

# Milpitas Muse

September 2024

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXV, No 6

## Next Meeting: September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

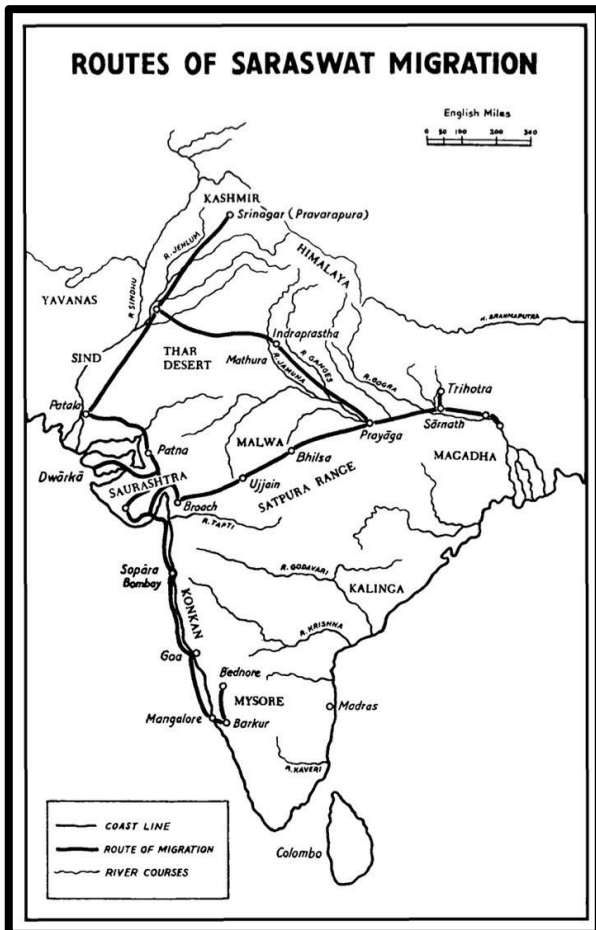
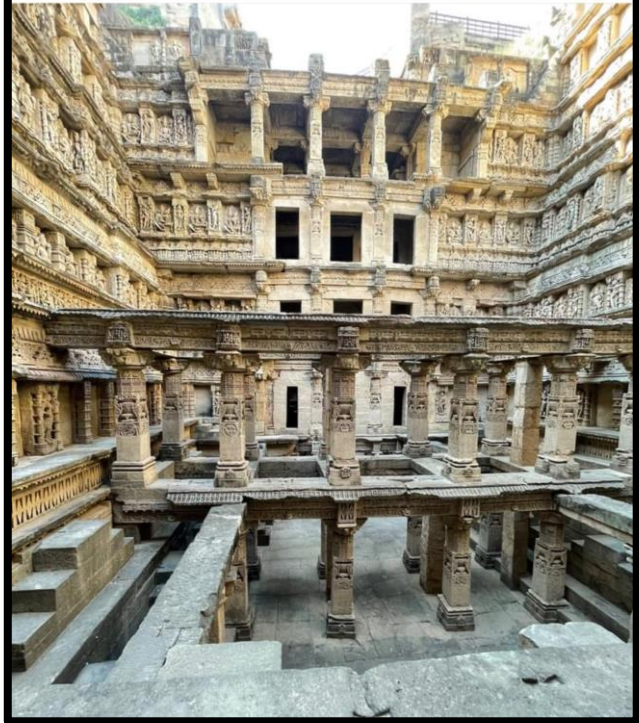
The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will begin at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, in the auditorium of the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street.

### The Presentation

During the months of December 2023 and January 2024, our presenter and Society member, Jathin Ullal, backpacked for six weeks in India and retraced the migration route that his forefathers took from today's Kashmir Valley and Nepal borders (in the north and northeast of India), west to Gujarat, and south to Goa, down to the southern tip of modern-day Karnataka - Ullal and Vithal, near Mangalore.

Jathin's 5,000-mile journey and time-tripping through 180 generations of his lineage brings vividly to life an amazing story. It sparkles with historic details as well as the nuances of the geography, languages, culture, and cuisine of India.

"Rani Ki Vaav" step well built by Rani Udayamati of Solanki dynasty around 1063 AD at Patan. Elegant and beautifully proportioned sculptures all around this well which has water. Buried for centuries and excavated in the 1960s by ASI, it is a UNESCO heritage site and is on the 100 Rs note.



### Our Presenter



Jathin Ullal has been working as a global technical entrepreneur for the last thirty-four years in Silicon Valley and a resident of Milpitas. He is a member of the Milpitas Historical Society and is on its Board of Directors. Jathin is very generous with his time in support of our activities.

## Milpitas High School Class of 1974 Reunion



Class of 1974 Picnic in Murphy Park on Sundy, August 25th

This year, in the months leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Milpitas High School Graduating Class of 1974, Walter Armstrong of their reunion committee contacted the Society. He bought quantities of three different history books from the Society for their classmates who would be arriving from all over the United States in August. Later, this would develop into an unexpected and interesting project.

### Class of 1974 and Society Collaboration

Debbie Shufelt, a member of the committee who now resides in North Carolina and is a graphic artist, was designing a floaty pen commemorating life in Milpitas and attendance at Milpitas High, but when it came time to order she discovered that the minimum quantity was 250 pens. The problem was that they didn't need nor could afford more than 100 pens.

Joe Ehardt thought the floaty pen was interesting and liked Debbie's design, so he had a conversation with Bill Hare about a possible collaboration with the reunion committee to produce a floaty pen that would commemorate the Class of 1974 and the Historical Society. Joe worked with Debbie to include additional artistic elements for what would become a two-sided floaty pen.



One side commemorates the Class of 1974 with a composite scene of Main Street Milpitas with some iconic stores of that era as background, over which would float a graphic element of the VW Beetle that they had built as a high school project. The other side would have the same background with a Leapin' Lena floating design element

*The result -- a very cool souvenir for everyone!*

### A New Special Membership Benefit

Generally, as a Society, it is the Board's goal to provide our members with interesting historical presentations (that we additionally offer to the general public as a community service), an interesting newsletter, occasional field trips to historical locations (usually in Santa Clara County), and special social gatherings like the installation dinner, the summer picnic, and our Christmas potluck gathering.

The social setback of the 2020 COVID pandemic and a subsequent caution resulting from its lingering endemic status has, sadly, disrupted some of these wonderful member-benefit activities. Hopefully we can return to a full slate of member benefits soon.

However, at this moment, the Society has this new floaty commemorative pen that it is offering to all members. A memorable keepsake and utilitarian.

To get a pen as a gift we simply ask you to do one thing: come to a monthly meeting, hear a speaker mesmerize us with spellbinding history, socialize with friends, and pick up your pen. This helps us avoid buying specially padded shipping envelopes, packaging the pen, addressing it, and then paying the mailing postage, not to mention the human effort involved in accomplishing all that.

Please come get your free commemorative pen.

### The Passing of a Society Member

We recently lost another member. You probably will recall Mary Saviz, who was a friend of Jan Hamburger and Trudy Alvarez. It was Jan who relayed the sad information of Mary's passing. They would often come together to meetings and social events as a threesome. Go in [peace.

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