

The Advocate Newsletter

March/April 2025

Vol. 49 No.2



Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

President's Message

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I hope that all of you are enjoying the lovely weather the past few days. I will take 60 degrees versus below zero any day. Unfortunately, it makes me want to get out and work in the yard, and it is too early for most of that. I suppose, I could clean up a few flower beds.

For those of you who were at the January meeting, I hope you enjoyed Roberta Bloom's presentation about "Art in Public Places." I learned a lot of new things about the program, and I have always enjoyed looking at the art around Aurora.

I do hope you will join us on March 25th when Francis Bawden, CIV, DAF Historian, Space Base Delta 2 Buckley Space Force Base will be talking to us about the history of Buckley and its new designation as a Space Force Base.

Our nominating committee will also announce the new slate of Aurora Historical Society officers for 2025-2026. We will vote them into office at the May potluck dinner.

We could use a volunteer for historian, and it would be wonderful if someone was interested in taking over the newsletter or the website. If anyone is interested, please contact me at 720-560-2490 or lyevans@comcast.net.

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

E-mail your question to 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 2025 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

January/February 2025

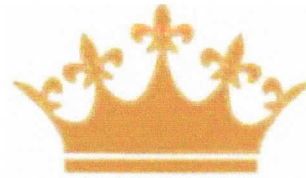
January – Bruce & Marcy Leonard, Stephanie Lucas, Gary & Sherrie Wolf, Anne Bell, Sandra Sweeney, Richard & Norma Ziegler, Kathleen Hely, Yvonne & Stephen Dodge, Kathy Tedrick, Bill Gondrez, Karen Sear
February – Stan Turner

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.

William Smith



- ❖ Most likely he was born in Scotland
- ❖ He married Anne Gunson
- ❖ He came to Colorado in 1878 from Liverpool
- ❖ Worked for the Colorado Mortgage and Investment Company
- ❖ Donated some of his land for a school
- ❖ Organized School District 28
- ❖ Served 50 years on the school board
- ❖ Helped build the Aurora Community Church
- ❖ He was the third Master of the Aurora Lodge
- ❖ He farmed growing wheat and alpalfa and raising sheep and hogs
- ❖ Lived at 412 Oswego Court (an Aurora landmark)
- ❖ Their children were Margaret, Mary and James
- ❖ William died in 1946



From our January 28, 2025 AHS regular meeting
Roberta Bloom, Aurora Arts in Public Places

Program- Aurora Arts In Public Places
Speaker: Roberta Bloom

**Aurora Historical Society
25 March meeting
6:00 pm at the Aurora History Museum**

Our speaker for the evening is
Francis SHAWN BAWDEN, CIV, DAF
Historian, Space Base Delta 2
Buckley Space Force Base, CO



Space Base Delta 2 (SBD 2) is a unit in the United States
Space Force. It is assigned to Space Operations
Command and headquartered at Buckley Space Force
Base in Aurora, Colorado, United States.

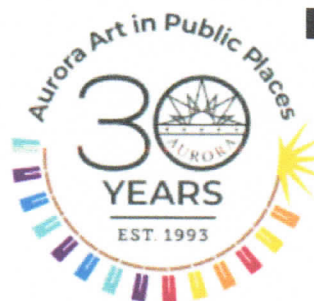


SBD 2 is responsible for providing installation support
functions for the resident air operations, space-based missile
warning capabilities, space surveillance operations, and
space communications missions at Buckley Space Force
Base in Colorado, Cape Cod Space Force Station in
Massachusetts, Cavalier Space Force Station in North
Dakota, and Clear Space Force Station in Alaska.

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



Roberta Bloom helms the dynamic Art in Public Places
Program for the city of Aurora, CO. With an MFA in Visual
Arts, she brings over four decades of extensive experience as
an artist, educator, and program manager to the table. Ms.
Bloom delved into the rich 30-year history of Aurora's Art in
Public Places program, spotlighting some of its most beloved
installations and talked about an exciting vision for the
program's future.





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: Handheld Cell Phones



Who would have thought back in 1965 about having a phone that you could take with you wherever you went. In 1965 you could only go as far as the telephone cord reached. The first ever cell phone call wasn't made until 1973, when I was 18 years old. I'm sure it made the news although I don't remember.

Those very early models were so huge and as you know didn't have much range as the cell phone towers barely existed but what a cool novelty. And were they outrageously expensive (\$3,995 in 1984). I think my first phone was a Motorola flip phone and I'll bet I

paid over \$1,000 for it (at a time when \$1,000 was a couple of month's wages)..



You had to extend the antennae to get any kind of service and, of course, all it could do was take and receive phone calls. Nothing else. And like all technological advances, it seemed like in no time at all it was obsolete. Next up was one like the picture below. It was slightly smaller but it was heavier. It also had a few more features like a clock and a redial. Also coverage was starting to get better as the cell phone companies all started touting their coverage areas. In fact, that was sometimes a big decision on who you went with.



Now days the phone is your everything device, Calendar, Clock, Calculator, Address Book, Map, Camera, Message Center and paying for your coffee at Starbucks. And, oh yeah, your phone. Maybe one day this will seem like an antique.

Time waits for no man and our history will eventually become shared memories of people and places. Preservation can help keep those memories a little more tangible so that it, too, can be shared with future generations.



City of Aurora Trivia Questions From Aurora Advocate 1965

1. Jan – plans were made for which new Elementary school? [AA Vol 17 No 8]
 - a. Sable Elementary
 - b. Wheeling Elementary
 - c. Montview Elementary



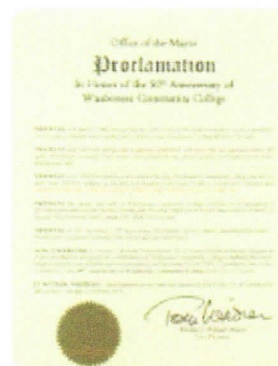
2. New traffic lights were installed at? [AA Vol 17 No 15]
 - a. 6th & Havana
 - b. Colfax & Chambers Road
 - c. 13th & Delmar



3. City plans to annex parts of? [AA Vol 17 No 30]
 - a. Fitzsimons Army Hospital
 - b. Buckley Air Field
 - c. Lowry Air Force Base



4. Aurora proclaimed September 22? [AA Vol 17 No 43]
 - a. Govenors Day in Aurora
 - b. Public Education Day in Aurora
 - c. Citizens Day in Aurora

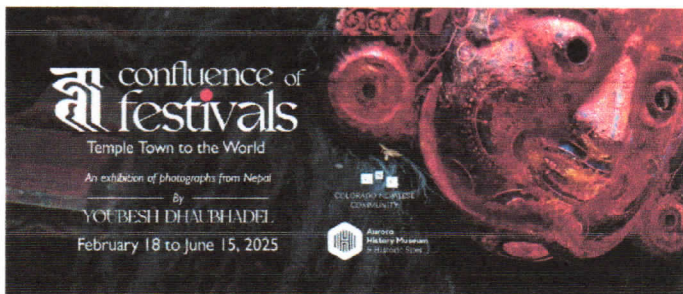


5. 11,223 acres of Lowry AFB bombing range land was swapped for? [AA Vol 18 No 6]
 - a. 15,321 acres next to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs
 - b. 19,845 acres next to Buckley Air Field
 - c. 22,694 acres next to Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs



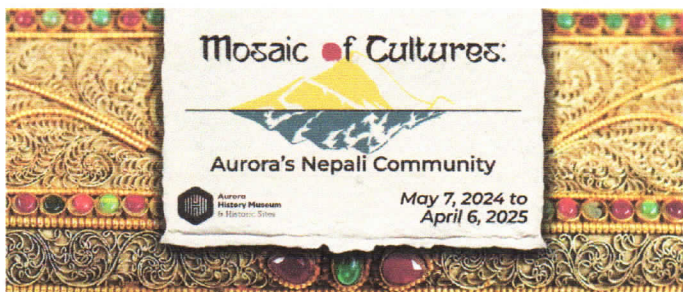
Aurora Museum Exhibits

BEYOND THE STOREFRONT



Community Gallery: Feb 18 – Jun 15, 2025

Immerse yourself in the vibrant traditions, history and artistic expressions of Nepal's cultural capitals: Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kathmandu. This captivating exhibition features the stunning photography of Youbesh Dhaubhadel. Hailing from Bhaktapur, Nepal, Dhaubhadel is a multidisciplinary artist focusing on visual creation through photography, an avid traveler and a blogger known as @firantayy.



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
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
Julie Harding
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
Stadt, 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)
Stadt, 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)

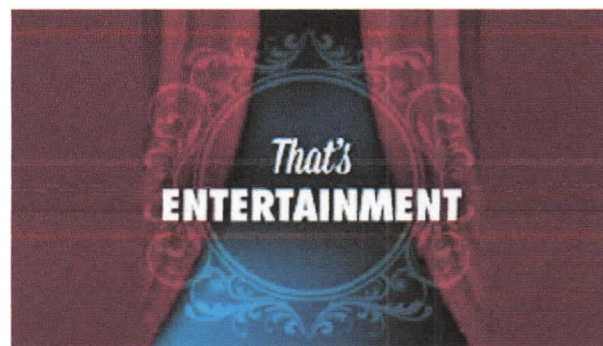
Brown, Connie (1996=1998)
Betka, Charyn (1999-2000)
Fountain, Ruth (2001-2009)
Sweeney, Sandy (2010-2018)
Evans, Lynne (2019-present)

AURORA
ADVOCATE
 "YOUR HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER"

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 Adams County Office: 2356 Lima
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 In Aurora, Colorado

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

Advertisements in the Aurora Advocate
February, 1965 – Vol. 17 No. 12
October 1965 – Vol. 17 No. 48
June 1965 - Vol. 17 No. 30



From 1965

Movie: Dr. Zhivago

TV show: Bonanza

Music Album: Mary Poppins soundtrack

Harry's Liquors Open 'til Midnight

Specials

Ancient Age Full Quart **4.99**
Imported Scotch 4.99
5th Champagne 2.19
Keg Beer

Harry's Liquors
OF AURORA
 "YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY ANYWHERE ELSE!"
 9508 E. COLFAX PHONE 366-7482

When You Want to Talk Real Estate
 Matters in the Aurora Area

TALK TO
VAN SCHAACK
 REALTOR

DIAL 297-5000
 11th & Havana
 In Aurora



SHOPPING'S
FUN at
SAFEWAY

MARGARINE 2 lb. 25¢
MUSHROOMS 10 oz. 5¢
WESSON OIL 28 oz. 39¢

BONUS GOLD BOND STAMPS



Harry's Liquors: 9508 E. Colfax
 Van Schaack realty: 11th & Havana
 Safeway: Colfax & Peoria

January 17th, 2025

Trivia Question Answers:

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

Hello Board Members,

At the conclusion of my Aurora neon sign survey presentation on Monday, January 13th, I was asked to describe the value of the internship. On my drive home, I reflected on the question and wished that I had answered differently. Please accept this as my reply.

The summer internship with The Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites provided me with invaluable opportunities in three areas: the ability to work with a preservation organization, the chance to create a foundational survey of Aurora's existing neon signs, and the chance to be present at city-level conversations discussing preservation.

Under the supervision of Chris Geddes, I had meetings with her on site and was welcome to attend the staff meetings. My studies at school provide me with thorough examples of preservation work but my internship allowed me to participate in preservation in the field. This experience was both eye-opening and exhilarating. It cemented my conviction to pursue a career in the preservation arena.

For decades I have been considering theoretical methods to preserve neon signs. The Aurora survey project allowed me to understand the effort required to compile an inventory of community resources and coalesce that information into an action items. Following the survey, the research and documentation of a landmark nominee and the subsequent procedural steps towards designation were of significant value. I have learned so much about the process.

Lastly, in the nomination process for the Riviera Motel, there have been highs and lows. The undeniable constant was Chris Geddes' commitment to have me involved in all aspects. I met with owners, the Historic Preservation Commission, and recently a study group of city managers and lawyers. The insight I now have into the landmark process and all the hurdles and machinations that exist behind the scenes has deepened my understanding of the work. I seriously doubt that any of my cohorts have had such an experience but hope that it will be available for them in the future.

With Gratitude,

Todd Matuszewicz

Summer Intern, 2024

Minutes of the Aurora Historical Society.

Held on January 28, 2025

Location: Aurora History Museum.

Started meeting at 6:00 pm.

19 members of the public were in attendance, Scott Williams from the museum, and Lynne Evans, Nadine Caldwell, Gregg Chase, Susan Hicks, Gordy Tucker, and Karen Schwieder were in attendance (Board Members)

Lynne Evans opened the meeting.

Approve Minutes for November 26, 2024 meeting

Motion made, seconded and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2024

Starting Bank Balances \$ 121,235.74: Income \$ 5,352.06

Expense \$ 5334.59 : Ending Bank Balance \$ 121,253.21

All questions to be directed to Michael Lockwood.

Appoint Nominating Committee:

Gregg Chase, Head, Judy Keilman, Susan Hicks. They are to report at the March 2025 meeting, with final voting for officers at May 2025 annual meeting

Introduce Speaker :

Roberta Bloom- Art in Public Places

Aurora's Art in Public Places started in September 1993, by City Council approval. The purpose is to unite Artist, art and Location. There are many old and new pieces to the Aurora Collection. APP, strives to maintain, repurpose, and recondition all of its pieces of art. This includes restoration and rehabilitating all pieces in coordination with time. Original materials that art is made with may not be available in 20 years when rehabilitation and restoration needs to take place.

Door prizes of an Aurora Coloring book and a Book from the Museum Store were awarded.

The meeting closed at 7: 20 pm

Submitted by Gregg Chase, Secretary February 4, 2025

