

The Advocate Newsletter

Vol. 50 No.4

July/August 2025



Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city and its history

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July/August 2025

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

At our monthly meeting and potluck on May 27, we enjoyed delicious food and listened to an outstanding presentation by Chuck Stout, retired curator at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum. We also elected officers, including Gregg Chase, Treasurer; Lynne Evans, Secretary; Keith Outcalt, Vice President; and Gordon Tucker, President. Continuing Directors include Nadine Caldwell, Susan Hicks, and Judy Keilman. I would like to add a sincere note of gratitude to Lynne, who has ably led the organization for several years as President and performed so many other services you would need another page to list them all. Thanks also to Nadine Caldwell, who has served for many years as Vice President, and Michael Lockwood, who has worn many hats as Treasurer, Historian, and Newsletter Editor. Michael will continue as Newsletter Editor (until a replacement can be found). Gregg, who has been serving as the Secretary, will assume the duties of Treasurer. Karen Schwieder is retiring from the Board: many, many thanks to her for her service.

I thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce myself. My full name is Gordon C. Tucker Jr., but I prefer to be known simply as Gordy Tucker. (I even respond to "Hey you!") I am a retired professional archaeologist who has been employed for 40+ years with several engineering and environmental consulting companies in Colorado. I have worked on hundreds of projects throughout the country, mostly in the western U.S., as well as in Japan. Since 2012, I have traveled to Israel to excavate two ancient sites: Ashkelon on the southern coast and Tel

Shimron in the Lower Galilee region near Nazareth. I can sum up my career in a tongue-in-cheek manner as simply "My life is in ruins."

Working closely with the other officers and the directors, I am anxious to accomplish several important goals: increase membership, schedule engaging and enlightening programs, plan tours of the many historical and archaeological wonders of our city, and introduce and illuminate Aurora's history to all citizens. To accomplish these goals, we need your input. Please contact me at any time if you have any questions. Have a relaxing summer.

Gordy Tucker

Historical Society Officers

President & Website: **Dr. Gordon Tucker**

Vice President: **Keith Outcalt**

Secretary: **Lynne Evans**

Treasurer: **Gregg Chase**

Directors: **Nadine Caldwell, Susan Hicks, Judy Keilman**

Historical Society Committees

Education: Vacant

Historian: **Lynne Evans**

Hospitality: **Judy Keilman**

Membership: **Lynne Evans**

Newsletter: **Michael Lockwood**

Program: **Susan Hicks**

Publicity: Vacant

meet your OFFICERS



Dr. Gordon Tucker, President
Excavating at Tel Simron, Israel 2024



Keith Outcalt, Vice-President



Gregg Chase, Treasurer



Lynne Evans, Secretary



Nadine Caldwell, Director



Susan Hicks, Director

Photo Unavailable



Judy Keilman, Director

Join or Renew Membership

Our membership dues come due in January each year now so you can send your payment for year 2025 to Gregg Chase, 25762 East Kettle Circle, Aurora, CO 80016.

(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**

May/June 2025

May – Marilyn Miciek

June – Ruth Schmunk (LIFETIME)

Got Questions?

Ask a Historian

Aurora Historical Society
mdlkel@aol.com

E-mail your question to
lyevans@comcast.net

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.



Aurora, Colorado Historic Landmarks

There are 34 Historic Landmarks in Aurora, Colorado. Each newsletter we'll show them to you one by one

Senac Site – Landmark #33



- Aurora Reservoir Vicinity,
- 5800 S. Powhaton Road
- Landmarked: 2023

**THE SENAC SITE:
AN EARLY CERAMIC PERIOD MULTI-
ACTIVITY CAMPSITE
IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY, COLORADO¹**

Dr. Gordon C. Tucker Jr.

June 2025

In 1986, during an intensive cultural resources survey for the City of Aurora of a large area that would be inundated by a reservoir behind the proposed Senac Dam, archaeologists from Powers Elevation Co., Inc., an Aurora archaeological consulting firm, discovered and recorded the Senac Site (5AH.380). This area has since been renamed the Aurora Reservoir and is administered by the City of Aurora (Figure 1). The site was initially recorded as a large, diffuse scatter of lithic (stone) artifacts made of silicified wood, with a quarry source at the west end and a fire hearth feature in the northeast corner. The site covered more than 5 acres and straddled Senac Creek. Bison bones were discovered eroding out of a nearby stream cutbank (Figure 2). Evaluative testing at the site revealed that the site contained significant buried cultural materials. A charcoal sample collected from the hearth returned a radiocarbon age estimate of 1060±80 radiocarbon years before present, placing at least one occupation during the Early Ceramic period of the Colorado eastern plains.

In 1987, Powers conducted extensive excavations at the site, the purpose of which was to mitigate any potential damage caused by construction of the reservoir. The excavations recovered thousands of artifacts, including chipped stone, groundstone, bone tools, and ceramic sherds (Figure 3). Site occupants hunted and ate mostly pronghorn and deer, supplemented by prairie dogs. Pollen recovered from the site indicated that the regional climate was warmer and drier than the periods immediately preceding and following the occupation(s) of the site. Research conducted at the Senac Site has greatly expanded our understanding of the Early Ceramic period in eastern Colorado.

In 2023, the Senac Site was designated Aurora Historic Landmark #33. It is also the third archaeological landmark in the city, joining the Toll Gate Creek Archaeological Site (#21) and the Smoky Hill Historic Marker (#22). Artifacts

collected from the site are now curated at the Aurora History Museum.



Figure 1. Vicinity of the Senac Site near the Aurora Reservoir, looking northwest.



Figure 2. Bison skull from Senac Creek cutbank (AHM Collection)



Figure 3. Representative artifacts collected from excavations at the Senac Site: left, stone projectile point

¹ Details in this article are excerpted from [Aurora Landmark Properties Nomination Form for the Senac Dam Site \(5AH.380\)](#), prepared by Gordon C. Tucker Jr. and Todd

Christopher McMahon, June 2022. On file at the Aurora History Museum.



**Aurora Historical Society 30 September meeting
Hammering Out Human Rights
6:00pm at the Aurora History Museum**

Our speaker for the evening is



Susan Marie Frontczak

Living History Portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt at the September 30 meeting of the Aurora Historical Society.

Ms. Frontczak's topic for the evening is titled "Hammering Out Human Rights - Eleanor Roosevelt and the United Nations." According to the Storysmith website (Eleanor Roosevelt Living History by Storysmith), in this portrayal "Eleanor Roosevelt speaks of the ground-breaking, grueling, tempestuous, and eventually triumphant development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a Magna Carta for humankind. You may be surprised to find out how important Human Rights are to your life, and to the potential longevity of the United States."

To date, Susan Marie has given over 190 living history presentations as Eleanor Roosevelt across 20 of the United States, reaching over 27,000 people. Susan Marie's motto is, "Give me a place to stand, and I will take you somewhere else."

**From our May 27, 2025 AHS regular meeting
Pot Luck & Election of Officers**

Program- Pot Luck and Election of Officers

Speaker: Chuck Stout



Our May speaker was Chuck Stout, Curator at Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum. Chuck gave us a marvelous presentation of the historic aircraft, artifacts and memorabilia that are housed at the Wings Over The Rockies Museum. He brought to life how the aviation industry has evolved and how it continues to change. What an enjoyable time.

The meeting was also a chance for everyone to partake in the wonderful buffet that was provided by the Aurora Historical Society and the pot luck dishes that the members brought. It also was the venue to elect the officers for the 2025-2026 term.





Date: 30 September

Topic / Speaker: Elenor Roosevelt – Re-enactment - Speaker – Susan Frontczak

Susan Marie Frontczak of Storysmith who will give a Living History Portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt at the September 30 meeting of the Aurora Historical Society. Ms. Frontczak's topic for the evening is titled "Hammering Out Human Rights - Eleanor Roosevelt and the United Nations." According to the Storysmith website ([Eleanor Roosevelt Living History by Storysmith](#)), in this portrayal "Eleanor Roosevelt speaks of the ground-breaking, grueling, tempestuous, and eventually triumphant development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a Magna Carta for humankind. You may be surprised to find out how important Human Rights are to your life, and to the potential longevity of the United States."

Date: 25 November

Topic / Speaker: Colorado Freedom Memorial – Rick Crandall

Preview In 2000, Rick Crandall stood at the Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, broadcasting a tribute that would ignite a vision. That moment marked the beginning of his journey to create the Colorado Freedom Memorial. Dedicated twelve years later, the memorial honors more than 6,000 Coloradans who gave their lives in service to freedom. Its tilted glass panels evoke the image of fallen heroes, while the unalphabetized names reflect the harrowing disorder of war.

Today, Mr. Crandall and the CFM Board are leading efforts to build an education center on the memorial grounds—a space designed to serve and inspire the broader community. The Aurora Historical Society is honored to welcome Mr. Crandall to share progress and insights into this next chapter.

2026

Date: 27 January

Topic / Speaker: Western History – Speaker TBD

Your presentation committee is actively seeking a captivating speaker to share rich, historic stories from our region. The upcoming program may explore the storied trail systems that traversed Colorado—or perhaps recount the dramatic tale of the Cottonwood Dam collapse. Whatever the focus, you can count on an engaging, enlightening, and memorable experience. Stay tuned!

Date: 31 March

Topic / Speaker: Sci Fi Land – Keith Outcalt

What boasts a 38-story Ferris wheel, a holographic zoo, a 1,000-lane bowling alley staffed by robots, jetpack-equipped security, and fourteen Las Vegas-style dinner theaters known as the “Pavilions of Joy”? According to *Westword*, the answer is Science Fiction Land.

To learn the incredible story behind this imaginative theme park—and its surprising ties to Aurora—join us at the March meeting. The tale of Sci-Fi Land is, quite literally, *out of this world*.

Date: 26 May

Topic / Speaker: Nature in Aurora – Speaker - TBD

This month's speaker at the potluck will spotlight *Nature in Aurora*. Our presentation committee is seeking a speaker to share rare and little-known stories that reveal the natural wonders woven through our city. From the High Line Canal to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, we're exploring topics that will inspire us as we step into spring. Watch this space for updates!



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: Aurora and WWII



World War II brought changes to the small town of Aurora. In 1939, at the start of the war, Aurora was a

town of approximately 3,400. The war brought changes as Fitzsimons expanded in 1941, Lowry Air Force Base became an important training facility and Buckley was established in 1942. With all those military facilities Aurora was bound to grow. So much so that by 1950 the population had grown to 11,000, triple what it was 10 years earlier. I'm sure many Aurora residents, both new and old, have stories to tell about how those facilities brought them to Aurora.

Aurora was still small enough that Lowry used an area around the Aurora Reservoir as a bombing range. In August 2024 a construction crew found a training bomb



Aurora is now the home for the Colorado Freedom Memorial, located at 756 Telluride St. where names of Colorado veterans killed in action are recorded on the glass panels. Work is underway to build a Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor Center on the site.



Colorado Freedom Memorial

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

1. Jul 1958 – Who was suspended with pay as City Manager? [Vol 11 No 34]
 - a. Paul Beck
 - b. Earl Sandquist
 - c. William Mansfield



2. Aug 1961 – Parking time limit on Colfax in the Florence block changed? [Vol 14 No 40]
 - a. From One hour to 90 minutes
 - b. From One hour to three hours
 - c. From One hour to two hours



3. Jul 1964 – Aurora purchased 115.8 acres along Tollgate Creek from? [Vol 16 No 37]
 - a. Sam Hoffman
 - b. Morris Bros Construction Co.
 - c. City of Denver



City Finalizes \$900K Land Purchase

4. Aug 1967 – A traffic fatality in August 1967 ended how long of a streak without a traffic fatality in Aurora? [Vol 19 No 40]
 - a. 20 months
 - b. 14 months
 - c. 28 months



5. Jul 1970 – Jim Nosewicz set a course record at the Aurora Municipal Golf course with a score of? [Vol 23 No 37]
 - a. 64
 - b. 66
 - c. 65



On Display in the East Hallway

Aurora Museum Exhibits

Aurora's Historic Photos

Aurora's Short Track: Century 21 Speedway



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.

Community Gallery: Jun 17 – Nov 2, 2025

From 1971 to 1974, the grasslands just south of present-day Denver International Airport rumbled with the noise of dragsters, stock cars and thousands of cheering fans. The Century 21 International Speedway once promised to place Aurora at the heart of the regional motorsports' scene. With a quarter-mile drag strip, a paved oval and figure-eight circuit, Century 21 was a bold and ambitious venue. Visitors to the exhibition will learn about other iconic Front Range tracks and prominent local drivers of the early 1970's.



Prehistoric Aurora

April 22, 2025 to April 5, 2026

Aurorans know the picturesque view of the snowcapped Rocky Mountains or the golden plains with the pronghorn roaming. But what did Aurora look like one million years ago with mammoths and giant sloths. "Prehistoric Aurora" is a journey through geologic time that will take you on a ride through the story of earth's ancient past to the present; showing some of the fossilized plants and animals discovered in Colorado and literally, right here in Aurora's backyard", said T. Scott Williams, Director of the Aurora History Museum "we hope that this immersive exhibit excites and educates visitors of all ages to explore the earth's past and to imagine what life would have been like, when dinosaurs roamed the planet".

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
Schmunk, Ruth
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
Harding, Julie
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



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 (2019-2025)
Tucker, Dr. Gordon (2025-present)

AURORA

ADVOCATE

"YOUR HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER"

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Adams County Office: 2356 Lima
A Photo-Offset Newspaper Published Every Thursday
In Aurora, Colorado

Empire 6-2626
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Advertisements in the Aurora Advocate

July, 1958 – Vol. 11 No. 36

August 1964 – Vol. 16 No. 42

July 1970 - Vol. 23 No. 35

People's People

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WALK-UP WINDOWS, 9:15 A.M. to 3 P.M.
REGULAR, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. — Open until 6 P.M. Friday

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take a close look...

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People's Bank: 9635 Montview
Aurora National Bank: Colfax & Ironton



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

From 1958



Movie: Vertigo
TV show: The Danny Thomas Show
Music Album: Only The Lonely – Frank Sinatra