

The Fortress

A Friends of the Fort publication V.1 June 2023





Greetings! 2022 was a very successful year for the Friends of the Fort. Recovery from the COVID years is in full swing. The 16 Blacksmith classes we sponsored were all filled and even had waiting lists. The Memorial Bricks were installed and the area looks wonderful. We had 6 events with a total attendance of over 3000. The fundraisers we did more than paid for these events and even allowed us to make significant enhancements and donations like the Time Line on the brick project. You can browse our Facebook page for photos from last year. Ruth does a great job keeping it updated. And keep watching our Web pages for more upcoming activities for 2023. I hope to see you at one of our activities this year.

-Cindy Allison

-2023 FOF President



2023 Friends of the Fort Board Members



Left to Right

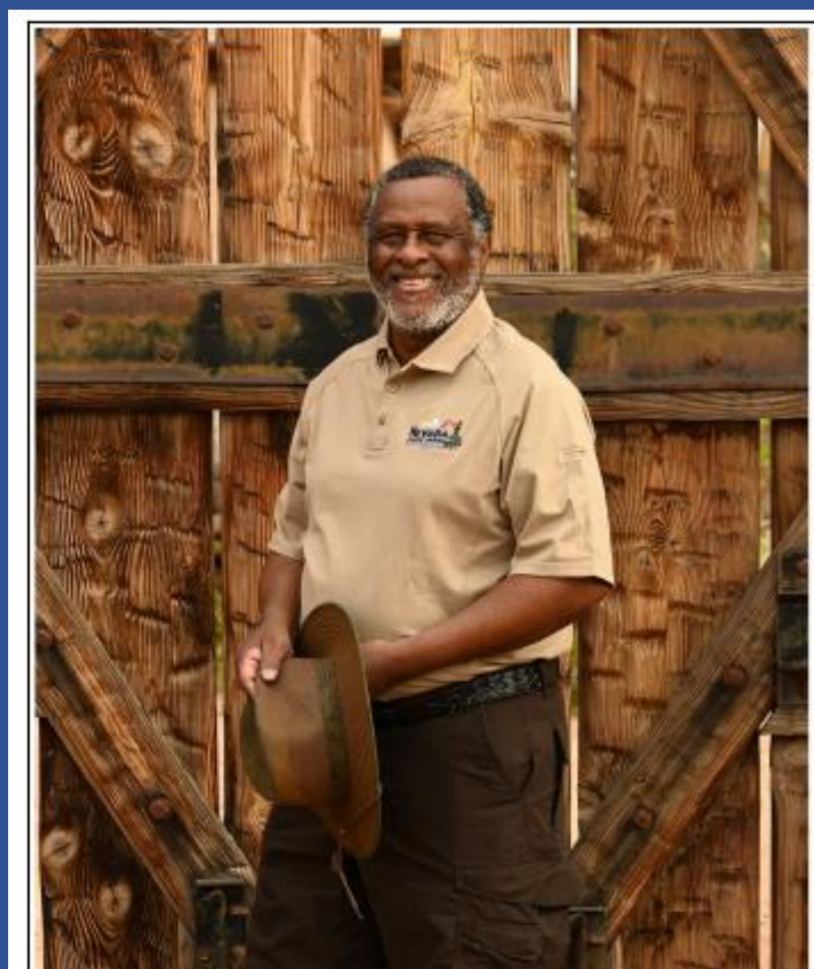
Lisa Messenger, Helen Mortenson, Michele Abbott (Vice President), Cindy Allison (President), Phyllis Weaver (Secretary/Treasurer), Larry Moulton, Ruth Rauma, Don Hotchkiss

Old Fort happenings

Please welcome Kevin Jarrell, the newest addition to the State Parks staff. Kevin is a maintenance specialist and started in April of this year. He will also be working at the Ice Age Park. We are glad you are here, Kevin!



Kevin Jarrell
Maintenance Specialist



"Ray Day"

In celebration of Black History Month, the Fort honored Park Ranger Ray Richardson with a ceremony at the Fort on February 18th. Ray was the first black employee with Nevada State Parks. He worked in the State Parks system for over 45 years. He was presented with awards from NV State Parks and the City of Las Vegas. Channel 3 was on location to interview him. A link to the video of the interview is available on the FOF website

"Where Las Vegas Began..."
The commemorative bricks installation was completed in April of this year. The Timeline layout was improved so it is now easier to read and looks great. Special thanks to Don Hotchkiss and Larry Moulton for arranging all the work it took to accomplish this. We continue to get new orders and will install those in the Fall. Costs for bricks and engraving have increased so we had to change our prices to \$100 for a small brick and \$200 for a large brick. Still a bargain at that price!



Friends of the Fort turn 40!



The Old Fort circa 1980 -
from UNLV Archives

The Friends of the Fort marks its 40th year of service in 2023!! Since its creation, countless volunteers have pledged their time and support of the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort. We are grateful for the aid and friendship of all our members.

When the organization assembled in 1983, the Old Fort adobe building was owned by the City of Las Vegas. It had undergone a badly needed renovation but was unable to re-open for tours. As weeks turned into months and then years, local historians united in their determination to make the Old Fort available to the public.

Six historical societies each offered a representative to form a special task force. Those societies included the Southern Nevada Historical Society, Preservation Association of Clark County, Daughters of Utah Pioneers and 3 chapters of Soroptomists. Their primary goal was to collaborate with the City of Las Vegas to gain community access to the Old Fort building. The activists' mission was successful.

Four decades later, the Friends of the Fort continues to work for the best interest of the Mormon Fort's history. Its mission is to assist the Nevada State Parks system, bring awareness of the Old Fort to the community and assist in early Las Vegas history research.

Hello Friends,

Friends of the Fort will be having a Phantom Fireworks Booth again this year at 8570 W. Lake Mead Blvd. (Lake Mead Blvd and Rampart). We are located in the Big Lots parking lot, right near the Terrible's gas station.

We will have the booth open from June 29th thru July 4th. Each day our hours will be from 7:00am to 9:00pm, with extended hours on July 3rd the 4th. It's a fun time! We assist customers with their purchase of assortment packages, sparklers, and all of the novelty items like snakes and smoke balls.:-)

We make sure the experience is as comfortable as possible, with two air coolers operated with a generator, and a large cooler with Bottled Water, Gatorade and ice.

We would appreciate if you can help out for a shift- or two.

I have attached the volunteer schedule, and the spaces in yellow are open spots that we need to fill.

Please let me know if you are available to help out and which day/time you would like. You can email me your selections, or give me or Don Hotchkiss a call.

Feel free to share our flyer with friends and family, and let them know about our booth location.

Looking forward to another fun year!

Thank you!

Ruth

Cell: 702-875-2688

Don

Cell: 702-875-1893



8570 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

In the **Big Lots** parking lot
next to Terrible's



- ➔ **June 29-July 4**
- ➔ **Daily Specials**
- ➔ **2-for-1 Deals**



Visit Us ONLINE

www.friendsofthefort.org

www.facebook.com/friendsofthefortlasvegas



SCAN FOR FACEBOOK PAGE

Upcoming Events 2023

- Fireworks Sales June 29-July 4
- Pioneer Week July 19-22
- Public Lands Day Sept 23
 - NevadaWeen Oct 28
- Blacksmith Classes Oct - March
 - Wreath Sales begin Oct
 - Holiday Market Dec 2

Contact Information



<https://parks.nv.gov/parks/old-las-vegas-mormon-fort>
<https://www.facebook.com/OldMormonFort>

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Daughters of Utah Pioneers
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