



Milpitas Muse

May 2014

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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May Meeting for Milpitas Historical Society

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9, in the Community Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.



The presentation will be based on the history-making De Anza expedition of 1775-76, during which Juan Bautista de Anza led a party of over thirty travelers from Tubac Presidio, south of present-day Tucson, Arizona, all the way up to what is now San Francisco, a difficult journey of about thousand miles of largely unexplored country to locate the sites of the later established missions of San Francisco, Santa Clara, and San Jose.



Charlie and Patty Kieffer

Our presenters will be Charlie and Patty Kieffer, history fans who have been volunteers for Santa Cruz State Parks since 1989 and who have been heavily involved with the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, helping to restore the two-story hacienda in Watsonville known as the Castro Adobe.

They will give a power-point presentation and talk about the Anza Expedition and the Spanish/Mexican history of California from 1775 to 1850. The presentation will concentrate on the Spanish settlers and on how and when they came to California. Patty and Charlie will talk about the settlers' customs and lifestyles with an emphasis on the women settlers as well as talking about the Castro family, who came to California in 1775. Charlie is descended from the Castro family.

Meetings are free and all are welcome. Hope to see you there!

Citizen of the Year Nominees Honored

At the Knights of Columbus 40th Annual Awards Dinner, on Saturday, April 12, Historical Society Hospitality Director Joanne Souza is shown below (with Frank DeSmidt on the left and Ruben Esguerra on the right) being honored for her nomination as Milpitas Citizen of the Year. Five other nominees were honored as well as the chosen Citizen of the Year Joseph Weinstein, Firefighter of the Year Captain Bryan Stelling, and Police Officer of the Year Detective Alexander Prince.



International BBQ and Festival

The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the first street fair that Milpitas has seen in several years. It is going to be held on Saturday, May 31 (10 am–8 pm) and Sunday, June 1 (10 am–6 pm) on South Milpitas Boulevard between Los Coches and Turquoise Streets.

There will be food vendors from Milpitas's many cultures and representatives from Milpitas businesses and civic organizations with information for attendees.

The Milpitas Historical Society will be one of the civic organizations in attendance, represented by the old rolling jail dating from the original Frontier Days celebrations in the 1960's and a table with Historical Society exhibits, information and membership flyers.

The Society needs volunteers to staff the tables and helpers to make sure curious kiddies do not climb onto the jail. If you can help for a four-hour shift during one of these days, please call Roger Skuse at 408-262-0354 to sign up for a spot. Your help is very much needed and would be greatly appreciated.

Fun Facts on Milpitas Parks

Know where Henry Strickroth Park is? It is on Jacklin Road, across the street from the Foothill Square shopping center, where the Nob Hill market is.



Henry Strickroth

This park was named after a Milpitas resident who was one of the original Minute Men who joined together to fight off San Jose's attempt at annexation of Milpitas. Originally from Maryland, Henry Strickroth (1889-1982) was a retired UCSF college professor who

settled in Milpitas in the 1950's after the death of his wife, Elizabeth. He became an active and respected member of the community and was elected to the Milpitas School Board in 1952.

Along with Sal Cracolice, he brought about the Milpitas Youth Center, which later became the YMCA, and is now the Sal Cracolice Building.

There's a charming video of Henry Strickroth Park (made by our Archivist Steve Munzel) that you can see on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve07T3hCh4>

History-Themed Chamber of Commerce Mixer

The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce's Open House for the Historical Society and the Library staff on Wednesday, April 2, seemed to be a great success, not in the least because Bob Keely and his Bobcats played wonderful traditional music for all to enjoy.

Among the members of the Milpitas Historical Society who attended the event were Board Members Lela Ehardt, Joanne Souza and Catherine Pelizzari (in the photo below) along with many other members of the community who met, munched, and chatted, which was the purpose of the gathering.



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/home/index.html>, with information about the society and upcoming events.

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

First Class