

Milpitas Muse

Our Special Officer and Board Installation Meeting on Wednesday, February 10

We are planning on having our usual Installation Meeting for our 2021 Officers and Board Members of the Milpitas Historical Society on **Wednesday, February 10, at 7 pm**, although unfortunately we will not be able to offer you a delicious dinner to go with it. Still we hope you will join the Society from home, using Zoom, to celebrate the swearing in of our new Board by Mayor Richard Tran and the launching of a new and much better year for commemorating our history.

At our January 13 meeting, Milpitas Historical Society members elected the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2021

Officers

- President: Bill Hare
- Vice President: Catherine Pelizzari
- Secretary: Carolyn Tiernan
- Treasurer: Joe Ehardt

Directors

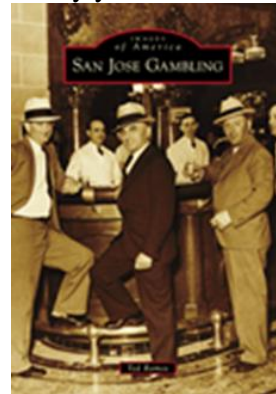
- Archives: Joseph Ehardt
- Education Outreach Program: Joseph Ehardt
- Historian: Joanne Souza
- Membership: Dan Cosper
- Programs and Publications: Catherine Pelizzari
- Publicity and Public Relations: Harriett McGuire
- Special Events: Harriett McGuire

And as we have in past years, we will host a special speaker to tell us new and interesting stories about the history of our area. In this case, our speaker will be the author of a new Images of America book about the history of gambling in San Jose.

Author Ted Ramos is a veteran police officer with the San Jose Police Department and spent five of his years as an officer regulating San Jose's two large cardrooms with the San Jose Police Department's Division of Gaming Control. It was there that he discovered the city's gambling past through the division's records and speaking with the cardroom industry players and employees both past and present.

From the time San Jose was founded by the Spanish in 1777 as California's first civilian settlement, the city has had its share of risk-taking in one way or another. San Jose began as a small settlement of farmers who

produced food for the presidios in San Francisco and Monterey. In their free time, the farmers enjoyed a few games of cards despite the strict rules of the Spanish military. Present-day San Jose has become filled with high-tech engineers risking everything to develop the next successful start-up company. San Jose had a lot of gambling between these times—from the illegal speakeasy-type clubs that featured games such as dice, fan-tan, roulette, Chinese lotteries, and, of course, slot machines to the small legal card clubs consisting of one to ten tables filled with people playing games such as pan, lowball, and poker, that would eventually become two of Northern California's largest cardrooms, which generate millions of dollars every year.



We hope you will be able to join us on **Wednesday February 10 at 7 pm** to celebrate our society and to learn some very interesting things about what was and is going on in San Jose.

Joining the Zoom Meeting!

Our President, Bill Hare, has set up a Zoom link that you will be able to click on to join the meeting at 7 pm Pacific Time (US and Canada).

From a Mac or PC or via your smartphone, click on this link below and you will be connected!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8538460380?pwd=WXJMdGFKTWFiMkE5eU5JL3FOSFVxUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 846 0380

Passcode: history

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,8538460380# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 853 846 0380

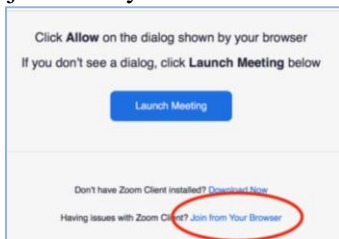
Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcO6hBYvlz>

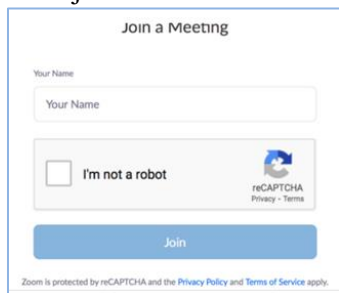
Another easy way to join us is to click on this link below, which takes you to the Milpitas Historical Society's web page, which has the link to the meeting that you can just click on to join the meeting:

<https://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>

If you don't have the Zoom app, you will see this, telling you to join from your browser.



That will take you to the next window, where you will enter your name and check the "I'm not a robot" box, and then be able to join:



We will have a social time afterwards (as we usually do after the meetings), so this is a great opportunity to catch up with friends who have not been able to see each other a long time.

If you do not have a computer or smartphone, or simply are just not comfortable with navigating the steps, you probably know a family member or friend who can help you. Ask that person if you could please join up with them for this meeting to watch the Zoom presentation; they will probably enjoy it too. We very much look forward to seeing *all of you* at this meeting!

Old Coins Connect Us to Our History

Our treasurer and avid history collector Joe Ehart has found a way to make those old days of (when our early Milpitas schoolhouses were built) more real and actually touchable for the Milpitas third grade students to whom he gives presentations about Milpitas history. While today's students can no longer see the schoolhouse shown below, which burned in 1912, they can see and feel the coins that circulated in that era.



The First Milpitas School, Built in 1856.

Below (left) are a Seated Liberty dime and quarter minted during the Milpitas Grammar School's opening in 1856. On the right are 1865 coins: an Indian Head one cent, a Shield two-cent, and a three-cent coin that would have been circulating when the Laguna School in the Milpitas hills was built and that children would have known then.



Joe may well give us a much more thorough presentation about antique coins in the future.

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
- at our website:: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>,

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Milpitas, CA 95035

First Class