

# Milpitas Muse

March 2015

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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## March 11 Meeting: Donna Gatson, Artist

Our March 2015 meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 11, in the Auditorium (Community Room) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

This month our featured speaker will be Donna Gatson, an artist and silversmith whose inspiration and passion for designing and making jewelry has been fueled by her connections and friendships with Native American silversmiths from reservations in New Mexico and Arizona.

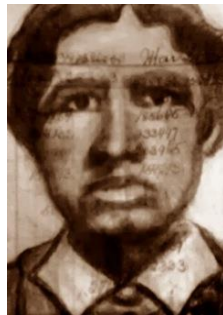


Donna Gatson will be speaking about her family history through a very special aspect of Native American art called "ledger art," which is a term for Plains Indian or slave narrative drawing or painting on paper or cloth.

Ledger art flourished primarily from the 1860s to the 1920s. The term comes from the accounting or ledger books that were a common source of paper for Plains Indians, as well as for slaves in the South before the Civil War. Ms. Gatson has composed portraits of her forebears using the ledger art medium, and she has fascinating stories to tell about them.



Texas Rancher D.W. Wallace



Great-great-grandmother Emily R. Williams

Please join us to see and hear the stories about these artistic renderings of family history. Meetings are free and all are welcome.

## Love History?

History Park, located at the corner of Senter Road and Phelan Avenue in San Jose, contains History San Jose's extensive collections, beautiful grounds and 27 historic buildings, which makes it a great place to visit. You can explore exhibits detailing the many cultures contributing to the original Santa Clara Valley towns that make up the Silicon Valley that we now inhabit. The relocated Pacific Hotel, shown below, houses the offices of History San Jose, a lovely gift shop, and is also a great place for lunch and ice cream at O'Brien's Candy Store.



### Upcoming events at History Park include:

- Sunday, March 15, 2015, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
*Lunar New Year Celebration*
- Saturday, April 11, 2015, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
*21st Annual Spring Garden Market*
- Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
*Bay Area Printers' Fair & Slugs, Dingbats, & Tramp Printers! Printing in Santa Clara Valley Exhibit*
- Sunday, April 19, 2015 8:00 am - 3:00 pm  
*Golden Gate Chapter Vintage Volkswagen Club of America 31st Annual VW Spring Meet*

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](mailto:tmhs@milpitashistory.org)

The traditional Milpitas history web page is here:

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

And here's the new website for the Milpitas Historical Society:

<http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>, with info about upcoming events

## Milpitas Historical Society's Board and Officers Installation Ceremony



At the Milpitas Historical Society's Installation Dinner at Zahir's Bistro, on Thursday, February 19, Mayor Jose Esteves (left) swears in the 2015 Officers and Board of Directors: (left to right) Archives and Landmarks Chair and PRCRC Representative Steve Munzel; President Roger Skuse, Secretary Lela Ehardt, Special Events Chair Harriett McGuire, Hospitality Chair Joanne Souza, Historian Mayvid Maclay, Vice President and Newsletter Editor Catherine Pelizzari, and Treasurer and Membership Chair Joe Ehardt.



**Lila Bringhurst**

After the Installation ceremony, attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner and an interesting talk about Mission San Jose and its neighborhood, presented by long-time community activist and Mission San Jose docent Lila Bringhurst. She said that the beautiful old-style Mission San Jose structure that we see today in Fremont, just north on Mission Boulevard from Milpitas, is in fact a reconstruction, completed in 1985, of the original 1809 adobe structure, which was destroyed in the 1868 earthquake, and was replaced for many years by a large, traditional-looking wooden church. This church was purchased and is still in use today by an Episcopalian congregation in San Mateo, who had the building moved and reconstructed when it was decided to rebuild the adobe mission in 1982. The wooden rectory, from the same early 19<sup>th</sup> century era as the wooden church, was purchased by Lila and her late husband, Dr. Deon

Bringhurst, when the 1985 reconstruction of the adobe was taking place and was moved a mile or so north to be used as Dr. Bringhurst's dental office. Lila also mentioned that San Jose de Guadalupe, the original name of the present-day City of San Jose, had nothing to do with this Mission San Jose; the only thing they had in common was that both were named after St. Joseph.

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

**First Class**