



Sumner House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
39 East Elm Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172-2026 (630-351-5300)

Email: museummanager@rosellehistory.org

Website: www.rosellehistory.org

Summer 2021

There's Always Next Year

THE ANNUAL ROSE PARADE has been canceled again this year, but there's always next year. In the meantime, let's look at some of the floats that appeared in earlier parades. (*Thanks to the Barclays, Yosts, Mikeses, and the digital archives for these photographs.*)

30 Years Ago



The float on the upper right, entered by the Roselle Historical Foundation, won first prize in the 1991 Rose Parade competition in the "Community" category. The false front represents the Sumner House Museum, 102 S. Prospect St. The basic "building" was constructed by Gavin Barclay. The finishing—paint (which was gray at the time), roofing material, curtains, flowers, and other décor—was done by RHM volunteers.



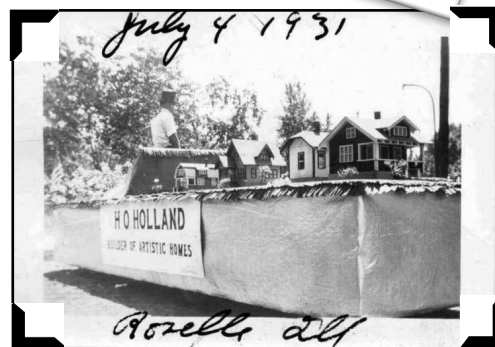
61 Years Ago Shirl's Drive-In entered its float in the 1960 Rose Parade. It depicts one of the most popular items on their menu: the banana split.



69 Years Ago (See this one on video) In 1952 or 1953, the Mikes family's float, titled, "Dogpatch Junction," featured members of the family. A must-see is the three-minute video. For some old-fashioned, hometown fun, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6FE6X4HI_Y.



90 Years Ago H.O. Holland, Builder of Artistic Homes, entered this unusual float in the July 4, 1931, Parade. Several of the models resemble houses in Roselle. Yes, those are miniature houses on the float!



Shirl's Drive-In - Ah, Those Were the Days

In 1958, Shirley DeWulf opened a tiny hamburger place at 6 S. Prospect initially called "Dairy Castle," and later, "Shirl's Drive-In." Two years later, she sold it to her sister and brother-in-law, Marion and Victor Yost, and the rest is history.



One of the most memorable days for the Yosts was in January 1967, when the entire Chicago area was covered with 23 inches of snow. The Yosts didn't expect anyone would be out, so they decided to stay home that day. As it turned out, dozens of people were stranded at

Twenty-five years later (1983), referring to the decision to buy the place, Victor said, "We'd try it and see if it worked out, and here we are still trying it."



Who knew! That tiny hamburger place, where teenagers, young families, established families, and businesspeople gathered for good food and homespun friendliness,

would become an icon. Maybe they ordered a cheeseburger and chocolate shake, a homemade BBQ beef sandwich, a bowl of homemade chili, a banana split, or a soft-serve ice cream. It was all good enough to return time and time again, for 42 years.

In the early years, Shirl's was open from April through Labor Day. Eventually, it was open year-round. The Yosts worked long hours, although while their children were young, Marion spent more time at home where she helped with the bookkeeping. Eventually, the children grew up and they, too, worked in the restaurant. Their oldest son, Ken, said, "It was the easiest job to get and the hardest to get rid of."

In 1962, Ethel Vana, who became known "Ma," came to work for the Yosts and stayed for 30+ years. During that time, she captured the hearts of the customers, particularly the teenagers. She said that when you worked there, you became part of a family, and according to Victor, "She was the key to our success."



During the 1960s, customers didn't even have to get out of their cars. Car hops took their orders at their cars and returned shortly with their meals. This service was discontinued in 1969. Then, customers enjoyed eating at picnic tables, outdoors, under the canopy.

the Roselle train station. Police officers brought them to the police station. One of the officers called the Yosts and asked them to open so the people could have some nourishment. The police picked up Marion and Victor in a squad car, prompting Victor to comment, "That's the first time I've ever been picked up by the police."



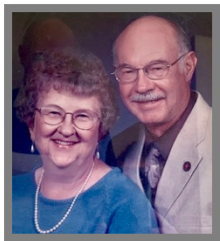
Shirl's Drive-In sported a whole new look in 1968, when an addition was built onto the front of the building. This provided a dining room where more people could be served. In the 1980s, the old jukebox was replaced with the video arcade games. (It should be noted here that the pinball machine is still in the family. The Yosts' grandson purchased it at the auction before the building was razed.)

Shirl's meant so much to two sisters who had worked there, (Kathy Kroll and Dianne Bechtold, nee Reiser) that they drove the circle around Shirl's on their respective wedding days, cheering and beeping horns.

There is no way Victor and Marion can name all the people who worked for them, but each and every one of them is remembered affectionately.

Marion and Victor Yost meet former employees and customers wherever they go. When they were at the Space Needle in Seattle, a former customer approached

Victor from behind, whispering “I’ll have a cheeseburger and a chocolate shake.” Another former customer spotted Victor in Springfield and stopped to say hello. They even ran into former customers in Hawaii.



The Yosts met at Elgin High School. They lived in Elgin at the time they bought the store. They then moved to Roselle and lived in an apartment above Roselle Gardens Tavern until they bought their home.

They raised four children—Ken, Kathy, Karen, and Kevin—and have nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. All their children and two of their grandchildren worked at Shirl’s.

Marion and Victor hung up their aprons in 1998, when Glenn Cardin and Greg Everhart took over the business. Shirl’s remained a staple in Roselle until the Main Street Station project began two years later.

Shirl’s Drive-In is no more. The entrance into the drive-in is now the extension of Main St. from Prospect St. to Roselle Rd. Condos and new businesses have replaced the small businesses of yore.

Thanks for the Memories, Shirl’s

Space permits us to print only a few of the many vignettes shared by Shirl’s fans. To see more, visit facebook.com/rosellehistorymuseum.

Milan Bagel In our early days in Roselle, Ruth and I loved to bicycle around Roselle and its surrounding communities. One day after a long ride to Glen Ellyn Rd. and North Ave., we headed back home to treat ourselves to a sundae at Shirl’s. Those of you who knew Ruth probably remember that she often dressed in all white during the warm weather. She even worked in the garden in a white pants suit without getting dirty.

It was a warm day and Shirl’s was crowded. As we worked our way up to order, someone stepped on one of those little plastic bags of catsup. It exploded, and all of a sudden Ruth looked like she had been shot in the back. Several ladies screamed and when Ruth realized what had happened, instead of being mad, she joined in with the laughter. We did get our sundaes, and eventually pedaled back home. Every future trip to Shirl’s brought a smile!

Miles Wisniewski I’ll start by saying that I’ll never forget Shirl’s because it was where I met my first love: mozzarella sticks. I know Lou and I have talked about our love of their arcade games. They only had room for 2 or 3, plus a pinball machine, but Spy Hunter was our game of choice. Mozzarella sticks, a shake, and Spy Hunter, what more did you need in the world as a kid?

Kathy Barclay Goedecker In 1965-66, my dad and my uncle built our house on Greenwood Ct. Since they were building it themselves, we children were their “laborers” after school (on Chicago’s West Side) and on weekends. We were tasked with duties that other kids our ages weren’t: mixing mortar, hauling lumber, carrying bricks and stone, tapping nails, etc. I didn’t fully appreciate that “opportunity” until my adulthood, but there were immediate rewards for our labor every now and then. The best of those was a trip to Shirl’s for a cheeseburger and root beer when the day’s work was done. Shirl’s Drive-In was the first business I remember in Roselle. A visit to Shirl’s was a great treat for a hard day’s work and will always be one of many wonderful memories of our special family project.

Marcy Mathis My dad used to send me up to the drug store for pipe tobacco. I would run like a maniac, get the tobacco, fix my hair, and spend the next 5 minutes at Shirl’s—just casually hanging out—and then run like a maniac back home. Everyone was always there, so it was worth the super human effort, and you might even get a date for that night!

Mary Wisniewski I remember I had a mission to try every sundae flavor—cherry, pineapple, etc. I went through them all with critical determination. I usually just wanted a regular vanilla sundae with chocolate syrup, but I worried that if I didn’t try them all, I’d miss out on a life-changing experience.

Faith Little Whitwell I loved sitting at the counter to eat. A kiddie burger for 25 cents was my usual. One time I was there with a friend and didn’t have enough money for a drink to go with my kiddie burger. The owner poured a drink and then walked over to me and said he had “accidentally” poured it and offered it to me free. I knew it was not an accident, as I watched him do it. A small gesture I have never forgotten.



Another time I was there getting some ice cream and two young boys were in front of me in line. When they asked who was next, they sweetly said, “You can go ahead of us, ma’am.” Which was very nice, but since I was only 21 at the time, the word ma’am caught me totally off guard.

Jan Ferrero Gore My husband, Kurt, and I purchased this sign at the auction before (Shirl’s) was torn down.



(See more Shirl’s Memories on Page 7)

A History of Roselle United Methodist Church

By Donna Benson
Part 2 of 2

Donna Benson concludes her two-part presentation of the history of the Methodist Church in Roselle. In Part 2, she brings readers from the building of the new church on Rush St. in 1956 to the present-day ministries being carried out by the multi-generational congregation members.

The congregation that formed the Roselle United Methodist Church dates back to the 1830s. It found its roots in some of the earliest settlers of this area: the Meacham brothers. They were followers of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church.

The story of this congregation is the story of mid-America, its growth, its challenges, and its changes. These Wesleyans were guided by the belief that a life based on brotherly love promised a bright future for all.

After World War II and into the 1950s, the Sunday School population at the original church at Park and Pine grew astronomically. Classes overflowed the basement and began creeping upstairs to the sanctuary.

On March 16, 1954, the congregation voted 78-4 to construct a new building. M/M Walter Turner (parents of Howard, Charles, and Ruth) donated a new site at Rush and Woodworth. Fundraising began immediately.

Architect Don Bessey thought he could build a 5,100 square foot structure for an estimated \$70,000. The committee members talked him down to \$58,000. They estimated a \$586.27 weekly contribution for three years would finance the building, thereby eliminating the need for a mortgage.

During the construction, the entire congregation, under the encouraging leadership of Rev. Herbert F. Langdon, donated their time and labor. They dug the foundation, helped install the plumbing and electrical work, laid tile, painted walls, made curtains. Everyone did what they

could to make the new church a reality. The congregation celebrated Christmas Eve in their new church home at 206 S. Rush St. On January 6, 1956, Bishop J. Ralph Mages officiated at the Consecration Service.

That same year, when Rev. Carl A. Sattleberg was appointed to the church, the need for a parsonage became immediate. Again, the Turner family donated the

site on East Thorndale, and, once again, church members shared their skills and time to build the new parsonage.

Back on Rush St., the new church facilities, a fine educational program, and friendly people attracted many new members. The north education wing was added in 1960. By

1967, the need for a second addition to the west became

undeniable. Completed in 1969, it provided an enlarged kitchen, a parlor, a youth room, and four more classrooms.

By 1981, the 25th anniversary of the new church, the membership grew from 171 with a single pastor to nearly 1,000 with a staff of two pastors, a secretary, a choir director/organist, a youth choir director, three choirs, custodians, and a nursery school staff. And so, the Roselle United Methodist Church continues to grow through its numerous ministries.

(Right: Earl Crandall, charter member and long-term finance chairman, places a time capsule into the cornerstone – 1955)



2019: Roselle United Methodist Church, 206 S. Rush St.



The Ministry of Music: Music as a means of expressing the message of God's presence in our lives has always been a most cherished tradition. The hymns of Charles Wesley were more melodic and livelier in tempo than most traditional hymns. Some say Charles Wesley took his inspiration from the melodies enjoyed in the beer halls of 18th Century England. Whatever his inspiration, Methodists have long been known as vibrant singers. The RUMC celebrates a century of choral music—a vital part of worship. It is our commitment to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” (Ps100KJV). In the 1920s and 1930s, the choir was at the heart of the congregation. The church employed student pastors from Garrett Biblical Institute, most of whom served one year. They conducted Sunday services while maintaining residence at the seminary in Evanston.



(Back) _____, Calvin Whitney, Rev. Hamilton, Redford Dove, Lyell Saxon (Front) Ann Clucas, Shirley Sanforn, _____, Mrs. Hamilton, Doris Whitney, Director Hazel Turner

It was the women of the congregation who made sure the Sunday School provided Christian education, who planned the potluck dinners, who quilted the quilts for fundraisers, brought fresh flowers for the altar, and sang their best on Sunday. The women performed all the day-to-day labors that transform a church building into a congregation of the faithful.

The music reflected changes in the times. The Senior High School Folk Singers reverberated with the sounds of the late 1960s. More of the choral offerings began to reflect contemporary Christian music heard on the radio.



All the Choirs-1966

At Thursday night choir practice, the appealing influences of *Godspell* breathed a new life into much of the music. In 1992, the Praise Group formed, and its monthly performances have continued to this day. During the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Kim, a monthly church service featured contemporary adult music. Also, on a once-a-month format, the Bell Choir has added a delightful new dimension to Sunday morning services.

With welcoming hearts and hands, the choirs have joined with other churches to create special musical events. Thanksgiving services join 5-6 Methodist choirs at alternating locations. We have hosted the Rust College Choir from as far away as Mississippi and combined with the next-door Christian Tabernacle Choir of Roselle. Christmas and spring concerts have brought forth enthusiastic acclaim from all present. The beat goes on.

The Missions: Throughout its history, our church has dedicated itself to serving the needs of missions. Early records show the Ladies Aid Society provided funds from quilting and bake sales. The quilting ladies earned one dollar (\$1) for each spool of thread they used. Native American missions were a common recipient of support, and the children of congregation members became part of the project. On his or her birthday, a child could deposit a penny or nickel—for each birthday he or she had reached—into a bank designed to look like a church. Then the whole Sunday School sang *Happy Birthday* to that child. The joy of giving was a lesson to be learned early. (See more on Page 6.)

The Preschool: A growing awareness of the need for early childhood education formed the basis for the Roselle United Methodist Preschool. Under the directorship of Leona Peters, the preschool opened its doors in January 1966. The church loaned the school \$500 to purchase equipment and to install a connecting door between two classrooms.

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)

PADS was formed in 1985 to provide overnight sleeping, shower and bathroom facilities, as well as dinner, breakfast, and a take-away lunch for the growing homeless population in DuPage County. (See more on Page 6.)

The RUMC Community Food Pantry

In 2014, under the leadership of Rev. Melissa Hood, Leanne McRill, and Vicki Johnson, the Food Pantry began its work with the goal of ending hunger in Roselle and making a measurable difference in the community. (See more on Page 6.)



We are, indeed, a Church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

Roselle United Methodist Church

Ministries

(The following are more details from contributor Donna Benson about the various ministries through which the RUMC reaches out to the community and to the world.)

Missions: Beginning in 1983, high school students with youth directors and adult chaperones began making annual mission trips designed to improve the living conditions of people in need.

From 1985 to 1995, the youth group went to Cairo (IL) to work on Habitat for Humanity projects restoring houses. At the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, Cairo had been a prominent shipping center for over a century. With the advent of coast-to-coast highways and the speed of long-haul trucking, decently paid employment plummeted.



Student Daniel Huntsha remembers that it was “sticky hot” work. “We knocked down walls,” he said, “hung drywall, replaced plumbing and windows—interior work. The new (home) owners who worked should-to-shoulder with us, were intensely grateful for our help.

“For many of us, it was our first look at the meaning of poverty. These people, in spite of everything, were filled with hope that God would lead them to a brighter future. For me, it proved the



great need for volunteerism. Everyone can work toward helping create better days for his fellow man. We all agreed we received much, much more than we gave.”

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These missions have taken members to Wisconsin, Colorado, Mexico, Michigan, West Virginia, Haiti, North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Minnesota, Illinois, and Arkansas. Closer to home, the Night Mission provides, on a monthly basis, meals, blankets, and clothing to the homeless of Rogers Park.

Most recently, Rev. Zaki has organized mission trips to refugee camps in Greece, Israel, and Jordan. The Jordan camp currently houses the largest number of Syrian refugees in the Near East. Medical teams composed of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, combined with religious leaders and nutritionists, brought their skills to ease the plight of the people.

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS): Originally, PADS operated seven days a week from October through April. RUMC members worked the fourth Monday of each month at St. Walter’s Church in Roselle with accommodations for 35 persons. During the 1990s, as the homeless population rose, PADS moved to St. Isadore’s in Bloomingdale which had room for 70+ men, women, and children. Year-round service became available.

The impact of COVID-19 forced the north division of the PADS program out of local churches and into three hotels in Downers Grove and Naperville. Central DuPage Hospital now sterilizes the sheets. The hotels provide minimal services. As long-time director Cindy Sheely explained, “Food preparation and delivery has become increasingly hard work. Our rewards come in knowing we have performed acts of caring and kindness.”

Food Pantry: From the first day to today, the goal has been to provide for the working poor. Roselle has a poverty rate of 4.5 percent, or approximately 900 people. Food stamps and other governmental programs exist for these affected persons. In the early days, about 24 families received a one month’s allotment of food, toiletries, cleaning products, and paper goods.



Originally, the Pantry had one residential freezer and one refrigerator. But the needs of the community have grown at an alarming rate. Thanks to the support of corporations and food vendors, the Pantry now has seven double commercial freezers, five coolers and refrigerators, and 2,500 square feet of space for canned and dry goods. We now feed 85 families each month. The retail value of these provisions for a large family is about \$700.

At present, the Pantry is desperately seeking a handicap-accessible warehouse in Roselle. The need continues to grow as many have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of Amazon Fresh, we are able to help two other food pantries in northern DuPage and a ministry that feeds refugees.

More Memories from Shirl's

Bill Watkins I remember going to Shirl's when they were having their banana split contests. The employee who sold the most would win a prize. I went every day to buy one so that my brother's then girlfriend, Nancy HOFFIE, (now my sister-in-law) would win.

Ellen Barclay Watkins I went to Shirl's quite often to pick up lunch for my sister and me. At the time, my sister worked next door at Silver Lining. I had French fries with the best ketchup!

Sue Dohe It was the best place to get sodas, shakes, and any kind of food. Mrs. Vana was always on top of everything. Miss that old-fashioned, down-to-earth place.

Brian Elliot My girlfriend in HS worked at Shirl's—Joanie Kroll. It was a great place to hang out to see friends and hot cars.

David Edward I used to ride my bike to Shirl's to get ice cream and play the asteroids arcade game. Anyone take a tour of the Classic Boat Co. located behind Shirl's? Me and my dad did when I was about 10.

Jay Mikes I saw Vic (Yost) about five years ago at a Lake Park basketball game at Northern Illinois. When I worked for him the summer before my jr. year in high school, I think I made \$1.10/hr., min. wage. I cleaned up, washed windows, cracked hamburgers (separated the frozen patties), and was the French Fries dummy during the lunch and dinner rush. My sisters Judy and Joy also worked for Vic before I did. He was a good boss.

MEV	CAR NO.	TIME	LOCAL
		IN	OUT
LARGE HAMBURGER ET. PL.			.35
NO. M K O P T L			
FISH SANDWICH TS CS			.40
ONION RINGS			.30
FRENCH FRIES			.25
CHEESEBURGER ET. PL.			.45
NO. M K O P T L			
ITALIAN BEEP - PIPPERS			.50
KID. BURG. ET. PL. M K O R			.20
BAR-B-Q BEEF			.45
STEAK SAND. ET. PL.			.45
CUBE STEAK ET.			.45
GRILL CHEESE			.30
HOT DOG ET. PL. M K O R			.25
CHILI DOG			.35
CHICKEN DINNER			1.45
TROUT DINNER TS CS			1.35
SHRIMP DINNER TS CS			1.35
21 SHRIMP BASKET TS CS			1.25
CAR COUNTER OUT WINDO			
KIDDIE CONES			
10¢ VAN. K.K. DIP 5¢			
15¢ VAN. K.K. DIP 5¢			
25¢ VAN. K.K. DIP 5¢			
10¢ CHOC. K.K. DIP 5¢			
15¢ CHOC. K.K. DIP 5¢			
25¢ CHOC. K.K. DIP 5¢			
BANANA SPLIT			.60
LA. SUNDAE CHOC. S HP P			.40
R. SUNDAE CHOC. S HP P			.30
QUARTS VAN. CHOC.			.55
PINTS VAN. CHOC.			.30
SHAKES CHOC V S P			.30
MALTS CHOC. V S P			.35
SODAS CHOC. S P R			.25
ROOT BEER FLOAT			.30
JUNIOR SHAKES			.30
SNOW CONES			.10
COKE			.15
ROOT BEER			.15
ORANGE			.15
LEMON-LIME			.15
MILK CHOC.			.20
HOT CHOC.			.25
COFFEE BK S C			.12
			.15
SHIRL'S DRIVE-IN LA 9-5127			
		SUB TOTAL	
		TAX	
		TOTAL	



What Else is New!

We're Baaaaack! The Museum will reopen on Thursday, July 1. For more information, contact Leslie Drewitz at museummanager@rosellehistory.org or call 630-351-5300.

Thank you, SSG Joe Messineo for your service!

Joe is home after being deployed in Afghanistan since January 2020. **Flags for Roselle** welcomed him home recently with a special display of flags in Turner Park; a



procession led by the Roselle FD and Roselle PD; yellow ribbons tied to 40 trees on his tree-lined street; and finally his family at his home. Welcome home to Roselle! (photo by David Pileski)

Historical Evening will be held in October. Tom

Piorkowski will present a program about humor in the presidency and politics. See details in next newsletter.

Centennial Committee continues to put together ideas for how the History Museum will celebrate Roselle's Centennial in 2022. If you'd like to be a part of this committee, call the Museum Office, 630-351-5300, or send an email to museummanager@rosellehistory.org.

Thank You Note to

JEFF O'DELL for his support of and enthusiasm for the Roselle History Museum and the Flags for Roselle program. Jeff has been the Village Administrator for 21 years. Our best wishes on your well-deserved retirement.

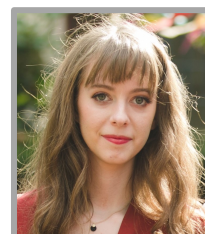


Like to Type? The Museum is looking for help

typing the taped oral interviews that are being conducted for the next few months. Contact Leslie Drewitz at 630-701-5015 if you'd like to volunteer to do this.

Ever Wonder?

Ever wonder how the Museum staff keeps track of all the artifacts and documents in its inventory? The slow, tedious process takes a skilled person to examine, identify, and add a description to each of the thousands of items in the collection. During the past year, when the Museum was at a standstill, **ABIGAIL ATWOOD** was contracted, on a part-time basis, to catalog the collection and bring the latest technology to the project. Abby's resume is impressive: BA in Art History, an MA in Museum & Exhibition Studies from the U of I at Chicago, along with extensive experience in the field. It is anticipated that this huge undertaking should be completed by the end of the year.



ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E ELM ST
ROSELLE IL 60172



Summer 2021

"The American flag represents all of us and all the values we hold sacred." (Andrian Cronauer)

Mission Statement

To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas

To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be our village history and pride tomorrow

To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors

Board of Directors & Staff

President: Ray Hitzemann

VP/Treas: Glenn Spachman

Secretary: Tom Piorkowski

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Lee Beauprez, John Binneboese,
Wayne Domke, Tim Grasso,
Hank Kvintus, Walter Lotz

Museum Mgr: Leslie Drewitz

Marketing Mgr: Keri Soukup

Asst. Collections Mgr: Abby Atwood

General Meetings

Second Saturday of the Month
10-11:30 a.m.

Museum Office – 39 E. Elm St.

Museum Hours

Reopening July 1 – See Insert

Newsletter Deadlines

Jan 25 – April 25 – July 25 – Oct 25

Editor: Kay Cahill

editor@rosellehistory.org

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

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Email Address _____

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Circle one: \$30 \$50* \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

_____ *My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the *Remembering Roselle* history book.

I am interested in helping in one of the areas of the Foundation's work. Circle one:

Computer/Clerical * Docent * Exhibits * Parade Float * Research * Single Event * Buildings/Grounds

The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible. Summer 2021