

# The Advocate Newsletter

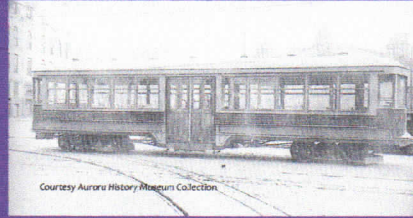
## May/June 2024

Vol. 48 No.3



## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

### President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are enjoying the warmer days as they become more frequent. I have the urge to go outside and work in the yard. I can do some clean up, but I know we could still get snow and cold.

I was disappointed that the March meeting was cancelled. Unforeseen plumbing issues at the museum was the culprit. Watkins-Stained Glass is an amazing company. I saw them repair and replace the stained-glass windows at the Molly Brown House a few years ago. Mrs. Watkins has agreed to be our speaker on September 24th.

Plan on joining us for our annual Potluck Meeting on Tuesday, May 28th. Our program will be a performance from the Legendary Ladies doing Molly Brown, Augusta Tabor, and Baby Doe. Please bring your friends and neighbors. Doors will open at 5:30. Dinner will start at 5:45, and the Legendary Ladies will perform at 6:30. We will hold a short business meeting during dinner so as not to detract for the Legendary Ladies performance. AHS will provide a beverage, chicken, and ham. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share with the group.

Please RSVP to Lynne Evans, 720-560-2490, or [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net) so we know how much food is needed.

**Lynne Evans**

Aurora Historical Society President

### Historical Society Officers

President & Website: **Lynne Evans**

Vice President: **Nadine Caldwell**

Secretary: **Gregg Chase**

Treasurer, Newsletter, Historian, Membership:

**Michael Lockwood**

Directors: **Susan Hicks, Karen Schwieder, Gordy Tucker**

Hospitality: **Judy Keilman**

Program Committee: **Susan Hicks**

Education: Vacant

Publicity: Vacant

If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne Evans 720-560-2490 [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net)



Got Questions?

# Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society  
[mdlkel@aol.com](mailto:mdlkel@aol.com)

E-mail your question to [mdlkel@aol.com](mailto:mdlkel@aol.com)



Our membership dues come due in January each year now so you can send your payment for year 2024 to Michael Lockwood, 1100 Windflower Lane, Woodland Park, CO 80863.

(Note: The society changed its bylaws at the March 2022 meeting. The membership categories have changed).

Memberships:

Individual	\$15	Family	\$20	Contributing	\$30
Business	\$200	Life	\$200	Newsletter hardcopy	\$5

You can now pay your dues online at the AHS website on the join today page using PayPal.

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

**THANK YOU  
NEW & RE-NEWING  
MEMBERS**  
March/April 2024

**March** – Stan Turner & Amy Cheslin, Bev Scherling  
**April** – Keith Outcalt

**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, cabarets, or rentals).

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

Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 44 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 #44: Mike Coffman

- Served from 2019 – Present
- He was born on Mar 19, 1955 in MO
- Moved to Colorado in 1964
- He served in the Colorado House, the Colorado Senate, as the State Treasurer, as the Colorado Secretary of State and in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Married to Cynthia Honssinger in 2005, divorced in 2017
- He obtained his BA in political science from C.U.
- He has served in the US Army from 1972-1978 and in the US Marines from 1979-1994, 2005-2006
- He was in the Gulf War and the Iraq War
- He founded a property management company in 1983
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Jared Polis
- Finished out the mayoral term of Steve Hogan
- While he was in office:
  - The death of Elijah McClain
  - Protesters and police clash at the Municipal complex
  - The Regional Homeless Navigation campus at 15500 E. 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue expected to be fully operational in 2025



**Aurora Historical Society  
28 May meeting  
5:30 pm at the Aurora History Museum**

On May 28th at 6:30pm, we will be lucky to be hosting the Legendary Ladies!



The Legendary Ladies were founded in 1992 over a mutual love of women's history, costumes, and performance. In 2005, the ladies moved towards focusing specifically on their signature performance, Unconventional Women of the West. Their mission is to promote the history of women who made unique contributions to the West! For our evening of history, we will be joined by local legends Molly Brown, Baby Doe Tabor and Augusta Tabor. Each character will tell us about her life, her accomplishments, and her struggles. The evening will then end with a Q and A with the women where you can ask about the research process that goes behind the performances or more about the characters that are being portrayed. If that wasn't exciting enough, we will have our annual potluck dinner prior to the show! Come out for a night celebrating the brave and inspiring women of the West!



Remember, drawing for door prizes is part of the fun at our meetings.

**From our March 26, 2024 AHS regular meeting  
Watkins Stained Glass**

Program- Cancelled due to plumbing issue at the History Museum  
Speaker: Jane Watkins

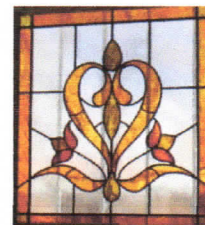
**Rescheduled for our September meeting**



Watkins Stained Glass has operated in Denver since 1868 and before that, operated in England as early as 1761. They provide historical stained glass restoration and preservation.

There have been 4 generations of Watkins men running Watkins Stained Glass in America beginning with Clarence who arrived in Denver in 1868 coming from St. Joseph, Missouri in a covered wagon. After Clarence came his son Frank, then Phil and now Phil Jr.

Since 1960 they had made windows for over 380 churches and 4,000 houses and businesses. They have a huge inventory of European and antique glass.





### 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](http://www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org)

### REMEMBERING: Shakey's Pizza



It's possible I've already written about Shakey's but seeing an ad for them in the 1965 issue of the Aurora Advocate brought them back to mind again. Shakey's opened their 6<sup>th</sup> location at 7800 E. Colfax (just outside of Aurora in Denver) on May 14, 1965. That would have made me 10 years old and fast food places were on my radar. Shakey's was named after Sherwood "Shakey" Johnson who suffered from nerve damage when he contracted malaria. At the time Shakey's offered 21 varieties of pizza and their décor was designed to look like an old English pub with fireplaces and a glass enclosed kitchen where

you could watch the pizza being made from start to finish.

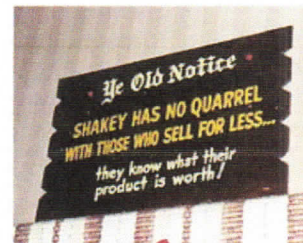


In addition they had honky-tonk piano players and banjo players to entertain the customers. The menu's had lyrics from classic Barbershop songs printed on them for you to sing along



There was also a Collegiate room where they had a juke box for the teenagers to gather.

There are still some 58 Shakey's still in operation, mostly in California but none of them remain in Colorado. The 7800 E. Colfax location is now Shepe's Sports Bar & Grill.



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.

# TRIVIA

## City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. When was the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Aurora Scout Jamboree and Evening Picnic held?
- June 12, 1955
  - June 12, 1949
  - June 12, 1953



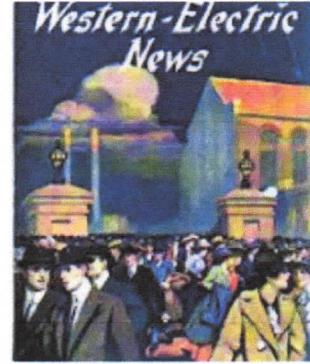
2. Who sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Aurora teenage road-e-o?
- Aurora Public Schools
  - Aurora 4-H Club
  - Aurora Junior Chamber of Commerce



3. What was the Aurora Elks Lodge #1921 campaign in May 1959?
- "Country Loyalty Day"
  - "Show Your Colors"
  - "Love Of Freedom"



4. Where was the Western Electric building in Aurora located?
- 1<sup>st</sup> and Havana
  - 13<sup>th</sup> & Peoria
  - 20<sup>th</sup> & Montview

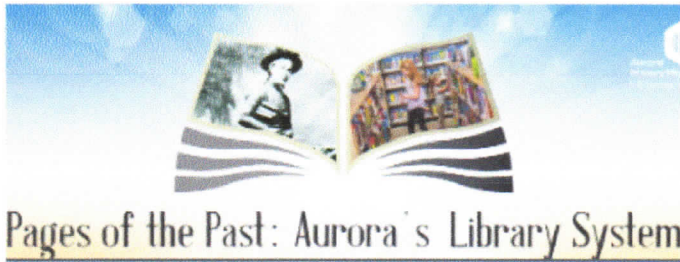


5. How old did you have to be to attend the Youth Leadership Camp that was held in 1969 in Liberty, MO with attendees coming from 14 states (Al Shivley taking applications at the Adams County Co-op)?
- At least 10 years old
  - At least 13 years old
  - At least 15 years old



## Aurora Museum Exhibits

### BEYOND THE STOREFRONT



**Community Gallery: Mar 5 – Jul 7, 2024**

On June 6, 1944, in what remains history's largest seaborne invasion, 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel. Officially known as Operation Neptune, but remembered as D-Day, the Allied liberation of Normandy changed the tide of the WWII and left thousands dead. Explore D-Day stories of Aurorans and learn how technologies developed in our own backyard helped the Allies win in Europe.



### Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Nepali Community May 7, 2024 to April 6, 2025

Aurora's Nepali community will be celebrated in a new exhibit, "Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Nepali Community," opening on May 7, 2024, at the Aurora History Museum. This exhibit is part of a museum and Office of International and Immigrant Affairs series that aims to promote understanding of our culturally diverse city. It will showcase vibrant aspects of the Nepali community, including music, art, dance, religion and food. Through this exhibit, the Nepali community's contributions to the city's history will be highlighted, along with stories of individuals and businesses.

## On Display in the East Hallway

### Wildlife in Focus: A Journey of Conservation, from Global to Local: Jan 10 – Mar 31, 2024

This exhibit highlights the work of Aurora resident and volunteer Open Space trail steward, Victoria "Vicky" Samuel. Come see images she has collected around the world and right here in our own community.

## On Display in the Theater Room Trolley Trailer #610

This exhibit takes a deep dive into the history of electric streetcars in the Denver metro area and explores the story of Aurora's Landmark, Trolley Trailer #610 before it was an exhibit at the Aurora History Museum. This exhibit was chosen to return to our museum by visitors in June and July 2023.

### 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

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Dunning, Anabelle (1976-1979)  
Metcalf, Gladys (1980-1981)  
Staad, Florence (1982)  
Elwell, Dottie (1983-1984)  
Johnson, Elizabeth (1985-1986)  
Pierce, Mary (1987-1988)  
Creager, Jo (1989-1990)  
Sanders, Kathy (1991-1992)  
Creager, Jo (1993)  
Hood, Shirley (1994-1995)  
Brown, Connie (1996-1998)  
Betka, Charyn (1999-2000)  
Fountain, Ruth (2001-2009)  
Sweeney, Sandy (2010-2018)  
Evans, Lynne (2019-present)



Baker, Susan  
Barnes, Mildred  
Bartholomew, Randy & Barbara  
Beach, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.  
Beach, Robert  
Benedict, Sally & Van I.  
Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Don  
Bottoms, Jack & Ruth  
Brown, Dick & Kay  
Caldwell, Nadine  
Caron, Dean & Theresa  
Chase, Gregg & Mary  
Crawford, Judi & Jessica  
Daniels, Kimberly & William  
Drollinger, Don & Carol  
Elwell, Tom & Dottie  
Essex, Joyce Brown  
Fanning, James  
Fletcher, Robert & Cindy  
Fugler, Carl & Gloria  
Gehler, Robert & Terri  
Gigikos, John & Lila  
Harding, Julie  
Heckman, Dorothy  
Heflin, David & Mary  
Hensler, Bill & Sue  
Hogan, Becky  
Jordan, Ralph & Sharon  
Keller, Chris & John  
LeGare, Bob  
Letofsky, Jane Anne  
Lindemann, Ingrid  
Lockwood, Michael & Kathryn

Lord, Pat  
Lusche, Jim & Pat  
McClure, Kirby & Roberta  
McFadden, Joyce  
McGrath, Jane & Isaacson, Thomas  
Metcalf Jr., Traver  
Monroe, Vernon & Helen  
Morey, Bill & Teresa  
Murray, June  
Nicholls, Edwin  
O'Brien, Joe & Betsy  
Perkins, Steve & Jan  
Peters, Charlie  
Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Walter  
Sala, John & Elizabeth  
Sanders, Dr. & Mrs. Randall  
Scherling, Richard & Beverly  
Severson, Carl  
Sherfick, Donald & Charline  
Spencer, Vernon  
Steele, Laurence & Virginia  
Ulmer, Keith & Mary  
Vickers, Mary  
Wiggins, William & Lori  
Wilterdink, Larry & Carol

## In Memoriam

*In remembrance of Society members who are no longer with us.*

Armstrong, William  
Creager, Jo (past president)  
Dunning, Annabelle (past president)  
Fountain, Ruth (past president)  
Haag, Col. (Ret) George  
Harding, Dexter  
Hogan, Stephen  
Hood, Shirley (past president)  
Kerns, Peggy  
Lincoln, Joseph & Jeannine  
Lindemann, Donald  
McClure, Janice  
Moore, David  
Murray, Bev  
Murray, William Jr  
O'Brien, Mr. & Mrs. John  
Penn, Ruth  
Preston, Mary  
Sparks, Juanita  
Staad, Florence (past president)  
Travis, E.A.  
Tupps, Edythe  
Watson, Elizabeth  
Weddig, Frank & Pat  
Wiley, Robert  
Woodbury, Ruth

Advertisements in the Aurora Advocate  
 March, 1954 – Vol. 7 No. 25  
 May 1959 – Vol. 12 No. 28  
 June 25 - Vol. 16 No. 34

**AURORA**  
**ADVOCATE**  
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*I'd love one of these toasters!*



**\$9.95**  
 Reg. \$14.95

New "Magic Maid" model—completely automatic, fully guaranteed. Gleaming triple chrome plate, with bakelite handles and base. Automatic shut-off and pop-up mechanism—adjustable for dark or light toast. Complete with cord and plug.

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 Em. 6-3412

Trivia Question Answers:  
 1) b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c