

Milpitas Muse

January 2018

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXIX, No 1

January 10 Meeting: California's Oldest Historical Society!

The Milpitas Historical Society's first meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 will provide an explanation and fun history of E Clampus Vitus, probably the oldest (and wettest!) historical society in the American West. This meeting will take place at 6:30 pm (our now regular time) in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

Our speaker will be Chris Costanza, from the local Mountain Charlie chapter (EVC 1850) of this organization.



ECV1850 at the City of San Jose Veteran's Day Parade

The early history of E Clampus Vitus (ECV) is unclear, and there are many colorful legends surrounding it, but both legend and scholars agree that the group was founded in 1849. Historian Lois Rather suggests that the order originally came from the Southern states before being carried to California during the Gold Rush.

The organization is said to have been taken to California by an ECV member named Joe Zumwalt, who first heard of it in Missouri. Zumwalt opened an ECV lodge in Mokelumne Hill in 1851, when Mokelumne Hill Lodge No. 1001 was established.

Our speaker will give us the most updated history and the subsequent accomplishments (and they are many) of this (very) historical organization. Please join us for this informative presentation and stay for treats and conversation afterwards. Meetings are free and all are welcome.

What's Going On at the Alviso Adobe?

On Monday, November 13, Milpitas Historical Society Board members were treated to a special tour of the not-yet-open interior of the Alviso Adobe building by the City of Milpitas. It was arranged and led by Milpitas Recreation Services Manager Renee Lorentzen, who opened the restricted premises, showed board members around, and explained what furnishings and objects will be placed in the different rooms and the eras that they represent. The restoration and upgrades will be taking place over the coming year.



Milpitas Historical Society Board Members (left to right) Linda Arbaugh, Harriett McGuire, Kraig Bunnell, and Joe Ehardt being shown around the unrestored interior of the Alviso Adobe by Renee Lorentzen (with the helpful aid of her phone's flashlight).

New Park Plans

In the early morning hours of November 22, the Milpitas City Council voted to accept the \$315,000 bid from the non-profit Milpitas Community Museum to buy the long-vacant property at 230 N. Main Street, just north of the Milpitas Library. This clears the way toward establishing a centrally located park to serve nearby residents who have no park in their vicinity and which can be the home of the city's first museum. Kudos to the board members of the Milpitas Community Museum, an offshoot of the Historical Society, for their hard work in seeing this project through and raising the money to successfully bid for the site: Don Peoples, Steve and Ellie Munzel, Bill Hare, Deepka Lalwani, Harriett McGuire, and many other members.

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2018

At the Milpitas Historical Society's meeting in November 2017, the Nominating Committee announced the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2018:

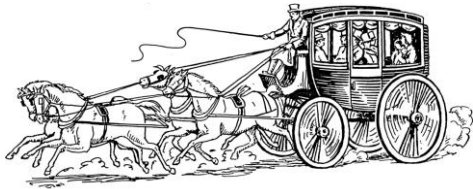
Officers

President: Bill Hare
Vice President: Catherine Pelizzari
Secretary: Irma Munzel
Treasurer: Joe Ehardt

Directors

Archives and School Programs: Kraig Bunnell
Historian: Joanne Souza
Hospitality: Lela Ehardt
Membership: Mary Ann Udoutch
Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources
Commission Liaison: Steve Munzel
Programs and Publications: Catherine Pelizzari
Publicity and Public Relations: Harriett McGuire
Special Events: Linda Arbaugh

The election of the officers and directors will be held at the regular meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.



February Installation Dinner

Instead of a regular meeting in February, the Milpitas Historical Society will hold its annual Officers and Directors Installation Dinner at the Summitpointe Golf Course Restaurant on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 pm.

The presentation at the banquet this year will be about the place of stagecoaches in California history, presented by Cheryl Anne Stapp, author of the recent book, *The Stagecoach in Northern California: Rough Rides, Gold Camps & Daring Drivers*.

Cheryl Anne Stapp also has written *Before the Gold Rush: The Sinclairs of Rancho del Paso, 1840-1849*; *Sacramento Chronicles: A Golden Past*; and *Disaster and Triumph: Sacramento Women, from the Gold Rush through the Civil War*.

Members will be receiving their official invitation to this event in January.

Happy RE-New Year!

The Milpitas Historical Society wishes all of our members and friends a wonderful 2018. We also need to remind you that January is the time to renew your membership. Just print out the attached or enclosed membership form and send it with your \$25 (our new annual rate) 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 Board will meet next on Wednesday, January 3rd at 2:00 pm in Milpitas Library Group Study Room A. Subsequent meetings will be announced in the newsletter for each month. Members are always welcome.

Our Society's Contact Information

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email to tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org
- from our website: www.milpitashistoricalsociety.org

You can see the traditional Milpitas history website here: www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html

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

First Class