

# Millbrae Life & Times

M I L L B R A E   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y   N E W S L E T T E R

## MHS SPRING HAPPENINGS

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT JOHN MUNIZ

I must say that the past two months have been very exciting for the Millbrae Historical Society and its members. The Society presented two excellent programs that were informative and entertaining for the whole community.

Our first Millbrae Historical Society blockbuster of the year was *Growing Up In Millbrae*, produced by our very own **Tom Dawdy**, who,

needless to say, grew up in Millbrae. *Growing Up In Millbrae* played to a full house in the Chetcuti Room on Friday night, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, as attendees viewed a video presentation of life in what is now Millbrae from Ohlone Indian times through the 1970's. Many of our favorite landmarks of the past were featured in video and picture form. A great deal of time and expert technology was used to create a captivating and informative



look at the past of our great community. Thank you **Tom and Faye Dawdy** for your efforts to bring *Growing Up In Millbrae* to fruition. The program was extremely well received by the community and (continued on page 2)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

( CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 )

will be televised on MCTV in the future.

Our second Millbrae Historical Society blockbuster of the year was the *Inaugural Millbrae History Walk*. The brain child of **Joe Teresi**, the *History Walk* was held on Sunday, May 16th. The *History Walk* was a three-mile journey through Millbrae, stopping to dedicate the six new plaques placed on historical landmarks around town. After the ribbon cutting held in front of the Millbrae Museum, the entourage then stopped at the old Millbrae Lions Scout House for a presentation about its proposed restoration. Thence to the Taylor Middle School plaque dedication as the school band played the National Anthem. The walkers moved next to the Massolo Building, where the new historical plaque was unveiled by **Alma and Dave Massolo**. Next stop was the Original Millbrae Firehouse on Broadway, for dedication and display of the 1936 American La France fire engine alongside one of Millbrae's newer models. The walk continued with a plaque dedication by the **Ruppert and Rolandelli** families at the Alfred F. Green House on Lewis Avenue, a stop at the Millbrae Historical Society's Train Museum, and an unveiling at the site of the former Dunphy Mansion on Serra Avenue. Our last stop was Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church (the original St. Dunstan Catholic Church), where all the History Walk participants were treated to a feast fit for a king. A special thank you to **Father John Nahal**, pastor of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, and his parishioners, led by **Rose Summers**, for the wonderful food and drinks that they prepared for us.

Participants who were not able to walk the three miles were transported by buses provide by the **El Rancho Inn** and the **Magnolia of Millbrae**; traffic logistics were provided by the **Millbrae Volunteers in Policing**. *Millbrae History Walk* map/brochures can be found at the Millbrae Historical Museum; Millbrae Train Museum; City of Millbrae Library, City Hall, and Recreation Center; and at the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce. Fifty-five stainless steel sidewalk markers, placed along the route of the History Walk, have been provided to help you follow the map on a self-guided walk down memory lane. Thank you to **Joe and Shari Teresi and family** for your time and hard work; this was your baby, and now it will live on and be enjoyed by Millbrae residents for generations to come.

This year our annual Millbrae Historical Society Fourth of July Picnic will be held on **Saturday, July 3rd** in the Chetcuti Community Room (see the enclosed flyer). Please mark your calendars for Saturday, July 3rd; come and enjoy the picnic on Saturday and celebrate our nation's birthday on Sunday, July 4th. Hope to see all our

Historical Society members and friends at our annual Fourth of July picnic.

Mark **Saturday, Aug. 14th** on your calendar as a reminder to visit our annual Millbrae Historical Society Rummage Sale. Again this year, **Dorothy Semke** will be serving up some great deals on antiques and other interesting memorabilia. The sale will be held in the front yard of the Millbrae History Museum. The Millbrae Library will also be holding their annual book sale on Aug. 14th, which presents a great opportunity to pick up a good book and then stop by the Museum for additional bargains. If you have items for donation, please contact Dorothy Semke (see enclosed flyer).

A reminder that the **Boy Scouts of America** are celebrating 100 years of service to the community. The Millbrae History Museum, Hiller Aviation Museum, and the San Mateo County History Museum are three of the sites chosen to display Boy Scout memorabilia from the past. Stop by with your kids and grandchildren and check it out; the display runs through the end by June.

I was honored by a vote of the Millbrae Historical Society Board of Directors to continue as your President for a second term. The new MHS Board was sworn in on March 21, by **Mayor Paul Seto**. Our guest speaker was World War II flying ace **Captain Burt Newmark**, who provided a packed house with his slide show of his adventures in the European Theater.

Have you visited the Millbrae Train Museum lately? You should bring your grandchildren, they would love it. I know they would especially enjoy the 1941 Pullman Sleeping car, the *Civic Center*.

This year the Millbrae Historical Society celebrates our fortieth anniversary. I know our first President, the late **John Brucato** would be proud of the accomplishments we have achieved. Forty years ago, after the loss of the Sixteen Mile House, a group of concerned Millbrae residents banded together to ensure other historical treasures would not be destroyed in the name of progress. We at the Millbrae Historical Society continue to be vigilant and dedicated to preserving the rich history of Millbrae for our enjoyment and for those who will follow us. Thank you to the dedicated members of the Millbrae Historical Society who have built this institution of historical treasures. Your hard work and dedication have created a truly unique experience for young and old to enjoy in "Our Place in the Sun".

Best wishes from your Millbrae Historical Society President, **John Muniz**

## CURATOR'S REPORT

ALMA MASSOLO



The Museum's participation in the **Boy Scouts** centennial celebration has been very successful. Many Boy Scouts and their families have visited and toured the Museum and have especially enjoyed the display depicting the beginnings and history of the Boy Scouts of America .

Another wonderful addition to the Museum is the 14-volume leather-bound *Cyclopaedia*, printed in England and revised according to an act of Congress in the year 1862 by D. Appleton & Company in the office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York. These books originally

belonged to the **A. F. Green** family and are all in excellent condition. We thank **David and Mildred Rolandelli** for this generous donation. Their other donation was two scrapbooks compiled by **Maggie Green**, who served as a maid for the A. F. Green family. The scrapbooks are very interesting, containing many recipes and fashion pictures from the 1800s. When David's grandfather **Giuliani Rolandelli** purchased the home at 1 Lewis Avenue from the estate of A. F. Green, David was 10 years old and had fun in the attic collecting all the items that he has donated to us after saving them all these years. A profound thank you to the Rolandelli family.

Another enhancement to the Museum is a beautiful and elegant collection of very fancy dresses, lace tops, and other incredible pieces. They belonged to the grandmother of **Alice Du Bain** and were donated to us by **Mary De Rose**. These high-style fashion



pieces help us visualize how the elite of the 1800s lived. Thank you Mary for this wonderful donation!

We are pleased to welcome two new volunteer Junior Docents to the Millbrae Museum! **Dominic Gomes** is earning credit towards his Eagle Scout award. His job is to help preserve the heritage and history of Millbrae by working on albums and also by creating storage space for historical papers and artifacts and other required storage. **Anthony Raffanti Garcia** is a new Jr. Docent with an overabundance of enthusiasm. He is also helping with the preservation of the history and heritage of Millbrae. Thank you Dominic and Anthony! Your help is greatly appreciated.

## TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS

ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR  
VERN BRUCE, REPORTER

As we approach Summer, we are preparing to work on sealing the windows in the *Civic Center* railcar. This project was started late last year, but the weather kept us from completing it until now.

While we're on the subject of projects, we have to thank **Dave Hanigan** for his donation of a classic truck that he painted and lettered in the 'Streamliner' style railroad theme. He also built a complete HO-scale re-creation of the moving of

the *Civic Center* into place at the Millbrae Train Depot. This display comes complete with accurate models of the cranes that were used to lift the railcar from the Caltrain rails and onto our own display track.

We also have to thank **Pat Altieri** of San Bruno once again, for the donation of additional railroad towels.

A big thank you goes to our docents who have kept us 'in-business' since our last newsletter. They include:



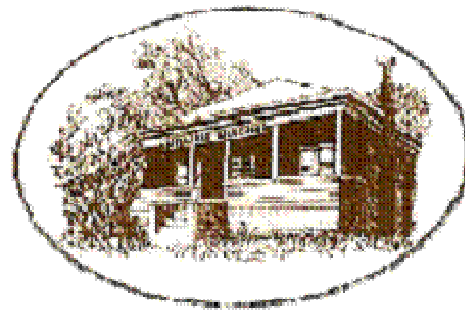
**Liz Furber; Robert Gorran; Gino and Gerry Micheli; Richard Kennedy; and Vern, William and Theresa Bruce.**

Tune in to our next newsletter for more happenings at the Millbrae Train Museum.

# The Millbrae Historical Society

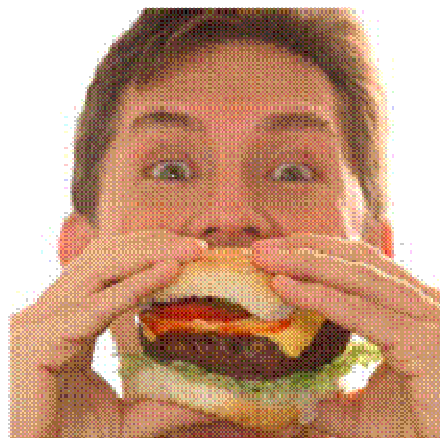
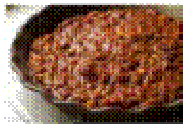
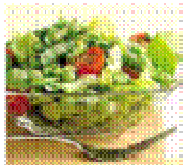
Proudly Presents

# An Old Fashioned Independence Day BBQ



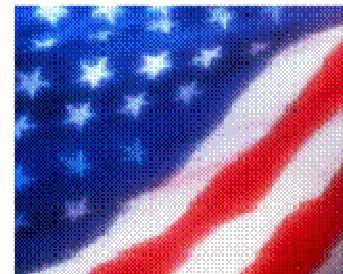
Featuring

- Appetizer
  - BBQ Sirloin Hamburgers with all the trimmings
  - Green Salad
  - Chili Beans
  - Ice Cream & Cookies
- In Addition
- Entertainment
  - Raffle Prizes
  - Beer, Wine, Soda, Water



## Where can I find this wonderful event?

On Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 simply go to the Dave Chetcuti Room at Civic Center Plaza: 450 Poplar Avenue between the Millbrae Library and the Millbrae Museum — 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. \$13.00 is the cost & \$5.00 for kids under 12 years old. The Millbrae Lions Club will be serving an expertly prepared lunch at High Noon.



**Please join us for this fine Independence Day tradition — Everyone is welcome**

Please use this handy coupon to RSVP or call (650) 697-2919 (deadline for reservations is Friday, June 25, 2010)

Number attending MHS BBQ \_\_\_\_\_ Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Checks Payable to:  
Millbrae Historical Society

Address \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 511

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Millbrae, CA 94030

# **Yard Sale**

At the  
**Millbrae Museum**

420 Poplar Avenue

Next to the

**Millbrae Library**

# **BOOK SALE**

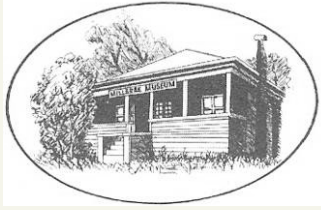
**Saturday**

**August 14, 2010**

**10:00 to 4:00**

The Millbrae Museum is open  
Saturdays from 12 to 4  
for you to drop off your donated items.  
Proceeds from this fund raiser support the  
Millbrae Historical Society.  
650-692-5786

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
WWW.MILLBRAEHS.ORG



**MILLBRAE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 511  
Millbrae, CA 94030  
Phone: 650-692-5786

**MHS OFFICERS—2010**

**John Muniz, President**  
**Paul Larson, Vice-President**  
**Alicia Espinoza, Secretary**  
**Vern Bruce, Treasurer**  
**Alma Massolo, Curator & Historian**

**Joe Teresi, Newsletter Editor**

**C A L E N D A R   O F   E V E N T S**

**Saturday, July 3:** Annual Fourth of July Barbeque and Family Picnic, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, David Chetcuti Community Room, 450 Poplar Avenue.

- Co-sponsored by the Millbrae Historical Society and the Millbrae Lions Club.

**Saturday, August 14:** Millbrae Historical Society Yard Sale, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue.

- Your donations are welcome!

**Saturday - Sunday, September 4 - 5:** Millbrae Art & Wine Festival, Broadway Avenue, Downtown Millbrae. Support the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce and enjoy a weekend of food, music, and the arts. Please visit the Millbrae Historical Society's booth on Saturday!

**Fourth Wednesdays of the Month:** Millbrae Historical Society Board Meetings, 7:00 pm, Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue. MHS members and guests are welcome to attend.

**Millbrae Historical Society Museum Operating Hours**

**Millbrae Museum:** Saturdays, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

**Millbrae Train Museum:** Saturdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm