

**FRVHS  
Board Members**

Museum phone:  
(541)576-2251  
email:  
frmuseum@centurylink.net  
[www.fortrockoregon.com](http://www.fortrockoregon.com)  
Be our friend on Facebook!

Nancy Bowers, President  
Jay Dunbar, Vice President  
Judy Fine, Secretary  
Jana Kittredge, Treasurer  
Don Franks, Board Member

Jana Kittredge, Editor  
[bellagrafa@yahoo.com](mailto:bellagrafa@yahoo.com)—please  
send newsletter information

**Reminder:**  
**Please renew your  
annual membership!  
\$20.00 for an individual  
membership; \$30.00 for  
the family membership.**

**Checks payable to :  
Fort Rock Valley  
Historical Society  
PO Box 84  
Fort Rock, OR 97735**

Your annual membership  
receives this newsletter and  
free entrance to the museum.

**Museum Welcomes  
Author with  
Book Signing Event:  
Jane Kirkpatrick**

*Central Oregon (Bend)  
Author visits Fort Rock  
Homestead Village Museum  
Saturday, July 1, 2017!*

Make plans to meet Jane  
Kirkpatrick at her Book Signing Event and Presentation at  
Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum  
Saturday, July 1, 2017  
1:00 - 4:30pm

At 2:00 a presentation will be given by Jane Kirkpatrick in Sunset  
Schoolhouse on the museum grounds.

Join Central Oregon author, Jane Kirkpatrick as she shares her  
special works with history, landscape, research, relationships and  
spirituality that untangle her stories. Weaving the stories of our  
lives, she develops main characters in her stories as women of  
history, hopeful and seeking peace, love and grace using American  
history and pioneer spirit.

A New York Times Bestselling author, Kirkpatrick's works have  
appeared in more than 50 national publications including The  
Oregonian, Private Pilot and Daily Guideposts. With more than 1.5  
million books in print, her 30 novels and non-fiction titles draw  
readers from all ages and genders. Most are historical novels based  
on the lives of actual historical women often about ordinary women  
who lived extraordinary lives. Her works have won numerous  
national awards. More notably, she received the prestigious  
Wrangler Award from the Western Heritage and National Cowboy  
Museum in 1996 for her *first* novel, *A Sweetness to the Soul*.

Book sales will benefit the museum.

Door prizes will be awarded during the presentation.

Many titles will be available for purchase and signed by the author.  
Don't miss this exciting time at the historic Homestead Village  
Museum in Fort Rock.

Find more information about Jane Kirkpatrick and her books on her  
website at [jkbooks.com](http://jkbooks.com)



### **New Board members have been Elected**

Three new members of the Board of Directors were elected at the annual membership meeting November 8, 2016. Elected were Jana Kittredge, Judy Fine, and Jay Dunbar, all longtime residents of the Fort Rock Valley. Pictured l-r: Nancy Bowers, Jana Kittredge, Jay Dunbar, Don Franks.



Judy Fine is a Charter Member of the Fort Rock Valley Historical Society. She has lived in the area since 1975. She has been active in the community as a 4H leader for over 30 years. She has also taught adult education classes at Central Oregon Community College. She has a special interest in the Homestead Museum. The FRVHS board of directors are happy to welcome her back to active service at the museum. Her experience in the history of the formation of the museum is highly valued.

Jay Dunbar worked for the US Forest Service, in the Fort Rock Valley, from 1975 to 1998, in Silver Lake. Still with the Forest Service, he worked in Nebraska and Wyoming, as well as stints in Washington, DC as well as working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington State. He returned to the Valley in 2012, to reside in a home he had owned since 1981. Jay attended Navy OCS and served for three years, obtained a degree at West Virginia University in forestry and, later, a graduate degree at Colorado State University.

Jana Kittredge married into a historic homestead family, is a long time rancher in the Fort Rock Valley, producing alfalfa hay, and Black Angus cattle. She has been a community volunteer with special interest in preservation of the history of the Fort Rock Valley. She is the newsletter editor of the Fort Rock Historical Society Newsletter, active in the Fort Rock Grange, North Lake School and Oregon Women for Agriculture. She is a graduate of San Francisco State University with a BA in Communications, and has worked for several TV stations before being coaxed to the Valley.

Continuing board members are President Nancy Bowers and Vice President Don Franks, also long-time residents of Fort Rock Valley.

In Fort Rock, we mourn the passing of our beloved Lowell Franks. FRVHS dedicated member and volunteer for many years, Lowell was a friend to so many.



Visitors to the museum may remember Lowell and brother Don for their tireless (and sleepless, sometimes rising at 3AM to protect from frost), devotion to our beautiful and productive museum garden.

But Lowell was known well beyond our small town. He won ribbons for vegetables entered in the Lake County Fair. And he was known to the wider birding world, as one of the team, which included his brother Don, who did so much to help birds and birders; he was coach and mentor to so many. And all who knew him will remember his modesty and sense of humor. Lowell was just a nice guy.

He showed up every day for the museum garden, even when he could barely make it from the visitors center to the garden without sitting on the steps of the church for a rest. He knew his day was coming, as did we all. His passing makes a big hole in our lives at the museum and for everyone he touched.

Frank George III, local photographer who utilizes the museum grounds annually for his work recalls: The Homestead Garden is special, it is seeded and regenerates the seeds from the original homesteads of the Fort Rock Valley. Lowell and his brother, Don Franks and other volunteers at the museum have visited the sites of the original homesteads in north Lake County and collected stock from the settlers gardens and brought them here to join many of the buildings also brought here for preservation. Lowell Franks passed on December 23, 2017, survived by his brother Don. I had a few brief moments with these two, who allowed me to take a few photos. "I'm sure the pleasure of the time was mine, they are quite a pair."

Homestead Village Museum  
opens for the season May 25th  
Open Thurs - Sun, 11am-5pm  
Last tour at 4:30pm  
Memorial Day - 2nd weekend in September

## History Grant Awarded from Lake County Cultural Coalition

Fort Rock Valley Historical Society received History Grant from Lake County Cultural Coalition for the 2017 season. The grant will help with wages for the museum host to share the history of the Fort Rock Homestead era and history of the area through educational information when visitors enter the museum.

A script has been written for the host to follow. We hope this effort enhances visitors to understand more about the era. Comments that have been heard are, “and only 100 years ago, there was no electricity here!” and “How did the homesteaders survive the cold and snow?”



## St. Rose's Catholic Church Available for Wedding Rental!

With a capacity of 40 persons, Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum's unique church, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church locally



known as St. Bridget's, is the perfect venue for a small pioneer style wedding! \$250. allows an inexpensive way for special nuptials in Fort Rock. The Church is offered during normal operating months, Memorial Day through Labor Day. The Fort Rock Grange may be available to rent for a reception location. Find out more by contacting Fort Rock Historical Society volunteer, Jana Kittredge, 541-576-2236 or frmuseum@centurylink.net

## Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum creates unique opportunities for film enthusiasts



We continue to have interest in filming opportunities at the museum grounds. We have already hosted a husband/wife film production team during the early spring filming a piece for camera company, Panasonic. You can view their piece at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY6rmb47Ggw&feature=youtu.be> Very cool!

We also have three other film shoots scheduled for this summer. Many enjoy the nighttime effects of producing special photographs and motion pictures at the historic museum.

The area is anticipating many visitors for the solar eclipse that is on the calendar for August 21st. The Madras area is a predominant place for viewing. People are coming from all over the world!

Photography projects are a great fundraiser for the FRVHS receiving rent for use of the space. FRVHS is excited for the upcoming season. Our past host, Alexa Nexus will again take care of daily museum operations this year.

### Reminder!

#### **Credit/Debit Cards are accepted for admission and purchases at the Museum!**

The museum board is excited for having credit and debit cards being accepted for admission to the museum. We now offer an easier way to explore and enjoy Fort Rock history for museum admission and purchases in the welcome center store.

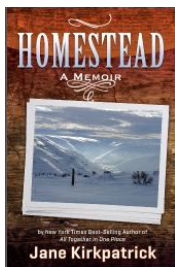
### **Fort Rock Homesteaders 90th Reunion!**

*Saturday and Sunday, September 9-10, 2017. This year will be the 90th annual reunion! Special registration gifts and event are being planned. Tentative plans are in the works for a live classical concert at Fort Rock State Park. If you play an instrument, let us know. Hunter Noack, musician, is looking for Homesteader talent. Watch for more news coming in the Reunion newsletter and on the Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum and Fort Rock Facebook pages.*

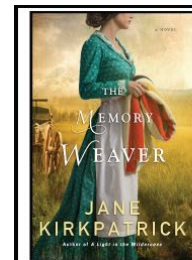
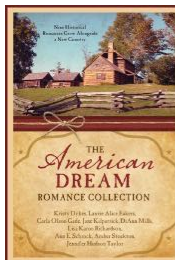
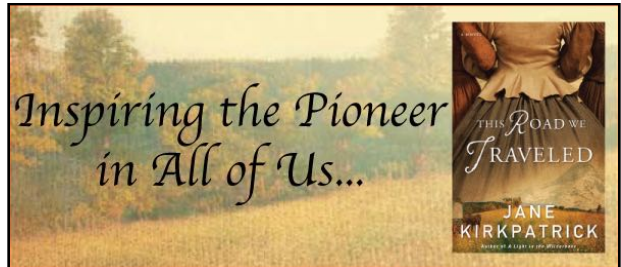
Fort Rock Valley Historical Society  
 PO Box 84  
 Fort Rock, OR 97735  
 www.fortrockoregon.com

Accomplishments over the last year at the Museum: New roof on welcome center; new floor in Webster Cabin; reclamation project erosion improvement near Church, looking at future erosion improvements on the grounds; and oil preservative on Church siding, Menkenmaier roof and cedar shingles on Dr. Thom's office. Your support of the Fort Rock Valley Historical Society helps to make these projects possible. We are also fortunate to obtain special grants for some of the work.

*Weaving the stories of our Lives! Some Novels and Series by Jane Kirkpatrick...*



*...of floods, fire, wind  
 lost cattle and crops,  
 of love, hope, family,  
 friends and faith!*



*What we remember  
 isn't always what  
 really happened.*