



ORO VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August, 2025

It's Our 20th Anniversary!!!

Yes, we've been a part of Oro Valley for 20 years, and we are so grateful to those of you who had the vision to form the Oro Valley Historical Society. We're also grateful to those who have helped maintain it over the years – our lifetime supporters, our volunteers, our donors, those who attend our speaker series at the library, those who invite us to your organizations for historical presentations, and visitors to the Pusch House Museum on Saturdays from September through April.

But wait – there's more thanks!

Of course, to **Red Coyote Services** who set-up our new website (www.ovhistory.org) and to volunteer Lynn Zoyiopoulos, who keeps the site up to date. We appreciate **Home Depot** for their assistance in rejuvenating our Heritage Garden under the direction of Joyce Rychener and her team of blossoming (sorry!) volunteers. Stop by to see all the vegetables growing there, but don't feed the ground squirrels! We also want to thank **Mr. and Mrs. Evert, Mr. and Mrs. Paul, John Munden, and the Colmar Foundation** for their donations which help us keep Oro Valley history alive.



And we have to give HUGE thanks to the **Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation** for their incredible donation which enabled us to purchase eight stand-alone interpretive signs at Steam Pump Ranch! The signs were installed by the **Parks and Rec personnel** from the Town of Oro Valley in July in front of the historical structures at the Ranch. We are thrilled that visitors will now be able to know more about the history of Oro Valley's gem whether or not our volunteers are on site. We are so appreciative of the generosity of the Foundation and their belief that history is important to our community and needs to be

shared. We are grateful to the committee of our volunteers, Bob Kellar, Pat Spoerl, Denzil Walker, and Lynn Zoyiopoulos, who successfully completed this project.

And what will our 20th season look like?

Come visit us right after Labor Day on **September 6** when we'll feature the restoration of historical Steam Pump Ranch. Every Saturday through October 11 from 9 a.m. until noon, our display entitled "**Restoring the Past**" will explore the history of the structures listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings at Steam Pump Ranch and what it took to receive that important designation.

Beginning on October 18 and through November 15, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Oro Valley Historical Society. Along with our display, we will honor the Father of Oro Valley and one of the founders of the Oro Valley Historical Society, Jim Kriegh, by sharing his amazing collection of meteorites from around the world. November 22 through December (*but not November 29 or December 27*) will bring us to the holiday season festivities. In the new year we will celebrate with you the USA semiquincentennial in three parts – nationwide, in Arizona, and in Oro Valley as we continue to combine and celebrate 20 years and 250 years!

Dates to Remember

 Celebrate the Launch of the New OVHS Website!

We've got a new website, a fresh look, and a whole new vibe—and we can't wait to share it with you!

 **Monday, August 18th**

 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

 Oro Valley Public Library

Join us for a special presentation and walkthrough of the new Oro Valley Historical Society website. We'll show you how to navigate the site and discover everything it has to offer— from local history and legends to notable characters, walking tours, and even how you can share your own stories. Come explore the digital side of Oro Valley's past—see what's new, ask questions, and get inspired!



Wednesday, September 24 – As an introduction to our October exhibit about the Society's "birth" AND insider information about Jim Kriegh's discovery of meteorites in the Gold Basis, Twink Monrad, Board member for the Society, will give a presentation at the Oro Valley Public Library at 1 p.m. Jim started this hobby when he was in his 60's and became well known around the world for his extensive collection.

Saturday, October 4 – We will welcome **Interfaith Community Services** to the Ranch as the first collaboration of non-profits helping non-profits, with our new program "**Be Our Ranch Guest**". We are inviting other non-profits to the Ranch on dates of their choosing to share their needs with the Oro Valley community and giving you the opportunity to help them with their missions. On October 4, ICS will be in front of the Pusch House Museum ready to collect your donations of holiday items such as instant, canned, or fresh potatoes and yams, cranberry sauce, canned veggies, especially green beans and corn, boxed and bagged stuffing mix, boxed baking mixes (Bisquick, Jiffy), gravy mix or canned gravy, canned pumpkin, and cream of mushroom soup. In addition, regular pantry items will be welcome - peanut butter, canned meat: tuna, chicken, Spam, etc., meals in pop-top cans: chill, ravioli, etc., canned pasta sauce (no glass, please), pasta, canned fruit & veggies. Thanks, in advance, Oro Valley for helping this very worthwhile cause!



What a win-win event for non-profits AND the Oro Valley Historical Society as we will welcome donors to the Pusch House Museum!

Non-profits can go to <https://ovhistory.org/about-us/visit-us/> on our website to collaborate with us on a Saturday of their choosing.

Saturday, October 11 – We will have the Jim Click first prize on display at the Pusch House Museum. Come see the 2025 Kia Carnival Hybrid SX Prestige! Buy a ticket (\$25.00) or 5 (\$100.00), and then, keep your fingers crossed that you win. The money you spend on the ticket is a direct contribution to the Oro Valley Historical Society! Jim Click donates all proceeds to the non-profit who sells the ticket. That's such a deal for you – win a prize, support the Oro Valley Historical Society! If you don't want a new car, you might also win two round-trip first-class tickets to anywhere in the world or \$5,000.00 cash.



Saturday, October 18 – The Society will be celebrating our 20-year anniversary with a celebration at the Town Parks and Rec Department office at Steam Pump Ranch. In attendance will be two of the Society founders, Dick Eggerding and Pat Spoerl. We are looking forward to this day as we also celebrate the installation of our interpretive signs. Members of the Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Town Council, Historic Preservation Commission, Town Parks and Recreation department, and our volunteers will all be invited.

Saturday, November 1 – As we continue our exhibit celebrating our 20th anniversary and honoring Jim Kriegh by displaying our meteorite collection, we welcome Sol Dog Lodge as our non-profit organization of the day! They are looking for pet food donations, so bring what you can to help our furry friends – open bags are fine and will be accepted at the Pusch House Museum from 9 a.m. to noon.



Wednesday, November 19 – Join us at the Oro Valley Public Library at 10 a.m. to hear MaryJo McMullen's talk "An Introduction to the Hohokam and their Craft Traditions". A Tohono Chul volunteer and frequent speaker for Tucson Museum of Art, MaryJo will briefly look at the who, what, when and where of these Ancient Sonoran Desert People and then focus on their crafts which are considered the best examples in the region for pottery, jewelry, and acid etching.

Over the Summer

Many projects on the 'to-do' list have either been completed or are in process. Check out the website for the up-to-date family tree for the Procter-Leiber families. Thanks to Cheryl Leiber and Lynn Zoyiopoulos for this update, now available on the Society website.



Sue Chambasian, Pat Spoerl, and Tina Zogott went through many of our documents and pictures to enable us to work on digitization of everything in our possession. Sue, Lynn, and Devon Sloan spent a day at the new University of Arizona Memory Lab transferring CDs, floppy discs, and DVDs to flash drives. This information will then be transferred to a new program we will be using beginning this fall to enable us to locate all of our materials more easily for our displays, research projects, and requests for information from the community.



Bob Kellar, Lynn Zoyiopoulos, and Devon Sloan made a visit to the Oracle Historical Society to meet with their representatives Kevin Armbrust and Dale Suter. We also had a visit from volunteers Marti Conroy and Kathie Bennett from Empire Ranch in Sonoita to see how we can collaborate north and south of us to increase our historical outreach to nearby communities. We came up with some good ideas for all of us. Stay tuned!

And who visited us?

The **Tucson Paranormal Society** had an incredible investigation in the Pusch House Museum in July. And yes, they communicated with a woman named Martha who had some interesting comments and insight. We look forward to seeing the video they are editing and working with them again to see who else might have stories about the history of Steam Pump Ranch.

That visit is a reminder that you, too, can arrange a private visit to Steam Pump Ranch with docents on hand to provide information. Just go to our website (www.ovhistory.org/get-involved/request-a-tour) fill out the form, and we'll look forward to welcoming you to the Ranch. We already have additional private tours set up for November and February from two different groups, so join us at the Ranch!

Award winner!

This summer **Jim Williams**, a Past President of the Oro Valley Historical Society, head of our Speakers' Bureau, and Society historian, won the Award for Excellence from the American Association of State and Local History for his most recent book "Oro Valley The First Fifty Years". This award is the main award in the category of Leadership History Awards program which is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. Winners are considered the best in the field, and we totally agree!

If you have not read this non-fiction book about the community we live in, it's an eye-opening look into how Oro Valley even came about, who made it happen, and what has transpired since we became our own Town (and some history about the first people who made our area their home).

The book can be purchased at the Pusch House Museum on Steam Pump Ranch Saturday mornings between 9 a.m. and noon beginning September 6. (Purchases benefit the Oro Valley Historical Society.) If you can't wait until September, books can also be purchased at the Western National Parks Store on North Vistoso Village Drive. Congratulations, Jim, and thanks for what you do to keep Oro Valley history alive!



Jim, giving one of his many presentations at the Oro Valley Public Library.

Shoutout to Miras Nguyen – Designer Extraordinaire!

We're excited to share our brand-new **"Visit Us" flyers**, beautifully designed by Miras Nguyen! These flyers pack in everything you need to know about the Oro Valley Historical Society—including helpful info and QR codes for easy access to our website and more. (See next page.)

Miras stepped up to volunteer his time and design talents, working from our color palette, QR codes, and content requirements. We're incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and creative young man supporting our mission! This flyer is perfect for posting around town—in local businesses, community centers, coffee shops, etc. Thanks again to Miras for sharing his time and talents with OVHS!

💡 Want to help us spread the word?

If you'd like printed copies to post in your neighborhood, workplace, store, or club, let us know—we're happy to provide some!



And just a reminder – the Oro Valley Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit organization which relies totally on gifts, grants, and donations. Go to www.ovhistory.org and click donate to see the options available – direct donation, Jim Click Raffle, Fry’s Community Rewards Program, and Arizona Gives.

We look forward to seeing you in the Pusch House Museum at historic Steam Pump Ranch every Saturday beginning on September 6 from 9 a.m. until noon. Visit the Farmers’ Market, and then visit us to learn some of Oro Valley’s and Tucson’s history!

Thanks for helping us keep Oro Valley History alive!

We will miss you, but should you decide you no longer want to hear from us, simply let us know by return email – OPT OUT