



Milpitas Muse

January 2016

The Milpitas Historical

Society Newsletter

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January 13 Meeting: The Architecture of Frank Delos Wolfe

Our first meeting of 2015 will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 13, in the Auditorium (Community Room) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

Our speaker on this occasion will be Krista van Laan, author of a book about architect Frank Delos Wolfe (1862-1926) of San Jose, California. Wolfe was one of the most prolific architects of his time, popular with clients all over Northern California and respected by his peers, as was evident by his heavy coverage in national architectural trade magazines. For 35 years, Wolfe, with and without partners, made significant architectural contributions. Seven of his buildings are today on the National Register of Historic Places, and many others are city landmarks.



Krista van Laan

Wolfe was the architect of the 1916 Milpitas Grammar School that today is the anchor around which our Milpitas library was built, and he also designed the DeVries House across the street from the library.

Please join us to hear stories of and see more of the treasured examples of the work of this master architect. Meetings are free and all are welcome.



**George Delos Wolfe Designed House
in Downtown San Jose**

Dedication of Mabel Mattos' Memorial Plaque

On Saturday, January 9 at 1:00 pm, at the Alviso Adobe Park, the Milpitas Historical Society will dedicate a memorial plaque to Mabel Mattos (1923-2013).

Mabel Mattos was one of the founding members of the Milpitas Historical Society and served at different times as newsletter co-publisher, Vice President, Hospitality Director, and Membership Director, as well being a beloved member of many other community organizations.

Mabel's family, the Silvas, moved to Milpitas in the 1930s from the Central Valley. Her family worked on the Downing Ranch for many years, then moved to a farm and orchard at the corner of Old Calaveras and Evans Road, where she lived with her husband, Henry Mattos, who died in early 2013.

The plaque will be mounted on a boulder next to the area of the park where the historic sycamore tree stands and where farm equipment donated by Mabel's family is displayed.



**Dan Cosper and Joe Ehardt moving the rock on which
Mabel Mattos's memorial plaque will be placed**

City officials and members of Mabel's family will speak. We hope you can join this community celebration of Mabel Mattos' lifelong contribution to our community.

Little History Note: The giant pry bar held by Dan Cosper, lent for the occasion by Bob Keely, was from the original Falcato ranch, which was on N. Milpitas Blvd south of Dixon Landing Road near Jacklin (south of Washington St.). Falcato St. is named after one of the Falcato sons who died in WWII.

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2016

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

Officers

President: Mark Tiernan

Vice President: Catherine Pelizzari

Secretary: Gloria Orange

Treasurer: Joe Ehardt

Directors

Archives and Landmarks: Kraig Bunnell

Historian: Joanne Souza

Hospitality: Marilyn Simpkins

Membership: Joe Ehardt

Newsletter: Catherine Pelizzari

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources

Commission Liaison: Steve Munzel

Public Relations: Wanda Olinger

Special Events: Harriett McGuire

The election will be held at the regular meeting of the Society on **Wednesday, January 13.**

February Installation Dinner

Instead of a regular meeting in February, the Milpitas Historical Society will hold its Installation Dinner at the Summitpointe Golf Course Restaurant, on **Thursday, February 19**, at 6:30 pm.

A history presentation will be given by Bob Byrd, a docent and board member of the Harris-Lass House Museum in Santa Clara. This house, built in 1865, and still furnished with much of its original contents, is the last farm site in the city of Santa Clara and is named for the families who lived there for 125 years.

Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves will administer the oath of office for the new Board and Directors. Members will be receiving their official invitation to this event at the beginning of next month.

Happy RE-New Year!

It's a new year and the Milpitas Historical Society wishes all of our members and friends a wonderful 2016. We also need to remind you that this is the time to renew your Society membership. Just print out the attached or enclosed membership form and send it with your \$20 membership dues to: 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA, 95035. We hope to see you back!

Jolly Christmas Pot Luck and Party

Members of the Historical Society (shown below) gathered at Kim Parker's historic Belshaw House on Sunday, December 13, for some delicious food, good conversation, a brief business meeting, and the sweet sounds of Christmas music provided by keyboardist Elliot Nadel, a member of The Bobcats (Bob Keely's band).



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@milpitashistory.org.

The traditional Milpitas history web page is here:

<http://www.milpitashistory.org/historicalsociety/society.html>

Here's the new website for the Milpitas Historical Society: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>, with information about the society and upcoming events.

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

First Class