



# Milpitas Muse

FALL 2020

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXXI, No 3

## We're Still Here!

After a spring and summer of no activities whatsoever, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shutdown, the Board of Directors of Milpitas Historical Society had its first meeting in months on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, in Board Member Mary Ann Udoutch's spacious and beautiful garden (pictured below), and discussed what might lie in the future for our organization.



As is usually done in both the Board and General meetings, the Treasurer, Joe Ehardt, presented the Treasurer's report: (in short form, for the newsletter):

59-Month CD (1.5% interest, 7/8/2021)	\$40,000.00
Checking (General Funds):	\$16,329.25
Checking (MCM Donation);	\$5,831.85
<u>Petty Cash on Hand for Events:</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<b>Total Financial Assets:</b>	<b>\$62,261.10</b>

The Board reached decisions on the following issues.

### Meetings:

Because no one knows when the spread of COVID-19 will slow down enough to be declared no longer a problem for in-person meetings, or when the library will open again for such meetings, the Board decided that such in-person meetings are cancelled for the rest of this year. We will have no regular meetings in September, October, or November, and, sadly, no Christmas party in December.

The Board is trying to put together methods we might use to have remote meetings and presentations that do not require us to gather in a room. One obvious method would be to use Zoom, but we don't yet know whether all our members would be comfortable with that high-tech solution. Another method would be to record a program and send out a link so that everybody could see the program whenever it suited them.

### Dues:

The Board feels that since so little has been offered to members in 2020, membership dues paid in 2020 will be extended one year. If you paid your dues in 2020, you can consider your dues paid thru the end of 2021! If you HAVE NOT paid dues this year, don't worry; you are still a member in good standing until the next dues cycle in January 2021.

### Elections:

According to the bylaws of TMHS, the Society goes through a nomination and election process between October and January, culminating in the installation of a new Board each February. The lack of actionable agenda these last several months as well as the unknown timeline for the path ahead has led to the decision that, for the most part, the current board of directors would stay in place until the time we can function as a society safely again. Our bylaws require the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Bill Hare, Catherine Pelizzari, and Joseph Ehardt will stay on in their positions, but our Secretary, Irma Munzel, has decided to resign. If any of our membership is interested or knows of a member who would be interested in filling this spot in 2021, please call our President, Bill Hare, at 408-942-5530 and let him know.

### Other news:

Joe Ehardt reported that he has been keeping an eye on the interior renovations going on at the Jose Alviso Adobe, which includes a months-long project to restore the original layers of wallpaper covering the walls of the living room and two bedrooms. Since these same rooms will have 15 ceiling video projectors projecting presentations of historic pictures and videos onto these same walls, we wonder what the images will look like illuminated on patterned paper.

Joe has been accumulating an interesting collection of letters written by a Milpitas resident named Charles Snow (originally from Massachusetts) to his son and daughter starting from around 1858. Mr. Snow first migrated to El Dorado County for the Gold Rush, after which he tried farming in Milpitas. The letters are now part of the Historical Society's archives, and images of them will be available someday for us to see.

**Instead of presentations at a meeting, try these:**

Below are a few suggestions for programs that were recorded a few months ago and stored on youtube.com. You can watch them for free whenever you like. Take a look and see what you think!

**Indigenous Peoples History in the Bay Area – Webinar Series**

You might remember Mark Hylkema, who at our September 2015 meeting gave a presentation about the Ice-Age creatures that had lived in the area of present-day Castroville. He is a California State Parks Archaeologist and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Foothill College, and with the sponsorship of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), he created a most interesting 3-part series of web-based presentations (webinars) about the many diverse groups of Indigenous Peoples who have lived for thousands of years in this area. He provides a fascinating description of their complex cultures and relationships to the land.



**Mark Hylkema, California State Parks archaeologist and Cultural Resources Supervisor at the California State Parks Department's Santa Cruz District**

These webinars are available for you to see any time on the POST YouTube channel. Just click on the link (or copy it into your browser)

**Indigenous History in the Bay Area, Part 1: Overview - Mark Hylkema and POST**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xp-mGJJ9yLs>

**Indigenous History in the Bay Area, Part 2: Ethnobotany and Land Stewardship**

- Mark Hylkema and POST

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL5BbrGQbRE>

**Indigenous History in the Bay Area, Part 3: Economy, Spirituality & Culture**

- Mark Hylkema and POST

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-2Tf47MHnA>

And here is another very interesting webinar that Mark Hylkema created for POST about historic shipwrecks that occurred on the San Mateo Coast:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKd1YxxUtGg>

You might have seen that Mark Hylkema made the news last week when he and team members rescued thousands of valuable historic artifacts from Butano State Park where the fire was bearing down. They saved thousands of photographs, historical records, native arrowheads, baskets, animal specimens and other objects from state parks buildings and visitor centers. A real History Hero!

**Our Society's Contact Information**

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- 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>

**REMEMBER to Vote!**

You can register at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov) or at most fire stations.

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**Milpitas, CA 95035**