

# The Advocate Newsletter

## November/December 2024

Vol. 48 No.5



## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

### President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful fall weather we have right now. The leaves are lovely and the temperatures nice during the day and cool at night.

We had a great September meeting listening to a program on Watkins-Stained Glass and a presentation on Motels along Colfax and one on neon signs along Colfax from the two interns we supported for the Historic Preservation Office.

We will have a magician for our program in November.

We will be forming a Nominating Committee at our January meeting. I hope some of you will consider serving on the nominating committee and/or as officers on the board. Many of us have been serving in our current position for many years. In May 2025 Mike Lockwood and Karen Schwieder will be stepping down and I will be resigning from the post of President, but still intend to remain as a director.

We need others to step up to fill those positions or the Aurora Historical Society will not be able to continue. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact me at 720-560-2490 or [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net).

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving and Joyous holiday season.

***Lynne Evans***

### Historical Society Officers

President & Website: **Lynne Evans**  
Vice President: **Nadine Caldwell**  
Secretary: **Gregg Chase**  
Treasurer: **Michael Lockwood**  
Directors: **Susan Hicks, Karen Schwieder, Gordy Tucker**

### Historical Society Committees

Education: Vacant  
Historian: **Michael Lockwood**  
Hospitality: **Judy Keilman**  
Membership: **Michael Lockwood**  
Newsletter: **Michael Lockwood**  
Program: **Susan Hicks**  
Publicity: Vacant

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)

**Join or Renew Membership**

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

**THANK YOU  
NEW & RE-NEWING  
MEMBERS**  
July/October 2024

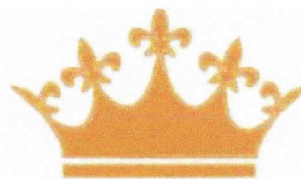
- July** – Stephanie Lucas, Douglas & Michele Bowen
- August** – none
- September** – Susan Hicks, Nancy Linsenbigler
- October** – none

**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.

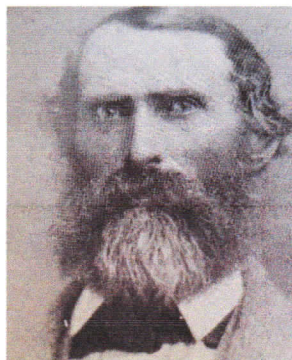


**VIPS**

**of Aurora, Colorado**

We’ve looked at all 44 of the Mayors of Aurora, Colorado since 1891, now let’s look at those individuals that one might consider an Aurora, Colorado V.I.P.

**John & Bridget DeLaney**



- ❖ Both John & Bridget were born in Menagh, Ireland
- ❖ John’s family operated a bakery in Menagh
- ❖ John learned the family trade and was a baker also
- ❖ Bridget’s parents, Thomas & Temperance Gully, came to America (New York) in 1862
- ❖ John & Bridget came with them along with Bridget’s 4 brothers and two sisters
- ❖ They made their way to Central City, Colorado
- ❖ They operated a bakery there from 1862-1870
- ❖ Around 1872 John & Bridget and their family moved to Tollgate in Arapahoe County
- ❖ John homesteaded at 1<sup>st</sup> & Chambers on September 9, 1876
- ❖ They built a house there in 1892
- ❖ John died 1901 and Bridget died in 1902



From our September 24, 2024 AHS regular meeting  
Watkins Stained Glass

**Aurora Historical Society  
26 November meeting  
6:00 pm at the Aurora History Museum**

Program- Watkins Stained Glass  
Speaker: Jane Watkins



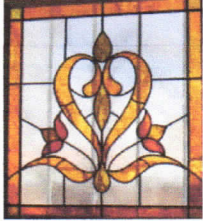
Our speaker for the evening is magician, Jim Wright.



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.

He has been doing magic professionally for at least 25 years, it started as a kid, as a hobby. He does everything from close up, table magic, parlor shows as well as stage and grand illusions. He has worked six years at the Gilpen hotel casino in Black Hawk, Colorado, doing walk around magic, stage shows on Saturday nights and grand illusions in the parking lot. He has also preformed walk around magic at the Lodge casino, Black Hawk, Colorado.

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.



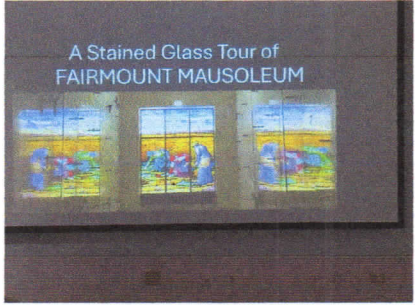
He has opened concerts for Herbie Hancock, George Benson, Spyro Gyro, The Boomyown Rats as well as 10 plus shows with Chubby Checkers.

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

Promo shows for Fleetwood Mac and JR Thompson (former member of The Crest who sang 16 candles).

He does shows for Douglas county Fair and Radio and 8 years plus doing the Eagle County Fair (Eagle Flight Days), Waverley Iowa State Fair and Rodeo.

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





### 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: Family Stories



My youth was spent as a member of the Aurora Community Baptist Church located at 1395 Macon Street. Here's a story that my sister related to me years after I was grown and that my mother confirmed as being true. In the 1960's the Aurora Community Baptist Church was affiliated with the American Baptist organization. At the front of the sanctuary in

the church, behind the pulpit, was a baptismal pool. Those about to be baptized could enter from stairs on the right side or stairs on the left side. Both sets of stairs led down to the baptismal pool. The congregation could only see the baptismal pool, which the front of was glass. The stairs were hidden behind walls so no one could see who was on the stairs.



Well, the day came when my mother and sister were both to be baptized on a Sunday morning. The church was packed with church members and, of course, friends of my mother. My sister was on the left side of the stairs, about 3<sup>rd</sup> in line and my mother was on the right side, about 4<sup>th</sup> in line. After an individual had been baptized and they started back up the stairs on the right, everyone remaining to be baptized on the right side took a step down. All except my mother, who slipped on the step and came down the stairs on her backside. Now she didn't knock anyone over (that she'd admit to) nor did she go all the way down to the baptismal pool, but she was as embarrassed as anyone could be. My sister, of course saw it all happen from the other side but was helpless to do anything about it. It wasn't funny at the time but they both laughed about it for the rest of their lives.



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 Aurora Democrat & Aurora Advocat

1. What card game had a street in Aurora roped off on Dec. 22, 1909? [AD Vol 1 No 10]
  - a. Poker
  - b. Pinochle
  - c. Bridge



2. Who put on the biggest candy sale in Aurora on Oct 15, 1924? [AD Vol 15 No 51]
  - a. Sunlight Shop
  - b. Aurora Grocery Market
  - c. Acacia Drugs



3. What was a bingo prize at the Xmas party at Fitzsimons in Dec. 1939? [AD Vol 30 No 52]
  - a. A rifle
  - b. Case of beer
  - c. Cigarettes



4. Why couldn't Fitzsimons broadcast their new 1954 program over KOSI? [AA Vol 8 No 25]
  - a. No telephone line from the radio control room to the edge of the base
  - b. KOSI wasn't government approved in time for the broadcast
  - c. Fitzsimons power was too weak to make a good connection to KOSI

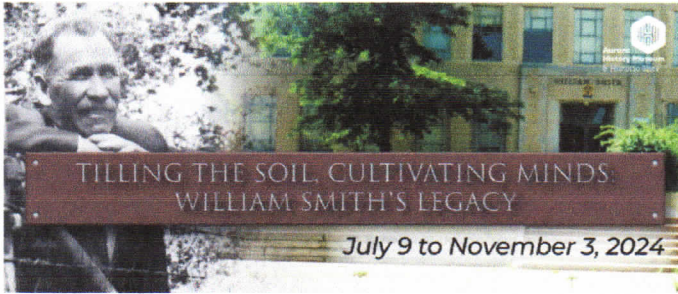


5. What bank opened in Aurora at Colfax & Elmira in 1968? [AA Vol 21 No 7]
  - a. Peoples Bank & Trust
  - b. First National Bank of Aurora
  - c. Aurora Industrial Bank



## Aurora Museum Exhibits

### BEYOND THE STOREFRONT



**Community Gallery: Jul 9 – Nov 3, 2024**

An early pioneer of Aurora, the life and legacy of William Smith shaped our city's history, and his life is portrayed in a new exhibition by the Aurora History Museum, "Tilling the Soil, Cultivating Minds: William Smith's Legacy," now open and running through Nov. 3 at the community gallery in the museum, located at 15051 E. Alameda Parkway.



### 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

#### Aurora's Historic Photos

Photos have a way of connecting the current generation with their past. This exhibit showcases a small sample of the over 30,000 images archived at the Aurora History Museum.

### 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



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  
 Beach Sr., Robert  
 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  
 Staadt, Florence (past president)  
 Travis, E.A.  
 Tupps, Edythe  
 Watson, Elizabeth  
 Weddig, Frank & Pat  
 Whitmore, Ruth  
 Wiley, Robert  
 Woodbury, Ruth

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Dunning, Anabelle (1976-1979)  
 Metcalf, Gladys (1980-1981)  
 Staadt, 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)

AURORA

# ADVOCATE

"YOUR HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER"

1441 Elmira Street Empire 6-2626  
Adams County Office: 2356 Lama  
A Photo-Offset Newspaper Published Every Thursday  
in Aurora, Colorado

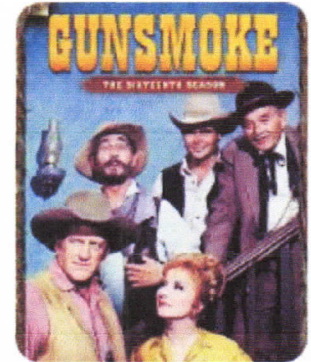
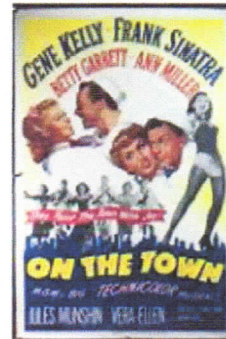
Legal Newspaper for Adams and Arapahoe Counties  
Circulation Figure or Advertising Rates on Request

Advertisements in the Aurora Advocate  
September, 1949 – Vol. 2 No. 44  
November 1954 – Vol. 8 No. 1  
December 1959 - Vol. 13 No. 7



From the 1950's

**KUNKEL'S**  
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AND  
DELIVERY SERVICE  
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Aurora 760-W



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THE PLACE TO GO!!!!  
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We clean car radiators and block without removing from your automobile.  
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Trivia Question Answers:  
1) b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c