

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 47; Number 1

January 2023

## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



### Embrace your city, your past

#### January President's Letter

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season. It did get a little cold this year, and we had quite a bit of snow. Overall, we fared better than some parts of the country. Hopefully, none of you were stranded in an airport somewhere or had family who were. My daughter was in Arizona on a business trip, but luckily got home right before all the flights were canceled. Earlier in the month I spent a few extra days in Omaha because the highways were closed. December was recording breaking month.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year as well. Here's wishing more of our members can attend events and we get some new ones to join us too.

We will be having our annual potluck on January 31, 2023. Dinner will start at 5:30 and the Presentation will start at 6:00 or so. As always, AHS will provide a beverage, chicken and ham. Please bring side dishes or desserts to share with the group. Dr. Gordon Tucker will be talking to us about his archeological work in the Holy Land. He has been going to Israel every year since 2012 (except for 2020) and working at Ashkelon in the southern part of the country from 2012 to 2016 and Tel Shimron in the northern part of the country from 2017 to

2022. I am looking forward to his presentation which I am sure will be quite interesting.

We have rescheduled the DIA presentation that was originally scheduled in November (we canceled the November meeting because of snow) and moved it to March.

We have some exciting things coming up and I hope you can all join us. If you are not attending because you don't like to drive at night, please let me know and we will see if we can find rides for those of you who might need one.

If any of you like to garden, we could really use some help this spring with the Centennial House garden so let me know if you can help out. I will publish dates and times for garden work when we get closer to spring.

*Lynne Evans*

Aurora Historical Society President





AHS Meeting and Potluck January 31, 2023- 5:30 at the Aurora History Museum.

March 28, 2023 AHS regular meeting 6:00 PM Aurora History Museum.



IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2023 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: The society changed its bylaws at the March 2022 meeting. The dues categories have changed).

Memberships:	
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
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 720-560-2490 lyeans@comcast.net
Vice President: Nadine Caldwell
Secretary: Gregg Chase

Treasurer, Historian, Membership: Michael Lockwood
Directors: Susan Hicks, Karen Schwieder
Hospitality: Vacant
Program Committee: Susan Hicks
Education: Vacant
Publicity: Vacant

If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne Evans 720-560-2490 lyeans@comcast.net

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), 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: Skateboarding

I was watching a show recently on the skateboarding championships. It took me back to my skateboard that I used when I was young back in the 1960's. The skateboard I had looked similar to the one pictured above. Quite literally a board shaped a little

like a surfboard with metal wheels. Trying to ride it was a real challenge. The wheels didn't respond



### City of Aurora Trivia Questions

terribly well to changes and if you came across a spot in the sidewalk that was raised slightly higher than the previous section be prepared for the skateboard to stop quite suddenly (you, on the other hand took flying lessons). And we never had all the protection that kids today have. No helmets, no elbow pads, no knee pads. Every fall was almost certainly guaranteed to produce a skinned knee or elbow. But we thought they were so cool and if you knew someone (or were that someone) that was proficient at riding it then it was impressive. Kind of like me watching them on TV. I'm impressed with all they can do.

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.



Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 45 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 #36

Paul C. Beck

- Served from 1967 – 1974
- He was born in May 1919 in Aurora, Colorado

- He graduated from Aurora Central High School
- He joined the Air Corps in 1941
- Married to Arlyne Hockenberry on October 3, 1942
- He was a watchmaker
- They had 1 child, Paul Jr.
- He lived at 1637 Chester
- He died on November 30, 1974
- He is buried at Ft. Logan National Cemetery
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was John Love & John Vanderhoof
- While he was in office:
  - Buckingham Square was opened
  - Camelot hi-rise offices were built (Aurora's first hi-rise buildings)
  - Aurora's population in 1970 was 74,974 (in 2020 it was 398,497)
  - Aurora Sun newspaper began operation
  - Quincy Reservoir was constructed
  - Paul C Beck Recreation Center was dedicated on November 9, 1974

### Information about our speaker and program for the Potluck on January 31, 2023 follows:

#### GORDON C. TUCKER JR, PhD Biographical Statement

Gordon (Gordy) Tucker will present "A Tale of Two Tells: Archaeology of the Holy Land" at the January 31, 2023, meeting of the Aurora Historical Society. Dr. Tucker is a professional archaeologist who has worked with private consulting firms across the United States for the last 45 years on hundreds of archaeological projects, from surveys to excavations. Since 2012, he has traveled to Israel to excavate at two significant archaeological sites, Ashkelon along the southern coast and Tel Shimron in the Lower Galilee region. Research conducted at these two sites has greatly expanded our understanding of life in ancient Israel.

#### A TALE OF TWO TELLS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE HOLY LAND

"A Tale of Two Tells" reviews the archaeology of the Holy Land from the perspective of two sites where Dr. Tucker has worked over the last ten years:

Ashkelon on the southern Israeli coast and Tel Shimron in the Lower Galilee region. The two sites vary in their occupational histories but reflect subtle similarities in the ways in which the indigenous inhabitants adapted to their unique habitats and external influences. These details are described in a lavishly illustrated PowerPoint presentation that will almost literally transport you to these ancient sites. Ample time will be provided for questions and answers.

**City of Aurora Trivia Questions**

1. When did the Red Barn Restaurant cease operating in Aurora?
  - a. 1977
  - b. 1988
  - c. 1982



2. Who from Aurora won the Miss Black Colorado beauty pageant in 2011?
  - a. Alexis Glover
  - b. Jessica Hartman
  - c. Chloe Johnson



3. What was the name of the original McDonald's mascot?
  - a. Hamburglar
  - b. Speedee
  - c. Little Mac



4. Why was Cherry Creek named Cherry Creek?
  - a. From the abundance of chokecherries found along the bank
  - b. Named after William J. Cherry, an early explorer of the region
  - c. It refers to the ornamental Cherry blossom trees



5. Where is American Legion post 23 in Aurora located?
  - a. 1427 Elmira
  - b. 16070 E. Dartmouth
  - c. 2323 Dayton



Advertisement from The Aurora Democrat  
January 5, 1923 edition



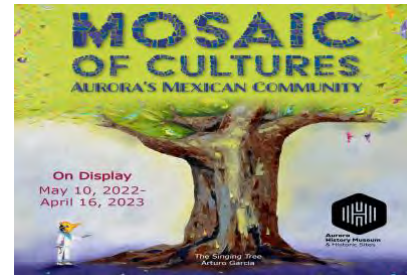
**ATTA-BOY EDDIE**

Altho Eddie's voice is out-  
rageous,  
We find it is most advantage-  
ous  
To kid him along  
When he bursts into song;  
His pleasure and pep are con-  
tagious.

**T**HE busier Eddie is  
the louder he sings. Ever  
notice a bee? The busier HE  
is the louder he hums.  
Speaking of bees, it occurs  
to us that you might like to  
know we have some nice, new  
honey—strained and in the  
comb. You know how well  
that goes with hot biscuits?  
Oh, Boy!

**THE  
Aurora Grocery**  
OF COURSE  
CONSISTENT AND STEADY;  
THAT'S "ATTA-BOY EDDIE!"  
Hans Knutson, Prop.  
Colfax & Dallas - Phone 3  
Free Delivery

### Aurora Museum Exhibits



The Aurora History Museum and the city of Aurora Office of International and Immigrant Affairs celebrate Aurora's Mexican population with a new exhibition, "Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Mexican Community," set to run through April 16, 2023.

The people of Mexican descent who call Aurora home come from all walks of life and have their own individual stories of immigration or a long family history that predates Colorado statehood." Today, Aurora is a true mosaic of cultures. One in five Aurorans are foreign-born. According to the 2020 census, 20.24% of the city of Aurora's population has family origins in Mexico.

"Mosaic of Cultures" is a series of exhibitions that promote understanding of the increasing cultural diversity in the city and incorporate the voices of local communities into Aurora's History

Museum. The new exhibit aims to increase awareness of the Mexican community's contributions to the overall history of the city, including highlighting individuals, business owners, cultural traditions, and history.

Admission to the Aurora History Museum is always free. 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. For more information and to stay up to date on related programming, visit [AuroraMuseum.org](http://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.



Fitzsimons to Anschutz

A new exhibit at the Aurora History Museum explores the development of the Fitzsimons medical complex and its impact on our community over the last 104 years. From its early days during World War I to the more recent developments as a state-of-the-art medical campus. Visitors will learn the history of the world-renowned respiratory treatment facilities, as well as discover the story of its most famous patient - President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Army General Hospital No. 21 opened near the small town of Aurora in 1918. Two years later it was renamed Fitzsimons General Hospital in honor of Lt. William T. Fitzsimons, the first U.S. medical officer killed in World War I. After numerous closure attempts in the 1930s, the government classified Fitzsimons as a permanent installation and appropriated funds for expansion. This included constructing a new main building to centralize patients and provide staff with up-to-date facilities. Building 500 was dedicated December 3, 1941, just days before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Although it treated patients throughout both World Wars, Korea and Vietnam, Fitzsimons may be best known for the seven-week treatment of President Dwight Eisenhower after a heart attack in 1955. The Army deactivated Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in 1999. Today, the Anschutz Medical Campus is on the former Fitzsimons site and maintains a world-wide reputation for cutting-edge medical technology and research.

Many Aurorans have fond memories of Fitzsimons. Several were born at the hospital, even more served on the base. Large neighborhoods sprung up all around the Army base. Fitzsimons shaped modern Aurora. Today, the Anschutz Medical Campus employs over 15,000 people from the surrounding areas and is a major economic asset in Aurora's economy. The new exhibition chronicles the people, places, and structures of the historic Fitzsimons medical complex.

### [Want to tell us your Fitzsimons Story?](#)

We're asking Aurorans, former Fitzsimons employees, or anyone else with a connection to Fitzsimons to tell us about their connections to the base and their stories about it. We're also collecting oral and written histories and looking for knowledgeable locals to guide Fitzsimons tours. Help us by filling out our survey [here](#).

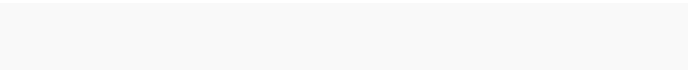
### **Lecture: Continuing Combat Medicine with the Anschutz COMBAT Center**

Date & time: 30 January 2023 1:00pm-2:00pm at

the Aurora History Museum

Did you know combat medicine research still happens on Anschutz Medical Campus? The Center for COMBAT Medicine and Battlefield Research continues to improve the care of combat related injury and illness through military-civilian collaboration many years after the Army returned Fitzsimons to the City of Aurora. Col. Vik Beberta, M.D., Director of the COMBAT Center will discuss the department's clinical and research work. For more information contact: [koutcelt@auroragov.org](mailto:koutcelt@auroragov.org) event link

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combat-center-lecture-continuing-combat-medicine-tickets-487903601807>



Got Questions?

# Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society  
mdlkel@aol.com

## Member Discounts

FOX discount  
We have a discount for 20% off 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 events, cabaret's, or rentals).

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

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