



Mill Valley Historical Society Newsletter

375 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley CA 94941
www.millvalleyhistoricalsociety.org

FALL 2011

The Mill Valley Historical Society invites members and friends to the 34th Annual meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Thursday, October 20th, at the Mill Valley Community Center. Make your reservations by October 13th.

Dinner will be followed by a short meeting and TWO programs. The opening act will be MVHS President, Tim Amyx, giving an entertaining 10-minute slide show about the history of Mill Valley. It will be the readers digest version of our towns history – OR, if you prefer, “The History of Mill Valley for Dummies.” The main act will be local Mill Valley resident and historian, Lissa McKee. Lissa has spoken on a number of occasions to the members of MVHS and she is always well received. Her theme will be a look back at the Portuguese Dairy Ranchers of Southern Marin and Mill Valley.

The 34th Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Thursday, October 20, 2011

Mill Valley Community Center

Social Time - 6:30 pm

Dinner & Meeting - 7:00 pm

Guest Speakers begin - 7:30 pm

MVHS President, Tim Amyx presents:

The History of Mill Valley in 10 Minutes

Featured Speaker – Lissa McKee

The Portuguese Dairy Ranchers of Southern Marin & Mill Valley

A Landscape of Memory

To mix it up, we ask that you bring a dish that falls into the first letter of your family name.

(Please mark your dishes with your name.)

A-F Dessert G-P Casserole or Main Dish Q-Z Salad

Tableware and beverages will be provided

RSVP by October 13th for a memorable evening.

Call Vivian Broadway at 383-5285 to hold a spot

or email her at: drviv@broadwaydds.com

MVHS Welcomes New Officers

Thanks to the 2012 nominating committee, led by John Leonard, for their efforts and recommendations of FIVE new members, as well as confirming all four officers returning to their same positions. Members are invited to vote on the slate at the Annual Meeting at the Mill Valley Community Center on October 20, 2011

Tim Amyx will return for his third term as the MVHS President, while Betty Goerke does the same in her position of Vice President. John Leonard will serve one more year for the MVHS as the secretary, and Bob McCully will again manage the accounts as the treasurer.

The board also thanks and says goodbye to, Michael Lipman (Lippy), Nancy McQuilkin, and Catherine Rosekrans. Each played a key role in making our 2011 year a success. Nancy has served as our Oral History Chair, and not only organized many Oral histories, but got the paperwork back in order. Catherine served as the Co-Chair of the First Wednesdays, and “Lippy” was the editor of the enormously popular and well received, “Annual Review” (The Music History in Mill Valley theme, with the groovy cover design). Each will be sorely missed.

Nominating Committee Report for 2012

<i>President</i>	Tim Amyx
<i>Vice President</i>	Betty Goerke
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob McCully
<i>Secretary</i>	John Leonard
<i>Directors</i>	Vivian Broadway
	Donna Carillo
	Betsey Cutler
	Barbara Ford
	Chuck Oldenburg
	Cullyn Vaeth Russell

New directors to be approved in October, 2012

Steve McNamara
Barbara Chambers
Lissa McKee
Peter Richmond
Clifford Waldeck

The Mill Valley Historical Society Newsletter is published twice a year. If you are interested in writing for the Newsletter, or have suggestions for content, please contact **Tim Amyx** at tim@tam.net or 383-8936

MVHS Welcomes New Members

Here are the bios on the FIVE new board members who will be officially introduced at the October dinner.

Clifford Waldeck

After moving from San Francisco, Clifford began 2nd grade at Park School, then Edna Maguire Middle School and Tam High where he served as Student Body President and co-Editor of the Tam News. Clifford attended UC Berkeley graduating with a degree in Mass Communications. Clifford was elected to two terms on the Mill Valley Council and was Mayor in 2001. Clifford has served on the Boards of the Mountain Play, the Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival and Singers Marin. Today, Clifford is married to Mill Valley native Karyn Gear. They met at the Mill Valley Dog Park and are now proud parents of Carly, a Park School first grader.

Steve McNamara

Steve McNamara, former owner, editor and publisher of the Pacific Sun, first moved to Mill Valley in 1962. After college and positions with the Winston-Salem Journal and Miami Herald, and a stint covering Grand Prix auto racing in Europe for Car and Driver magazine, Steve worked for the San Francisco Examiner as Executive Sports Editor and then Sunday Editor. In 1966 he acquired the Pacific Sun, which had been started three years earlier in Stinson Beach as the second oldest alternative newsweekly in the U.S. (The oldest is the Village Voice). Steve sold the Pacific Sun in 2004 and now serves as advisor to the San Quentin News.

Steve's wife Kay, who worked with him for many years at the Pacific Sun, is now a marriage and family therapist. They own downtown Mill Valley commercial property and live near downtown in a house built in 1896. They have five grown children and three grandchildren.

Lissa McKee

A fifth generation Californian, Lissa McKee, MA in History, has worked for some thirty years as a historian and environmental planner on numerous projects. These include cultural resource surveys, National Register of Historic Places nominations, interpretive reports, and ethnic community histories for a variety of agencies, including California State Parks, the Sacramento History Museum, the National Park Service, and the California Department of Transportation. She presently works as a Senior Environmental Planner supervising a team responsible for cultural resource studies for environmental regulatory compliance. She has lived in Tam Valley for 20 years.

Peter Richmond

Peter A. Richmond has been a Mill Valley resident for 33 years, having moved here with his wife, Jane and two children in 1978. Peter, formerly an international banker for 25 years, now works as a Realtor in partnership with his wife. Peter has always had an interest in things historical, beginning in high school. His outside interests include cycling, photography, fishing and martial arts, where he holds Black Belts in Tae Kwon Do and Cane Fighting.

Barbara Chambers

Barbara Chambers established her architecture firm over 20 years ago when she moved to Mill Valley. Chambers + Chambers is named after her two sons, Colby Preston and Kyle John. Barbara has a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Masters of Architecture. Her firm focuses primarily on custom residential work offering both architectural and interior design services.

Barbara currently is working on a variety of residential projects located throughout the Bay Area. She is in the process of building a new home on Oakdale in Mill Valley. Barbara is an active Mill Valley resident. She sits on the Mill Valley Planning Commission, is a member of the Mill Valley Affordable Housing Committee, the Mill Valley Rotary, and teaches second grade at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

First Wednesday Speaker Series

The Mill Valley Historical Society takes pride in its tradition of hosting the First Wednesday meetings. Originally these were first THURSDAY meetings, but about 10 years ago for reasons long forgotten, they are now known as the first Wednesday. Each FIRST Wednesday of the Month, from February to June, the MVHS invites a guest who has knowledge of a historic theme that has a connection to Mill Valley or Southern Marin. Occasionally we will also welcome entertaining guests who will talk of a historical event about other parts of Marin, or even San Francisco. These evenings are popular and often attract audiences that fill the creek side room of the Mill Valley Library. If you are a MVHS member you will receive monthly mailings informing you of the upcoming speakers, as well as receiving the monthly electronic newsletter. (Keep us updated with your current e-mail address)

The 2012 slate of speakers has not been confirmed, however there is strong likelihood that we will have guests who will talk about the history of the Golden Gate Bridge, A newspaper expert (“wondering if Newspapers will pull out of their death spiral”) and frequently we have Dipsea Historian Barry Spitz, as well as Train expert and historian, Richard Torney.

Here is a look at our guest speakers the past three years:

2008 – 2009

- October 2008 (Annual Dinner) Dick Spotswood; *“Political History of MV & Marin”*
February 4, 2009 Jeanette Vonier: *“How to Archive Old Photos”*
March 4, 2009 Lissa McKee: *“Tam Valley History”*
April 1, 2009 Richard Torney: *“Town of Ross: A Rich History”*
May 6, 2009 Chuck Oldenburg: *“Homestead Valley: the First Decade”*
June 3, 2009 Barry Spitz & Tim Amyx: *“The Dipsea Race: Lore, History and Video”*
(slides by Barry Spitz and video of Dipsea by Tim Amyx)

2009 – 2010

- October 2009 (Annual Dinner) Fred Runner: *“Mountain Railroad Audio Visual Show”*
February 3, 2010 Matt Cerkel (Ranger of MMWD): *“Military Plane Crashes on Mt. Tam”*
March 3, 2010 Paul Trimble: *“Ferry Boats of the SF Bay to Marin”*
April 7, 2010 Dick Spotswood, Clifford Waldeck, Bob Burton, Stephanie Moulton-Peters:
“A Panel of Mill Valley Mayors From Four Different Decades”
May 5, 2010 Laura Ackley: *“Pan Pacific Exposition: New Technology and Gadgets”*
June 1, 2010 Barry Spitz: *“The Dipsea Race / Centennial Year”*

2010 – 2011

- October 2010 (Annual Dinner) Tim Amyx: *“The History of Mill Valley”*
February 2, 2011 Richard Torney: *“Railroad Tunnels of Marin”*
March 2, 2011 Skip Sandberg, Photographer: *“Steps, Lanes and Paths of Mill Valley”*
April 6, 2011 Laura Ackley: *“Pan Pacific Expo Part 1: How SF Got the Expo”*
May 4, 2011 David Grossman, MV History Room Director: *“Secrets of the History Room”*
June 2, 2011 Barry Spitz: *“Dipsea Race: History of the Trail - 2011”*
September 2, 2011 Laura Ackley: *“Pan Pacific Expo Part 2: Prepping the Expo”*

Annual Dinner Update

Each fall the Mill Valley historical society invites its members to a casual potluck dinner. This is done annually as a way to inform the members what we’ve done, and where we, as an organization, are heading. It’s a way to socialize with other remembers who you’ve known but haven’t seen for a while, and a way to meet other new members.

Our membership currently consists of 431 members. I encourage each of you to mark on your calendars the date of Thursday, October 20th, 2011. Our annual dinners, along with our history walks in May, are considered the two CAN’T MISS events of the year. The socializing, updates on the society events, and the special guest speaker we annual book make it an unforgettable night.

Our evening will consist of: a brief social hour, a delicious pot luck dinner, a short meeting where we will vote in the new board members, to be followed by a riveting presentation on the Early Dairy farms in and around Mill Valley. Local historian and long time Mill Valley resident, Lissa McKee will present dozens of slides, maps, and anecdotes. It will truly be one of the finest annual dinners and guests we’ve ever had.



Aerial photo of Tam Valley, Almonte, Homestead Valley, and Richardson Bay Bridge in the 1930's. Lissa will talk about the Dias Ranch, which can be seen at the bottom of the photo. Photo courtesy of Mill Valley Library, Lucrecia Little History Room.

A Message to Our Members

Notes from President: Tim Amyx

The Mill Valley Historical Society was established in 1977. It was done so shortly after the matriarch of the history archives fell ill and left Mill Valley. That person was Lucrecia Little who for many years was the town's clerk and official historian. With the departure of Lucrecia in 1977, friends with a similar passion formed the Mill Valley Historical Society. It was soon established that the society would serve the following purpose: (As written in the general statement of the Purposes, policies, and procedures of the Mill Valley Historical Society)

It shall be the purpose of the Mill Valley historical society to educate by gathering, preserving, researching, publishing and disseminating information about local history. These activities shall be conducted under Policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors of the Mill Valley Historical Society. The Policies may be accomplished by the following:

- Providing docents and docent programs for the history room
- Conducting interviews, transcribing and printing Oral histories
- Plan and present the walk into history
- Print historical material such as the NEWSLETTER and REVIEW. (NEWSLETTER semi annually, REVIEW Annually)
- Offer financial support to the history room
- First Wednesday programs of historical nature
- Cooperating with the Chamber of Commerce in the Mill Valley Weekend
- Printing Post Cards or posters



Melissa Kurtz and Jan Upham at the check in table at the 2002 History Walk

Most of these above mention duties we continue to carry out and spend a great deal of time in preparing and planning.

Without question the biggest event of the year is our Annual Walk into History, given on the Sunday of Memorial Day in May. We took great pride this past spring in presenting the 2011 walk, titled, "Intellectual Pursuits": Library, Newspapers, Churches, and Schools. This walk coincided with the centennial of the Mill Valley Library. The event was a collaborative one as are most of our endeavors. Special thanks do however to out to our guidebook researcher and editor Chuck Oldenburg. It involved a tremendous amount of information that made the life of our volunteer guides that much easier. Thanks also go out to Barbara Ford and Chuck for training the guides, and to Vivian Broadway for being the guide organizer. Betsey Cutler juggled her busy travel schedule and served as the chairwoman of the event.

We are in great debt to the following MVHS members who served as guides: Abbey Wasserman, Greg Werner, Trubee Schock, Jeff Schock, Nona Dennis, Pam Keon, Larry Anderson, Sue Steele, Suki Hill, Christina Waldeck, Dick Spotswood, Jonathan Jacobs, Lauri Harper, Don Seitas, Catherine Ramberg, Jim Derich, Lauren Novak, Jay Halberg, and Jamie Firmage.

History Walks over the Years

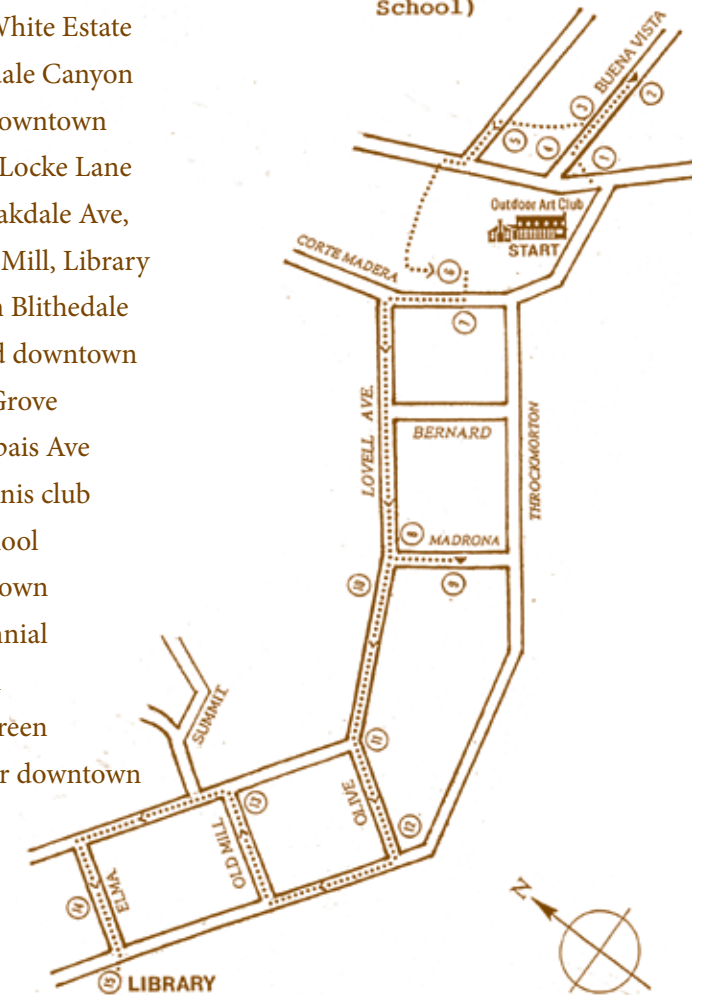
- 1978 "Old Mill Valley Library" Throckmorton Ave to Outdoor Art Club
- 1979 "Historic Sites" Streets around the Library
- 1980 "Downtown Mill Valley" Down and around Miller Ave
- 1981 "Blithedale Canyon" Corte Madera Ave and Blithedale Ave.
- 1982 "Lovell & Summit" Lovell Ave, Summit Ave and Bernard Steps
- 1983 "Tamalpais Park" East Blithedale to Sycamore and neighborhood
- 1984 "Around the Library" Throckmorton, Elma, Cornelia and Lovell
- 1985 "Around the Library, Part 2" Throckmorton Ave, Cascade, Laurel
- 1986 "Homestead Valley" Montford, Ethel and Laverne
- 1987 "Blithedale, Part 2" Blithedale, King, Corte Madera Ave.
- 1988 "Marin Theater Company"
- 1989 "Sycamore Park" Blithedale Ave, Sycamore Ave,
- 1990 "Old Mill" Old Mill area, for anniversary
- 1991 "Sunny Heights and Boyle Park" Streets around Boyle Park
- 1992 "Redwood Lodge" Visit and enter old Redwood Lodge in Blithedale
- 1993 "Cascade Canyon – The First Century" Homes on Cascade Ave,
- 1994 "Almost Downtown" Homes around downtown on Summit & Lovell
- 1995 "Garden of Allah" Tram up Mountain to visit Ralston White Estate
- 1996 "Blithedale Canyon – Redwood Lodge" Houses Blithedale Canyon
- 1997 "Secrets of Mill Valley" Side and small streets around downtown
- 1998 "Back to the Beginning" Sunnyside, Sycamore, Locust, Locke Lane
- 1999 "Backroads of Mill Valley" Gardner and Bolsa track, Oakdale Ave,
- 2000 "Centennial History Walk" Lovell, Throckmorton, Old Mill, Library
- 2001 "Rails Through the Redwoods" Follow railroad route in Blithedale
- 2002 "Steps, Lanes and Paths" Stair System short cuts around downtown
- 2003 "Homestead Valley" HV Community Center to Stolte Grove
- 2004 "The Great Fire of 1929" Shuttle up, Walk down Tamalpais Ave
- 2005 "Around Boyle Park" Boyle Park, Old Boyle Home, Tennis club
- 2006 "Tamalpais Park Subdivision" Start and finish Park School
- 2007 "Downtown Mill Valley" Old businesses around downtown
- 2008 "Tamalpais High School" Tour Campus, School Centennial
- 2009 "Horse and Buggy Days" Walk along Miller Ave to 7-11
- 2010 "Lower Homestead Valley" Schools, 2 a.m. Club, Evergreen
- 2011 "Intellectual Pursuits" Libraries, schools, Churches near downtown
- 2012 "TBA – Soon"

MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Walk Into History 2011

Sunday, May 29, 2011

"Intellectual Pursuits"

(Library, Newspapers, Church, School)





Mill Valley Historical Society
375 Throckmorton Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

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Welcome New Members of 2011

Ken Campbell	David & Pam Canepa	Kathleen Savastano
Bernard Catalinotto	Ricardo & Lisa Capretta	Joan Simmons
Lawrence Jaubert	Marijane Coffyn	Emily Siskin-Toy
David Kupfer	Alan & Cynthia Cowan	Nancy Hayes Svennungsen
Patricia & Dryden Liddle	Jeff Craemer	Dick Swanson
Stella Perone	Dave Distel	Thomas Tracy
Donald & Hope Rehlaender	Elizabeth L. Douglas	Burnett & Marilyn Tregoning
Daniel Rosen	Kathryn Ann Dudley	Annette & Paul Venables
Joseph White	Alessandra Gallo	Bill Washauer
Larry Anderson	Tracy Gant	Susan Kaeupr
Harold Ball	Jonathan Goldman	Sue & Steve Weinswig
M. Benjamin	Katherine Hattner	Joshua Wyss
Jeannine Berman	Bonnie Herzog	Barbara Young
Brenda Biren & Frank Sabella	Gwyn Jones	Bill & Diane Zuendt
Paul Bonapart	Russ & Marilyn Kiernan	
Ron Boose	Andrew Lundquist & Nicole Crnich	
Erika & Bill Bradbury	Craig McClain	
Jerry Cahill & Kathy King	Nancy & Charlie McQuilkin	
Alison Campbell	The Middleton Family	