



Milpitas Muse

January 2017

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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January 11 Meeting: History of Palo Alto

The Milpitas Historical Society's first meeting in 2017, on Wednesday, January 11, will be a presentation about the history of the city of Palo Alto. Please note that this meeting will take place at 7:00 pm in the **Children's Activity Room** of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.



Steve Staiger

Our speaker will be historian Steve Staiger, who has dedicated his time to preserving the history of Palo Alto through his work as the city's Historian at the Guy Miller Archives, as well as through his work at the Palo Alto Historical Association, Palo Alto Stanford (PAST) Heritage Association, the Palo Alto History Museum, and in teaching this history to Palo Alto's youth. From the Portola expedition in 1769-1770, which camped for a week at "El Palo Alto" (see photo), through the earliest settlers, such as Rafael Soto and his family who sold goods to travelers in 1827, to the present day upscale high-tech educational hub that is Palo Alto, Steve Staiger will take us on a lively historical journey. Please join us for this informative presentation and stay for treats and conversation afterwards. Meetings are free and all are welcome.



The centuries-old "Palo Alto" (Tall Tree), for which Palo Alto was named, is still standing at the north end of Palo Alto.

Ainsley House Field Trip

On Saturday, December 10, Milpitas Historical Society members were treated to a field trip to the beautifully decorated Ainsley House Historical Museum in Campbell. The J. C. Ainsley owned a cannery, and built this beautiful Tudor-style house nearby; it was moved to its present location and beautifully restored in 1990. Our tour group, shown below, was led on an excellent tour by docent Barney Terrell, who will be our speaker in June on the subject of the history of the city of Campbell.



Jan Hamburger, Roger Skuse, Trudy Alvarez, Harriett McGuire, Shirley Skuse, Diane Jones, Mayvid Maclay, Barney Terrell (docent), Linda Arbaugh, Mike Pelizzari, Susan Bocchini

Members We Lost This Past Year

Jack Wilson

Jack was born in 1928. In 1946 Jack graduated from high school, joined the Marine Corps and went to Paris Island. He served on the USS Toledo and was a 20mm deck gunner. In 1948 he attended West Virginia University and graduated in 1952. The following year he went back to the USMC to fight in the Korean War. After he was discharged he went to San Francisco Theological Seminary, graduated in 1957, and his first parish was at Bethany Presbyterian in Sacramento. His other parishes were in Walnut Creek and Newark. In 1968 he went back to college at San Jose State and started teaching at Newark High School. In 1970 he graduated from San Jose State with a Masters degree. In 1995 he retired from teaching and died this past October.

Robert Kruse

Bob Kruse was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1931. After high school he enrolled in the US Air Force and flew B-29s during the Korean War. After the war ended, he enrolled and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with an Aerospace Engineering degree and married his wife Margaret in 1956. They moved to Milpitas in the late 1950s while he was working for NASA. He worked on all the Gemini, Mercury, and Apollo Missions, and retired from NASA in the 1990s. He was also a Boy Scout leader for Milpitas Troup 112. He was proud to fly the flag every day and loved his country. He passed on November 25, 2016.

(Thanks to Barbara Gomes Bowman for providing this information)

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2017

At the Milpitas Historical Society's meeting in November 2016, the Nominating Committee announced the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2017:

Officers

President: Mark Tiernan
Vice President: Catherine Pelizzari
Secretary: Linda Arbaugh
Treasurer: Joe Ehardt

Directors

Archives: Kraig Bunnell
Historian: Joanne Souza
Hospitality: Marilyn Simpkins
Landmarks: Kraig Bunnell
Membership: Mary Ann Udoutch
Public Relations: Harriett McGuire
Publications: Catherine Pelizzari
Special Events: Harriett McGuire
Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources
Commission Liaison: Steve Munzel

The election will be held at the regular meeting of the Society at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

February Installation Dinner

Instead of meeting on the second Wednesday of February, the Milpitas Historical Society will hold its annual Installation Dinner at the Summitpointe Golf Course Restaurant on the third Thursday, February 16, at 6:30 pm. Members will be receiving their official invitation to this event (with price information) at the beginning of next month.

The historical presentation at the dinner will be "Brave Local Pioneer Women" presented by Rose Marie Beebe, Professor of Spanish at Santa Clara University and author of several books about early California history.

Our new Milpitas Mayor Rich Tran will administer the oath of office for the new Board Officers and Directors.

Happy RE-New Year!

It's a new year and the Milpitas Historical Society wishes all of our members and friends a wonderful 2017. We also need to remind you that this is the time to renew your membership. Just print out the attached or enclosed membership form and send it with your contact information and \$20 membership dues to: Milpitas Historical Society, 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA, 95035. We hope to see you back!

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

The next meeting, on Wednesday, January 4 at 1:30 pm, will be in Group Study Room A at the Milpitas Library. Subsequent meetings will be held at a location to be decided at this meeting and announced in the newsletter for each month. Members are always welcome.

Our Society's 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

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