

# Milpitas Muse

June 2023

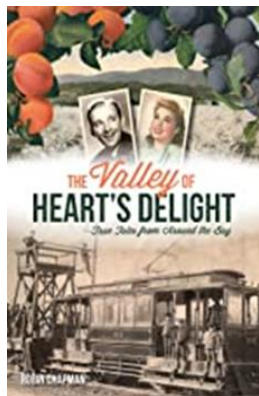
The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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## Our June In-Person Meeting:

### Robin Chapman and Her Stories of Our Valley

Our June meeting will take place at 7 pm on Wednesday, June 14, in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library. Please join us for our program



with returning author, Robin Chapman. Her newest book, *The Valley of Heart's Delight: True Tales from Around the Bay* was published in July 2022 and completes her trilogy of books about the region. Her first book, *California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley*, remains a perennial best seller for The History Press.

Her second book *Historic Bay Area Visionaries* featured the diversity of our state and its history. Her third and latest is a collection of true stories you will not have heard of anywhere else!

In her upcoming talk, she will share glimpses of these intriguing tales she has uncovered since she returned to California. Did you know director Alfred Hitchcock once had an estate here, a residence that impacted the script for his classic film "The Birds"? That crooner Bing Crosby helped fund a local youth center here? That the Santa Clara Valley was once home to an extensive electric interurban rail system used by early 20th century commuters? These are some of the tantalizing stories she will share in her upcoming talk. We know you will not want to miss it!

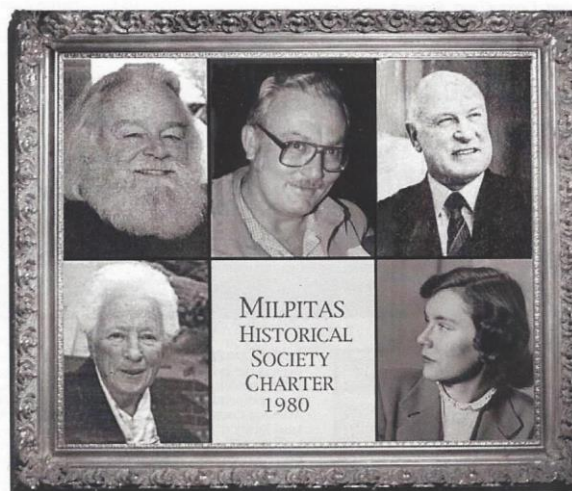


Robin Chapman is a journalist and historian who is a native of Los Altos. After earning her master's degree in journalism at UCLA, she worked as a broadcast journalist in the West before heading to Washington DC, where she covered the White House, Congress, and the U.S. Supreme

Court for the ABC-TV station there (but also lots of parades and fires). In 2009, she returned to her hometown to care for her parents, and in the years since has written her trilogy of books about the region. Robin writes a column on California for the *Los Altos Town Crier* and now lives nearby on the coast.

We will have social time afterwards (as we usually do after the meetings), so you can catch up with friends and find out what's going on. Masks are no longer required to enter the library, but the county still requires that no food be served at these meetings. We hope to see you there!

## An Astounding Founder



ED CAVALLINI

BOB McGUIRE

LEO MURPHY

PAT LOOMIS (Author of Century of Little Cornfields)

ELAINE LEVINE

Ed Cavallini, upper left, was one of the founding members of the Milpitas Historical Society, in 1980, during his time as Community Librarian of the Milpitas Library. (He served from 1977 to 2000). And he is a retired Marine captain who fought at Iwo Jima during World War II. But recently we have learned even more interesting information about him, as he celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 18 and received a plaque with the key to the city from the Milpitas City Council.

It turns out that in 1958, Ed was part of a founding board that started one of the longest running music festivals in the world, the Monterey Jazz festival! Cavallini said the idea for a jazz fest was the brainchild of disc jockey Jimmy Lyons; for whom the main stage at the jazz festival is named. Back then, Cavallini was 35 years old when he helped organize that first festival, which included headliners Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, and Louis Armstrong. He is now the last surviving member of that founding board.

The efforts of Cavallini and others led to a non-profit that has entertained jazz fans for 66 years and contributed millions to music education and programs.



Cavallini (above, in a photo from the interview) said in a May 19 interview with reporter Felix Cortez on KBSW that back in 1958 they had little idea what they would eventually create or how long it would last.

### **From the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance Preservation Awards Night**

In recognition of 2023 National Preservation Month, the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance (SCCPA) hosted an Awards Night honoring individuals and organizations who have made significant historical and cultural preservation contributions throughout Santa Clara County.



*Society President Bill Hare presents his nomination of the City of Milpitas to Renee Lorentzen (left), Milpitas Community Enrichment Coordinator*

The Milpitas Historical Society honored the City of Milpitas with the Outstanding Building Restoration Award for outstanding preservation and restoration of the José Maria de Jesus Alviso Adobe. (See the April *Milpitas Muse* for how to take your own tour there.)

Additional honorees were last month's Milpitas Historical Society's May meeting presenter, Michael Cox, for his work in developing the historic documentation of the New Almaden mines, and distinguished Judge Paul Bernal, who has been our speaker several times, for his leadership, development, and oversight of the Roberto Adobe and Sunol House Museum in San Jose. The Milpitas Historical Society is a major sponsor of this now yearly event.

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**No regular MHS meetings in July or August.**

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### **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](mailto:tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org)
- at our website: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>

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

**First Class**