



Milpitas Muse

March 2014

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXV No. 2

March 12 Meeting: History and Culture of the Local Muwekma People

The upcoming meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will take place, at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12, in the Auditorium (Community Room) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.



Alan Leventhal, a trained archaeologist/ethnohistorian who has been teaching and involved in Indian Affairs over the past 32 years at San Jose State University, will be speaking about the history of the Muwekma group of the Ohlone people, the first inhabitants of our area and their culture.

Please join us learn more about the first people who lived in our area. Meetings are free and all are welcome.



1882 painting of Ohlone people in a tule boat in the San Francisco Bay

Milpitas's 60th Birthday Celebrated

On Saturday, January 25th, Milpitas celebrated its 60th Anniversary Gala at the Barbara Lee Senior Center, with great appetizers, entertainment by Milpitas native and Broadway star Courter Simmons, celebratory speeches, and the unveiling of the 16-foot bronze statue of the "Minute Man" by Wyoming artist David Allan Clark, on the front lawn of Milpitas City Hall.



The "Milpitas Minute Man" unveiled

On the following day, Sunday, January 26, the City sponsored a Family Day for all to celebrate the anniversary. Milpitas Historical Society was among the community organizations present, represented by the jail on wheels that was featured in the Frontiers Days parade and celebration in the 1960's and '70's. During some of those years, men who did not grow a beard to celebrate would be symbolically jailed in the "hoosegow" until they paid a fine (that benefitted Milpitas public works).



Photo Courtesy of Joanne Souza

Milpitas Historical Society President Roger Skuse with the old Frontier Days jail

Historical Society Installation Dinner

The Society's annual Installation Dinner was held on Thursday, February 20 at the Summitpointe Golf Course Restaurant and celebrated the installation of the 2014 Officers and Board of Directors of the Milpitas Historical Society. Pictured below, after the swearing-in ceremony by Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves (far left), are (left to right) Lela Ehardt, Secretary; Kraig Bunnell, Treasurer; Mayvid Maclay, Special Events Director; Joe Ehardt, Membership Director; Harriett McGuire, Historian; Catherine Pelizzari, Vice President and Newsletter Director; Roger Skuse, President; Harriett McGuire, Hospitality Director; and Steve Munzel, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Liaison.



MHS Officers and Board after the Installation Ceremony



Denny Weisgerber

After the dinner and officer installation, former Milpitas Mayor Denny Weisgerber, an active participant in the successful Milpitas struggle to fend off acquisition by San Jose, spoke about the details of that era and provided interesting answers to questions about that era, and the differences between then and now.



Photo Courtesy of Frank De Smidt

Remembering Mabel Mattos

On Saturday, February 15, the Green Thumb Garden Club held a gathering to dedicate a bench at the Alviso Adobe Park to the memory of Garden Club member and one of the Historical Society's founding members, Mabel Mattos, who died June 10, 2013. Organized by Garden Club President Mary Ann Udoutch, the ceremony included tributes by Mayor Jose Esteves, Historical Society President Roger Skuse, filmmaker, friend, and MHS member Bob Burrill and other friends and family members.



Photo Courtesy of Frank De Smidt

Mabel's family, with help from Mayor Jose Esteves and City Council Member Althea Polanski, uncover the bench dedicated to Mabel Mattos

Contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by phone at (408) 320-9587
- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email at: tmhs@milpitashistory.org.

The traditional Milpitas history web page is here:

<http://www.milpitashistory.org/historicalsociety/society.html>

Here's the new website for the Milpitas Historical Society:

<http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>, with information about the society and upcoming events

Milpitas Historical Society
160 North Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035

First Class

https://www.google.com/search?q=miwok&tbn=isch&imgil=SSFyF42Pot8VZM%253A%253Bhttps%253A%252F%252Fencrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com%252Fimages%253Fq%253Dtbn%253AANd9GcTDOuTOwxLvQUk1YggCbdd_qT_tAWreOMD3rhov05sub4NGKCSio%253B300%253B209%253BUqb0uVdGdvFuqM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fwww.ccoe.net%25252Fmiwokproject%25252F&source=iu&usg=__GT3_bZ5_P7AHZjBjdHqVFRYSraY%3D&sa=X&ei=pE0FU4uUD5fZoASPg4CoDg&ved=0CDkQ9OEwBA&biw=1128&bih=555#facrc=&imgdii=&imgrc=TPcdDhoEQtAILM%253A%3B956tvIJrSDORem%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww-tc.pbs.org%252Fnationalparks%252Fmedia%252Fphotos%252F01000%252FS1139-ig.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.pbs.org%252Fnationalparks%252Fmedia_detail%252F71%252F%3B512%3B306