

# Milpitas Muse

March 2016

The Milpitas Historical

Society Newsletter

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## March 9 Meeting: A History of San Jose's Japantown

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 9, in the Auditorium (Multipurpose Room) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

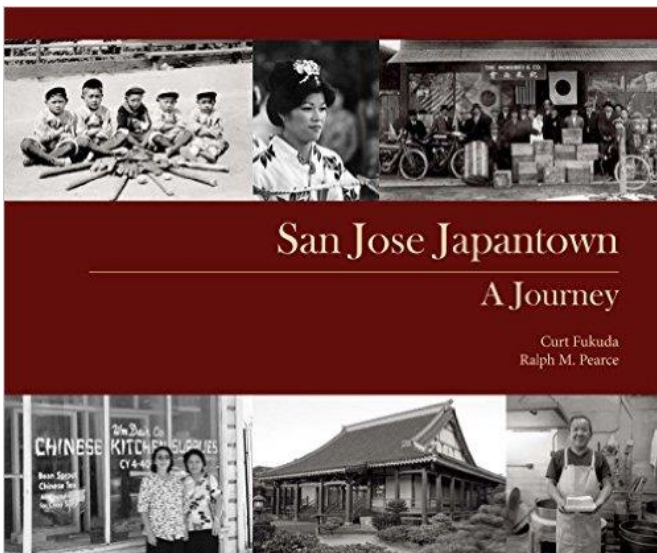
The topic for this meeting will be San Jose's historic Japantown, one of only three remaining Japantowns, from its outgrowth from San Jose's last Chinatown through two world wars, the Depression, Internment, Resettlement, and then its gradual evolution into its present-day, ethnically diverse community.



Our presenters will be local authors Curt Fukuda and Ralph Pearce, authors of *San Jose Japantown: A Journey*. Published by the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, this book is the culmination of fifteen years of their research, photo-gathering, and writing.

**Ralph Pearce and Curt Fukuda**

Please join us for this richly informative presentation. Meetings are free and all are welcome.



## Japantown Museum Field Trip

In conjunction with this month's meeting topic, the Milpitas Historical Society is sponsoring a tour of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (shown below) on Saturday, March 19, starting at 10 am. The museum is located at 535 N. Fifth Street in San Jose, in the heart of Japantown. If you would like to carpool there, meet at the Big 5 Sporting Goods Store at 9:30 am. We might go to lunch at a Japanese restaurant after the tour. You can sign up for the tour at the March meeting or by calling Harriett McGuire at 408-262-7979.



## Milpitas Historical Society's Board and Officers Installation Ceremony and Gala Dinner



Photo courtesy of Mylene Stolpe

At the Milpitas Historical Society's Board and officers' Installation Dinner at the Summitpointe Golf Club Restaurant, on Thursday, February 18, Mayor Jose Esteves (right) swears in the 2016 Officers and Board of Directors: (left to right) PRCRC Representative Steve Munzel, Special Events Chair Harriett McGuire, Treasurer and Membership Chair Joe Ehardt, Historian Joanne Souza, Hospitality Chair Marilyn Simpkins, Archives and Landmarks Chair Kraig Bunnell, Vice President and Newsletter Editor Catherine Pelizzari, and President Mark Tiernan.

Absent from the ceremony were Public Relations Chair Wanda Olinger and Secretary Gloria Orange.

After the ceremony, new president Mark Tiernan presented a celebratory plaque to outgoing president Roger Skuse, thanking him for his great service to the society over the past three years.



Photos courtesy of Mylene Stolpe

**Roger Skuse and Mark Tiernan**

**Bob Byrd**

After the ceremonies, Santa Clara Historical Society President Bob Byrd showed a film about the Harris-Lass House Museum (named for its only two owners in 150 years) in Santa Clara, the last original farmhouse left in the city, now a museum. The house, gardens, and out-buildings, shown in the film, have all been beautifully restored, inside and out. You can sign up for a Milpitas Historical Society tour of the Harris-Lass house, which will be held on Saturday, April 30, 1-2 pm, at the April 13 Milpitas Historical Society meeting. The Harris-Lass House is located at 1889 Market Street in Santa Clara.

### **Mabel Mattos' Memorial Plaque Dedication**

On Saturday, January 9, the Milpitas Historical Society held a dedication ceremony at the Alviso Adobe Park for the memorial plaque to Mabel Mattos (1923-2013), one of the founding members of the Milpitas Historical Society and a beloved member of many other community organizations. The event was well attended,

with appearances by Mayor Jose Esteves, several members of the City Council and City staff, many friends from the Milpitas Historical Society, and Mabel's son Jim Mattos, his wife Karen, and his daughter Sarah.



**Plaque Honoring Mabel Mattos at Alviso Adobe Park**

### **Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings**

Ever wonder what the Milpitas Historical Society's Board of Directors does at their meetings? If you're interested, you are welcome to attend these Board meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at 1:30 pm in Group Study Room A at the Milpitas Library. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 2.

### **Milpitas Historical Society Contact Information**

You can 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@milpitashistoricalsociety.org](mailto:tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org)

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

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

The traditional Milpitas history web page is here:

<http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html>

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

**First Class**