter or the website or both, please let me know. If you know anyone interested in joining the AHS board or just becoming a member let me know.

Trivia Question Answers:

1. b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c



Remembering Aurora

Michael Lockwood, Aurora Historical Society

An Aurora native, a graduate of the Aurora Public Schools (Vaughn Elementary, North Middle School & Aurora Central High School) and still living less than 2 miles from where I grew up, Aurora has been a big part of my

life ever since I was born. Having grown up here, I have several memories that I'd love to provide for your reading pleasure via The Advocate newsletter. For those of you who have Aurora connections that go back as far as the 1950's the recollections presented may bring back waves of nostalgia. And while I have 60 years of memories to relate, if you have some stories you'd like to share, please feel free to contact us at the Aurora Historical web site:

www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org

REMEMBERING: My first personal phone



I was in my late teens (early 1970's) before I was able to buy my first personal phone for my bedroom. Prior to that the only phone in the house was a long corded wall phone similar to the one above that was mounted just outside the kitchen. The cord was just long enough to get into the edge of the living room. Obviously, privacy was not a concern that my parents had. When I finally had saved up enough money one of my first expenditures was a phone for my room, but I didn't want an ordinary phone, so I bought one similar to the one above right. How cool was that. The conversations weren't any more exciting, but it felt like I was in some foreign country. With today's cell phones, the corded phone has become a distant memory which, in some ways, makes me think we've lost some of magic of talking on the phone.

Time waits for no man and our history eventually becomes shared memories of people and places. Preservation can help keep those memories a little more tangible so that we can share with future generations.



Spotlight on the Mayors of Aurora

Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 43 Mayors since its beginnings back in 1891. With each issue of the Advocate Newsletter, we'll take a quick look at each of them.

MAYOR #31

William B. Mansfield

- Served from 1953 – 1955
- He was born on September 15, 1920 in Denver, Colorado
- He was a CPA for Redicker, Stanley & Ahlberg
- Married to Joan Baker
- They had a daughter and 3 sons
- He served on the Aurora City Council
- He lived at 1943 Kenton and 494 Oswego
- He served as a captain in the Army from August 26, 1942 to August 1, 1946
- He died on December 26, 1993, and is buried in Ft. Logan cemetery
- Colorado Governors at the time he was Mayor were Daniel Thornton & Edwin C. Johnson
- While he was in office:
 - The 1953 city budget was a record \$750,000 and in 1954 it grew to \$1,000,000
 - A new city hall was being built
 - Aurora hired its first city manager – Earl Sandquist
 - Aurora hired its first traffic engineer – A.L. McLaughlin
 - Development south down Havana Street filled in as builders flocked to Aurora
 - In 1953 the average home was \$12,000

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. When was the Cherry Creek Reservoir completed?
 - a. 1958
 - b. 1957
 - c. 1959



2. Who was the U.S. President that recuperated at Fitzsimons?
 - a. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - b. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - c. Harry S. Truman



3. What was the name of the bus line that replaced the trolley line in Aurora?
 - a. The Aurora Bus Company
 - b. The Fitzsimons Bus Company
 - c. The East Denver Bus Company



4. Why did Aurora sell \$38 million in bonds between 1963 and 1965?
 - a. To fund the construction of the Homestead Reservoir
 - b. To fund the improvement of Colfax Avenue
 - c. To fund the construction of several new schools



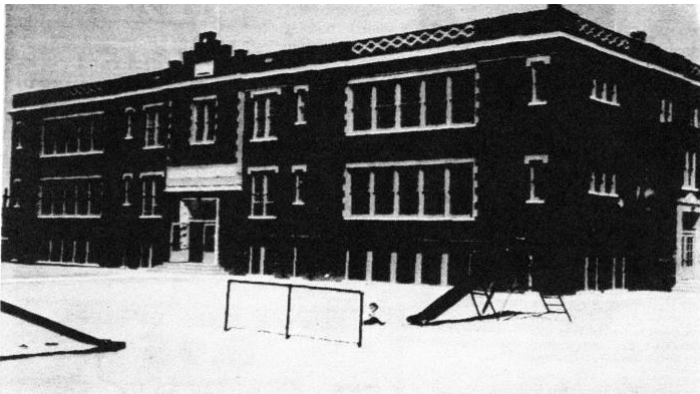
5. Where was the Miracle Mile located?
 - a. Havana Street
 - b. Montview Blvd.
 - c. Colfax Avenue



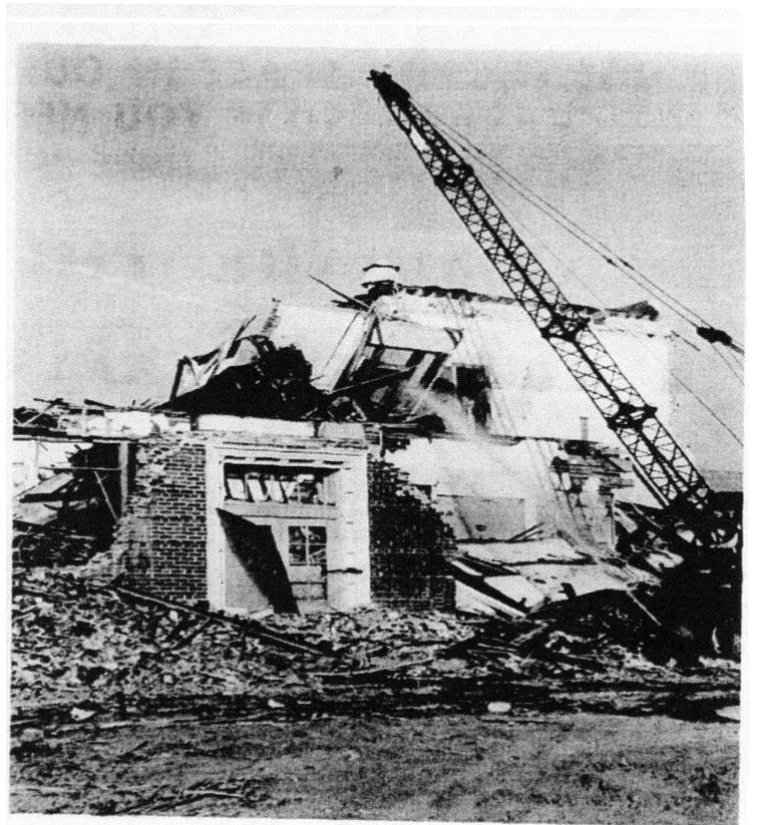
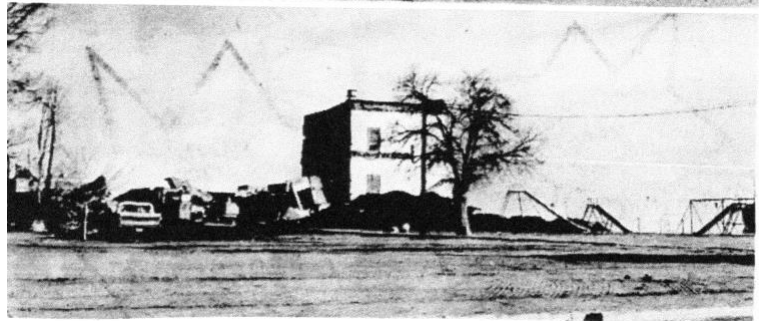
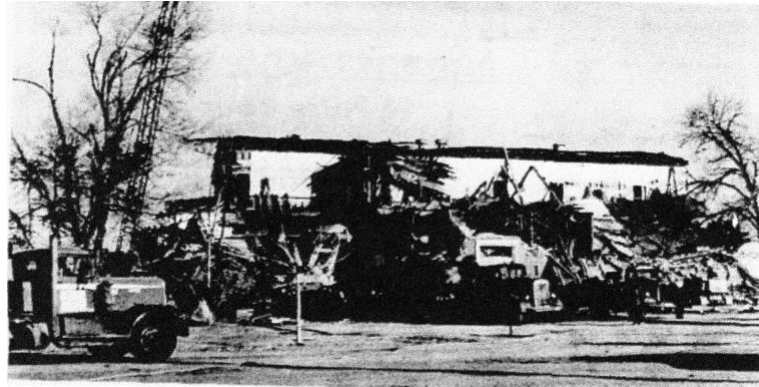
Reprinted from the *Aurora Star Sentinel* January 5, 1972

The Martha B. Crawford School 1919-1971

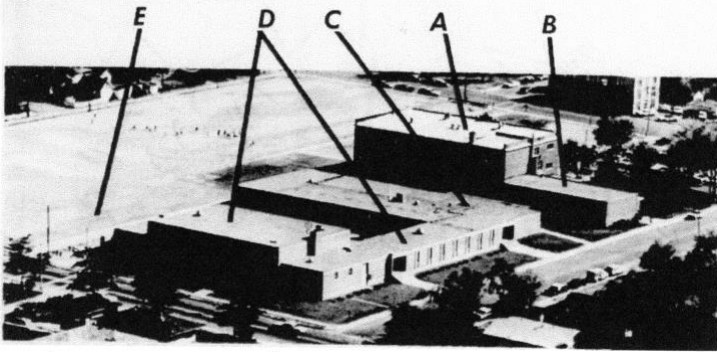
Martha B. Crawford School much as it looked when built in 1919 at a cost of \$79,531. It contained 23 classrooms.



Crawford coming down. Demolition began during the holiday break by January 1, 1972, nothing remained.



A, original old Crawford buildings. B, Addition opened in 1947. Served as gym and cafeteria. C, Addition constructed in 1958 that included four classrooms, library, and office. D, Addition built in 1963 at a cost of \$339,396 that included more classrooms, multi-purpose room, offices, restrooms, and kitchen. E, Area of new open space addition opened this fall.



NHD

NATIONAL

HISTORY DAY

National History Day in Colorado (NHDC) contests are starting soon, and volunteer judges are needed across the state. This year, the Great Denver Metro and Aurora region contests are being combined.

Great Denver Metro Region Contest:

April 2
 Bear Creek High School, 9800 W. Dartmouth Pl.
 Lakewood, CO 80227
 Please email the regional coordinator directly with contest questions. NHDCgreaterdenvermetro@gmail.com
 For more details and to register: <https://www.nhddenver.org/judges-information.html>

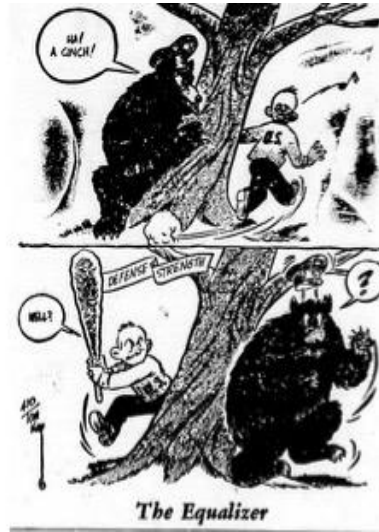
Sign up to judge!

NHDC State Contest:

April 30
 University of Colorado - Denver Campus

For more details and to register: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/nhdc/>

Ads from *Aurora Democrat* July 7, 1955



FOX AURORA THEATRE EM. 6-2991

★ THURS. THRU SAT. ★

MATINEE EVERY DAY
OPEN AT 12:45

"STRANGE LADY IN TOWN" 50¢
Cinemascope & Color TIL 5

2 TOP HITS PLUS
Mickey Spillane's
"KISS ME DEADLY" With Ralph Meeker

KIDDIES SHOW SATURDAY
10 A.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.

SUN-MON-TUE-WED
MATINEE DAILY
CONTINUOUS FROM 1 P.M.

"THE PRODIGAL" Always COOL
in Cinemascope and Technicolor PLUS

KIDDIES 25¢ "Seven Angry Men" with RICHARD CONTE

TUESDAY TEEN TIME
MATINEE
FROM 11 A.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.

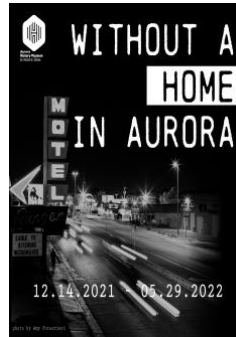
Hoffman Heights

Aurora History Museum Exhibits

Without a Home in Aurora

Open December 14, 2021 - May 29, 2022

Housing insecurity is a key issue facing Aurora, and to build a wider understanding of people who are often overlooked, misunderstood or unheard, staff at the Aurora History Museum engaged in an oral history project on the streets of the city. The stories collected are being presented in the museum's newest exhibit, "Without a Home in Aurora."



The personal challenges, trials and resilience of these Aurorans are a part of the everchanging fabric of Aurora's narrative. The people profiled in this exhibition shared intimate details of their lives with the Aurora History Museum. They described how housing insecurity affects them personally and reflected on the broader issue of homelessness. The goal of the exhibit is to shed light on a very complex and complicated social demographic.

"I really hope this exhibit brings a humane insight into the lives of some of our most vulnerable Aurorans. I hope through their interviews, our guests can see people for people and bring more awareness to a very complicated issue in our city," Museum Director T. Scott Williams said. "Further, my desire is to connect people with the resources available, as there are a lot of city programs and organizations trying to assist our housing insecure."

The conversations and connections made in the testimonials are central to the exhibit. Patrons will be able to meet over 20 Aurorans experiencing housing insecurity. Accompanying these testimonials are portraits and photography reflecting the nature of life on Aurora's streets. Much of the photography is being provided by local street photographer Amy Forestieri.

For more information, call 303.739.6660 or [reserve your visit time to see the exhibit](#).

Lunchtime Lecture: History Colorado's Black Heritage Trail Wednesday March 16 @ noon

History Colorado is creating a Black Heritage Trail to showcase the ways that African Americans have impacted Colorado history and shaped our communities.

Dexter Nelson II, Associate Curator of Black History and Cultural Heritage at History Colorado discusses his work uncovering hidden stories and using technology to educate Coloradoans about the history that surrounds us.

You can attend this lecture in-person at the museum, or online. The lecture is free, but you must register to receive the link to the online Webex meeting. More than one person can attend using the same computer. [Register Here](#)

"Art by 'Woody' Crumbo"

Our newest exhibit features 17 prints of indigenous dancers. Crumbo, a well-known Native American artist whose work is on display at the Smithsonian Institution and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, also was a flautist and dancer of Potawatomi descent. In the 1950s, Crumbo spent time as an independent prospector, discovering one of the largest beryllium veins in the country. His works often depict traditional dancers and clothing. Crumbo died in 1989.

The prints were donated by Bill and Sue Hensler, long-time Aurora residents, museum supporters and benefactors before they moved to Dolores, Colo. The Hensler Collection has previously been on display at the Aurora History Museum in 1991 and in 2010.

The Rise of the Aurora Suburb During the Cold War

Open through April 24, 2022

Following World War II, Aurora experienced rapid suburban growth. The presence of military centers like Fitzsimons General Hospital, Lowry Air Force Base, Buckley Field and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal brought many military personnel and their families to Aurora. The city transitioned from a small agricultural community to a bustling suburb. Between 1940 and 1960, Aurora's population expanded by more than tenfold. Meanwhile, the great powers of the Soviet Union and the U.S. faced off, causing tension and fear worldwide.

Join the Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites for an in-person exploration of Aurora's economic prosperity and suburban expansion during the Cold War with the exhibit, "The Rise of the Aurora Suburb During the Cold War".

"In this exhibition, we provide local stories of Aurora residents' experiences during the Cold War to enrich our understanding of this great period of the city's growth while expanding on what was happening here when the nation was preparing for the threat of a potential global nuclear

holocaust during the Cold War years," said T. Scott Williams, director of the Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites. "The Rise of the Aurora Suburb During the Cold War" exhibit will remain open through April 24, 2022.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is always free. For more information and to stay up to date on related programming, visit AuroraMuseum.org.

Growing Home & Trolley Trailer No. 610

Growing Home is a permanent exhibit about Aurora's history featuring Trolley Trailer No. 610, a fully-restored 1913 historic trolley trailer. The exhibit highlights people, places, and events from Aurora's history. It features over 100 historic photographs and objects, and the fully restored 1913 historic Trolley Trailer No. 610 in the new Ruth Fountain gallery. Go inside the trolley and experience 100 years of history first-hand. The exhibit was designed by Dennis Meyer of Filament Design/Build with support from museum staff.

In October 2012, the Aurora City Council approved funding for the construction of a new gallery and addition at the Aurora History Museum. Council resolved to name it in honor of Ruth Fountain, a former city councilwoman, community activist and museum supporter.

The Aurora Museum Foundation was instrumental in raising funds and in-kind donations through grants and support from local businesses, organizations and individuals. The 1,630 square foot gallery was completed in November 2014. The addition was designed by Humphries Poli Architects and built by Palace Construction.

Aurora's Historic Growth Exhibit

Published on Mar 19, 2020

Aurora has grown by leaps and bounds over the decades. Once a small suburb of Denver, Aurora has boomed into the third-largest city in the state of Colorado. The city sits in three different counties: Adams County, Arapahoe County and Douglas County and lies just east of the city and county of Denver. The number of Aurorans just keeps on growing. As of July 1, 2019 the population was estimated at 381,000. The citizens of Aurora are diverse and come from many different backgrounds. The people of Aurora represent about 140 different countries. In fact around 1 in 5 Aurorans are foreign born. As the city expands geographically and demographically,

it is hard not to recognize the historic growth underway. This exhibition will explore how the city has changed from its foundation up to the present day, dig deeper into the booms and busts that have defined Aurora's past and discover how growth is redefining the once small town. Online exhibit

https://issuu.com/aurorahistoricsites/docs/aurora_s_historic_growth_exhibit_panels

https://www.auroragov.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_1881137/Image/Things%20to%20Do/Aurora%20History%20Museum/Exhibits/Aurora's%20Historic%20Growth/Timeline_Small.pdf

Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit

Published on Mar 19, 2020

The Aurora History Museum and the Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame partnered to create an exhibit on the great women of Aurora's history. The display profiles the Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame organization as well as the twelve women honored by this hall of fame. Celebrate and learn more about the great and influential women of Aurora featured in this exhibit.

https://issuu.com/aurorahistoricsites/docs/colorado_women_s_hall_of_fame_exhibit_panels

The Doctor Will See You

<https://coaapps.auroragov.org/museumkiosk/medical/>

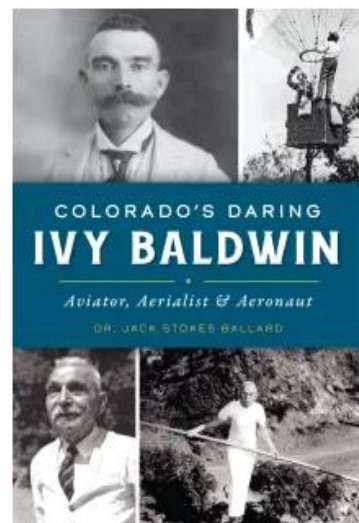
A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Ethiopian Communities

<https://coaapps.auroragov.org/museumkiosk/ethiopia/>

In 1878, Ivy Baldwin ran away from home and joined the circus. He was 12 years old.

He learned how to be a tightrope walker and a balloonist. John Elich brought Ivy to Colorado to perform at the famous Elich Gardens. Ivy fell in love with Colorado and decided to stay. In 1810 Ivy first crossed Eldorado Canyon on a tightrope at the age of 14. He would cross the canyon 80 more times with his last canyon crossing on his 82nd birthday. But Ivy did not stop with Eldorado Canyon.

He performed in San Francisco, Baltimore, and was a



parachutist of great skill. You won't want to miss this portrait of Ivy Baldwin's amazing life. Join us for a night of 'edge of your seat' entertainment.

Author Jack Stokes Ballard holds a Doctor of Philosophy in American history from UCLA, taught history at the Air Force Academy, served a career in the Air Force, and, as a lieutenant colonel, was chief of the Plans and Requirements Division at Lowry AFB (1974-1980). He has enjoyed researching Ivy Baldwin and says Ivy "had an amazing life".

If anyone is interested in taking over the Newsletter Job! Or the Website Job! Or Both! Please let Know!
Lynne Evans 303-671-0874,
lyevans@comcast.net



Got Questions?
Ask a Historian
Aurora Historical Society
mdlkel@aol.com

Member Discounts

FOX discount

We have a discount for 20% off of tickets for just this sort of thing. The discount code is CULTURAL. Anyone can use that for our Season shows online or over the phone (not valid for special event, cabaret's or rentals).

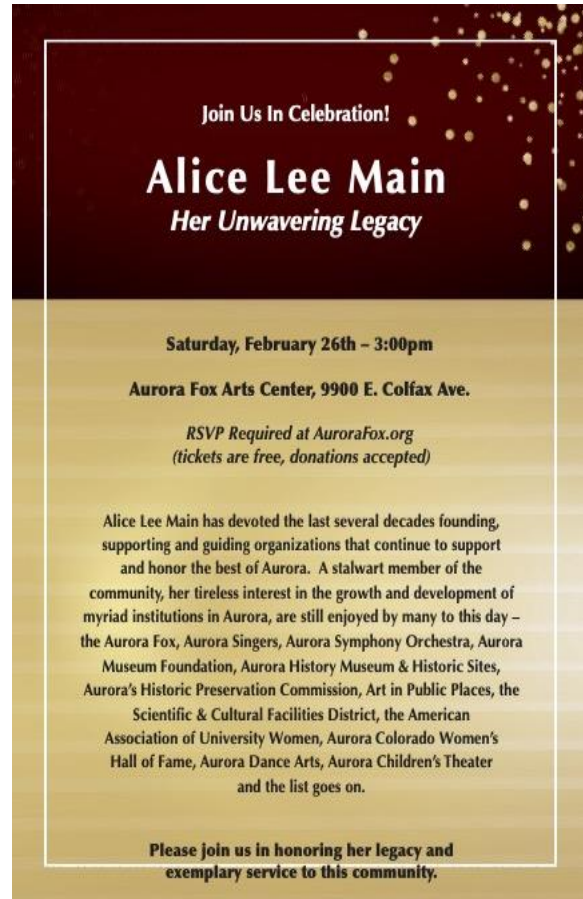
Remember AHS members also get in free to the "Lunchtime Lectures" at the Aurora History Museum.

Corporate Sponsors



18000 Smith Rd. | Aurora, CO 80011
One Professional Team Delivering Quality Solutions to Every Customer Our Values in Action

Teamwork • Excellence • Accountability • Safety • Integrity • Communication



Join Us In Celebration!
Alice Lee Main
Her Unwavering Legacy

Saturday, February 26th - 3:00pm
Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave.

RSVP Required at AuroraFox.org
(tickets are free, donations accepted)

Alice Lee Main has devoted the last several decades founding, supporting and guiding organizations that continue to support and honor the best of Aurora. A stalwart member of the community, her tireless interest in the growth and development of myriad institutions in Aurora, are still enjoyed by many to this day – the Aurora Fox, Aurora Singers, Aurora Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Museum Foundation, Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites, Aurora's Historic Preservation Commission, Art in Public Places, the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, the American Association of University Women, Aurora Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Aurora Dance Arts, Aurora Children's Theater and the list goes on.

Please join us in honoring her legacy and exemplary service to this community.