



Milpitas Muse

June 2017

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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New Film - New Meeting Time!

The Milpitas Historical Society's next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 14, but we will be meeting a half-hour earlier than usual, at **6:30 pm**, (instead of 7:00 pm) in the Children's Activity Room of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street. We are starting a half an hour earlier this time so that we can enjoy a new film, "Changing Boundaries: a History of San Jose," which runs an hour and 18 minutes, and also have time for our business meeting and to enjoy our usual chat and treats at the end of the meeting.



This film, made in 2015-16, tells the story of the working people, political leaders and dreamers who built the City of San Jose. Produced by Norman Kline and CreaTV San Jose, and directed by Tricia Creason-Valencia, the film's production includes a key collaboration with History San Jose, which provided archival photography and documents. Narrated by San Jose native and actor, Daniel P. Wilson, and featuring an original musical score by Grammy nominee Robert Berry, this first-of-its-kind feature-length documentary showcases interviews with key historical figures, from farmers to civic leaders, including Tom McEnery, Blanca Alvarado and Norm Mineta, and notable local historians Terry Christensen, Nannette Regua and Steven Millner.

Our meetings are free and all are welcome. We hope you can join us then.

New Milpitas School Named for Mabel Mattos

On Tuesday, May 9, the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously to name three educational sites for historic Milpitas residents.

They voted to name the future elementary school on McCandless Drive for Mabel Mattos (1923-2013), one of the earliest and most contributory members of the Milpitas Historical Society. Mabel joined the Society as soon as it was formed in 1980 and contributed her great knowledge of local history to many of its projects. Her kindness and interest in sharing all of her knowledge is remembered by all who knew her. In addition to Mabel's son, Jim, shown below, Harriett McGuire, longtime member and officer of the Society and Mabel's niece, Margaret Rodrigues, also spoke in admiration of Mabel Mattos and in gratitude to the Board for choosing to honor her in this way.



Left: Mabel Mattos. Right: Jim Mattos, Mabel Mattos's son, speaks before the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education.

The Board also voted to name the location of the Milpitas Unified School District and the San Jose-Evergreen College District extension buildings for former Milpitas Mayor Ben Gross, a civil rights and union activist, who became Milpitas' first black city councilman, and in 1966, California's first black mayor of a sizeable city. He was also instrumental in the development of the Sunnyhills housing development, the first successful integrated housing development in California.

A third site, the Family Resource Center at the Robert Randall Elementary School, was voted to be named for Josephine Guerrero (1920-2016), a local businesswoman and strong supporter of the Milpitas Library, who was the

first assistant postmaster of Milpitas, served on the Planning Commission, was president of the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce, and founded the Milpitas Business and Professional Woman's Club.

Milpitas Historical Society Annual Tour



The Milpitas Historical Society will be sponsoring its annual Community Tour (free and open to the public) on Saturday, June 17th.

This free bus tour is designed to acquaint the community with historic sites in Milpitas. Check-in time of the tour is 9 am at the Great Mall of the Bay Area, Entrance 4 (which is on the east side of the Mall at the Food Court Entrance).

A multi-page color brochure of this year's historic sites will be provided to all participants, and docents will speak at each location. The tour itself begins with a discussion of the Society's exhibit of Milpitas historical items at the Great Mall, and then everyone will board the bus to visit several stops along historic Main Street, proceed to the 1835 Jose Alviso Adobe on Piedmont Road, then go to the old St. John the Baptist Cemetery where many pioneers are buried, and finally cross the road to the 60-year-old working Silva apricot ranch to learn how apricots are processed. The bus will bring everyone back to the Great Mall by 1:30 pm.

Seating on the bus is first-come, first-served. To guarantee your place in the tour, and/or to obtain additional information, please call 1-408-945-9848.

The itinerary of the tour's locations and meeting times for each place will be sent out in a bulletin to Society members in mid-June and will be available to everyone else through announcements in the *Milpitas Post*. The tour is free and open to all.

Honoring Members We Have Lost

The Milpitas Historical society was sorry to have learned of the death at 84 of Marianne Weisgerber on April 15 of this year. The wife of former Mayor Denny Weisgerber, she was an active supporter of his work, their travels, and their family. She is survived by her husband, two children, five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren, and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Refurbished Rollin' Jail Attracts Visitors to Society's Booth at International BBQ



Milpitas Historical Society's Board members Kraig Bunnell, Mark Tiernan, and Joe Ehardt, in company with the society's historic Rollin' Jail, newly repaired, and with its new banner, represented the Society at the city's annual International BBQ on May 20 and 21 this year.

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

If you are interested, you are welcome to attend the Milpitas Historical Society Board meetings, which are usually held on the first Monday of the month (except July and August) at 2:00 pm in Group Study Room A in the Milpitas Library. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 5.

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

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: www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html
You can contact President Mark Tiernan at 408-582-3782.

Milpitas Historical Society
160 N. Main Street
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First Class