The Mill Valley Historical Society invites members and friends to the 35th Annual meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Thursday, October 18th, at the Mill Valley Community Center. Make your reservations by October 10th.

Dinner will be followed by a short meeting and a program with our guest speaker. The guest speaker will be the Mill Valley Historical society president, Tim Amyx. Mr. Amyx will take 25 landmark events in the history of Marin County and talk about their impact on the evolvement of Mill Valley. The 45-minute audio visual presentation will include dozens of historical photos, accompanied by amusing anecdotes. The evening should wrap up around 8:45 pm.

The 35th Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner
Thursday, October 18, 2012
Mill Valley Community Center

Social Time - 6:30 pm
Dinner & Meeting - 7:00 pm
Guest Speaker - 7:45 pm

MVHS President, Tim Amyx presents:
“Marin County History”
25 Events that touched Mill Valley

To mix it up, we ask that you bring a dish that falls into the first letter of your family name.
All dishes and serving utensils need to be clearly marked and picked up at the end of the evening.

A-J Salad    K-M Dessert    N-Y Main Dish / Entrée
Tableware and beverages will be provided

RSVP by October 10th for a memorable evening.
Call Vivian Broadway-Firmage at 383-5285 to hold a spot
or email her at: drvbroadway@sbcglobal.net
MVHS Welcomes New Officers

Thanks go to the 2013 nominating committee, lead by Clifford Waldeck (With assistance from Joan Murray and Don Seitas), for their efforts and recommendations of THREE new members, as well as confirming the four officers, one of which is taking over as secretary. Members are invited to vote on the slate at the Annual Meeting at the Mill Valley Community Center on October 18, 2012

Tim Amyx will return for his 4th term as the MVHS President, while Betty Goerke does the same in her position of Vice President. Bob McCully will again manage the accounts as the treasurer. One new change in the officers is the move to secretary by Cullyn Vaeth. Cullyn has been on the board for 2 years and has also served as the publicity chair.

The board also thanks and says goodbye to, Steve McNamara, Betsey Cutler and John Leonard. Each played a key role in making our 2012 year a success. Steve McNamara was responsible for the terrific Review which was published in May. Steve’s skills and knowledge from the publishing world were greatly appreciated by MVHS. Betsey Cutler and John Leonard are both long time members of the board and coincidentally, are both former Mayors of the town of Mill Valley. John in particular served extra time on the Mill Valley historical society board in a number of positions over the years; Newsletter editor, Historical review, secretary, and also served for 6 years as the president. John leaves some very big shoes to fill.

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

Russ Kiernan:

Mill Valley has always been a special place for me and my family. My wife, Marilyn, and I have lived here for forty-five years. Marilyn taught in the Mill Valley schools and our children, Kari and Haywood, attended them.

I was born in Oakland, but grew up in the Richmond District of San Francisco. I lived at home and went through all of my schooling in San Francisco, Star of the Sea grammar school, Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco City College, and San Francisco State University.

Upon graduation from SF State I became a San Francisco Unified School District elementary teacher. I taught in San Francisco for thirty-eight years and retired in 1998.

1998 was also the first year I won the Dipsea Race after running it for twenty-seven years with many top ten finishes. Retirement was looking like a wonderful thing! I’ve also been active with the Tamalpais Runners club, and have assisted in the coaching of cross-country runners at the Mill Valley Middle school.

Mill Valley Steps, Paths & Lanes are of interest to me as I have discovered new ways to run around Mill Valley and on the mountain. I love finding out the history and remaining old areas of the town. I have worked on many of the restoration projects with Victoria Talkington.

I am an active member as well as lector and Eucharistic minister of Mount Carmel Catholic Church. I would be honored to serve on the board of the Mill Valley Historical Society.

Stella Parone:

I was born and raised in Mill Valley. I went through junior high at local schools in Mill Valley. I spent one year in the Kindergarten at Alto (which is now a private school), then spent the 1st through 8th grade at Mt. Carmel. (Which now houses the Greenwood school) Then I spent four years at Marin Catholic High School.

I earned a degree in chemical engineering, got an MBA and now work in real estate in Mill Valley.

My husband, Dan Leonard, and I raised our children Bus and Trinity Leonard in town and were active in the local youth athletic leagues. We are an active family and love the outdoors. Our daughter, Trinity, took a great interest in the Dipsea race as a young girl. Her favorite video as an 8 year old was Tim Amyx’s video on the Dipsea. So fond of the race was she that the family named our cat, “Dipsea.”

Mill Valley is one of the finest places on earth and I feel privileged to live here. For a long time I have been interested in learning more about anything relating to Mill Valley and thus am excited to be joining the Mill Valley Historical society as a board member.

Lauri Harper:

I grew up in Mill Valley and attended Park School and Edna Maguire (then a junior high school) before graduating from Tam High, as did my father (class of ’64 and ’29, respectively). After finishing graduate school at Stanford University, I spent my early and middle adulthood in Palo Alto, working as a counselor/psychotherapist, for the most part at De Anza College in Cupertino, and pursuing my interests in dance in the evenings and travel during the school holidays.

During my third and last sabbatical in 1996-97, I moved back to Mill Valley temporarily and discovered Carol Connelly Budd’s series of historical walks in town and on the mountain. She was my inspiration for joining the MVHS then, and I vowed to lead historical walks myself after I retired and moved back to Mill Valley permanently in 2001. Since that time I have been a guide for seven of the annual Walks into History, and have very much enjoyed taking a more active role in the MVHS, as well as renewing old friendships and developing new ones.

While serving on the Building Preservation committee of the OAC in recent years, I learned something about respect for the architectural integrity of historically important structures. The 1904 Maybeck-designed OAC clubhouse is on the national register of historic landmarks, and as such enjoys some protection against insensitive restoration or reconstruction. I would like to see such respect and protection extended to other historically significant Mill Valley properties and/or districts and included in the City’s General Plan Update-MV2040.

Nominating Committee Report for 2013

President Tim Amyx
Vice President Betty Goerke
Treasurer Bob McCully
Secretary Cullyn Vaeth Russell
Directors Vivian Broadway-Firmage
Donna Carrillo
Barbara Chambers
Barbara Ford
Lissa McKee
Chuck Oldenburg
Peter Richmond
Clifford Waldeck

New directors to be approved in October, 2012

Stella Parone
Russ Kiernan
Lauri Harper

MVHS Welcomes New Members

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

Russ Kiernan:

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First Wednesday Speaker Series - 2013

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 Creekside 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 email address).

2013 Guest speakers:

February 6, 2013 Guest Speaker - **Bob Flasher**
Former Community Programs Manager Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Beat Poets, Drugs and Zen at Druids Heights

March 6, 2013 Guest Speaker - **Richard Torney**
Railroad & Marin Historian

History of Greenbrae & Kentfield

April 3, 2013 Guest Speaker - **Doug Ferguson**
Attorney - Former counsel to the Nature Conservancy

“Marincello - The Grand City that Never Was”

May 1, 2013 Guest Speaker – **Surprise guest to come**

June 5, 2013 Guest Speaker - **Barry Spitz**
Marin & Dipsea Race Historian

Dipsea Race – History and Lore of the Greatest Race

Dipsea TRIVIA

“The Dipsea Race and Dipsea Trail were named for the Dipsea Inn, built by William Kent in 1904 on land he owned at what is now Dipsea Road in the Stinson Beach subdivision of Sea Drift. Both the trail and the race originally ended at the Inn, which was also to be served by a planned, but never constructed, rail line. But what is the origin of the Dipsea Inn name? For years, many speculated, naturally enough, that it had to do with dipping in the adjacent ocean. But in a 1925 newspaper interview, Kent said, “I applied the name Dipsea Inn to a small hotel formerly located on the Bolinas sandspit...The word ‘Dipsea’ I found where your readers would delight to find it, in [Rudyard] Kipling’s ‘Last Chantey’. That poem was written in 1893, and the reference is in stanza eight. Kipling won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907,” — Barry Spitz

Local town news update – **The Mill Valley Lumber Company Saved**

The news was disconcerting. Mill Valley Lumber Co. was for sale and the one-acre site which straddles the creek upstream from Millwood between inbound and outbound Miller is zoned residential. The nightmare: the historic picturesque buildings would be replaced by low cost housing or “MacMansions.” Good news followed: an Almonte couple purchased Mill Valley Lumber Co. and plan to keep it in business.

Robert Dollar established the lumber yard in 1892, horse and buggy days when inbound Miller was the railroad and outbound Miller was a dirt road. Yes, the famous Robert Dollar, the shipping magnate who later lived in his San Rafael mansion, Falkirk. The lumber yard was called the Dollar Lumber Co. In 1895 he acquired his first vessel to move lumber from the Pacific Northwest to markets down the coast. Other vessel acquisitions followed.

In 1898, Robert Dollar sold the lumber yard to J.H. McInnes. By 1905, ownership had passed to The Doherty Company which owned two other lumber yards: one was on Evergreen Ave. in Homestead Valley, the other, in Larkspur.

In January 1908, J.T. Irish managed The Marin Lumber and Fuel Co. which was located close by at Forest and Laurelwood. In April 1909, Carl E. Christley took over the Marin Lumber and Fuel Co. and named it The Tamalpais Lumber Co. In April 1910, Carl Christley partnered with Nicholas Yost to take over the old Dollar lumber yard from The Doherty Company. They named it The Mill Valley Lumber Co. Thus, the name has lasted 102 years, and the lumber yard itself is now 120 years old.

Earlier this year, the Cerri family, which has owned the Mill Valley Lumber Co. for 14 years, put the business, the adjacent cabinet shop and the one-acre piece of land on the market. They were burnt out from weathering the economic downturn and wanted to find a buyer who would retain the property as a lumber yard. An Almonte couple, Matt and Jan Mathews who have lived in Mill Valley for over 22 years, came to the rescue. Their purchase was finalized in August. The couple plans to keep the existing name, continue the business and display historical information about this landmark.

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![Mill Valley Lumber Company on Miller Avenue For Sale – SOLD](Photo by Tim Amyx)
A Message to Our Members

Notes from President: Tim Amyx

Each year the Mill Valley historical society sets goals. Most of the goals are from the original charter which lists the purpose of the Mill Valley historical society. Annually we put our greatest energy and resources into the Memorial Weekend History Walk. As was mentioned on page 6, this year’s walk was a tremendous success and we are already in the planning stages for our 2013 walk. We have a wealth of ideas and options for history walks. Occasionally we repeat routes from years past that have been popular walks. Or, we look to break new ground and take on a new theme or section of town. As we go to press, and meet for the annual dinner in October, the walk committee is weighing the pros and cons of three potential walks.

One option is repeating a walk that took place in 1992. It was a walk through Cascade Canyon, focusing on old homes along Throckmorton and Cascade, with a special stop at the old Joseph Eastland home called, Burlwood. This walk would begin and end at the Mill Valley Library.

Another option discussed would be a combination of walks from past years. It would focus on the lower side of Bithellade Canyon and Corte Madera Avenue. We would not only point out historical homes and a few businesses, but also talk about the old railroad path that was the route of the Mt. Tam Railway. This walk would begin and end at the Outdoor Art Club.

The third option being discussed would be an entirely new walk, never done. This theme would be the Locust district. This would be primarily the businesses that have come and gone around the area. Notables would be the 2 a.m. club, the Marin Theater Company, and the businesses along Miller between La Goma and Locust. We might go as far as Grillys and the High School. This route would potentially also pass by the site where Chief Marin once lived, and where the first adobe house was built by the Reed family. This route would begin and end near the Marin Theater Company.

The other 2012 event, besides the walk, which the MVHS takes great pride in sharing, was the revealing of the NEW RAILROAD MEDALLIONS, which were hung on the old Railroad Depot. (Known to the current generation as the Book Depot) With a generous donation from the Drexler Trust Fund, the Mill Valley Historical Society sponsored the purchase and hanging of replicas of the old Northwest Railroad Medallions. There are now five hanging on the Book Depot building, just as they did from 1929 until the early 1950’s. A plaque was also purchased and hung on the west side of the building, informing future generations of the historic significance of this building. Dick Spottswood was instrumental in kick-starting this project many years ago, and revising the flame this past year with the support of the MVHS.

The 2012 History Walk – “Downtown Taverns & Restaurants”

As is the norm, our 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 one of our most memorable and popular walks ever. The 2012 history walk was titled, “Downtown Taverns & Restaurants.” The 90 minute walk covered most of downtown, passing by and hearing stories about scores of Taverns and Restaurants that at one time or another occupied space in Mill Valley. There were also two restaurants who were kind enough to allow us to enter and get an inside look at their establishments. We are forever grateful to the Aversa family of La GINESTRA for showing such great hospitality for the opening of their restaurant and bar. Maria Aversa herself was there much of the day, sharing photos and stories of the family restaurant that has been a part of Mill Valley since 1964. We are also grateful to Tyler Florence and his wife Tolan (A native of Mill Valley) for opening their doors at EL PASEO HOUSE OF CHOPS and preparing popovers for those who were on the walk. (Popovers were a staple of the El Paseo when Mary Harkins operated the restaurant from 1957 – 1972)

The event was a collaborative one as are most of our endeavors. Special thanks do however go out to our guidebook researcher and editor Chuck Oldenburg.

Thanks also go out to Barbara Ford and Chuck for training the guides, and to Vivian Broadway-Firmage for being the guide organizer. As was the case in 2012, Betsy Cutler juggled her busy travel schedule to Vivian Broadway-Firmage for being the guide organizer. As was the case in 2012, Betsy 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: Nona Dennis, Suki Hill, Dick Spottswood, Jonathan Jacobs, Ruth Downing, Lauri Harper, Don Seitas, Gary Ferroni, Tim Amyx, Curt Oldenburg, Christina Oldenburg, Chuck Oldenburg, and Jamie Firmage (who went out TWICE).

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Volunteers needed for History Room in MV Library

The History Room is seeking volunteers to organize files, clip newspaper articles, assist visitors find information about Mill Valley and work on a variety of other interesting projects. No experience necessary. All training provided. Work mornings, afternoons, evenings, weekdays or weekends.

Contact David Grossman at (415) 389-4292, ext. 4738 or dgrossman@cityofmillvalley.org

MVHS Welcomes New 2012 Members

Mary Brock
Mary Carol Cabibi
Barbara Chambers
Steve Gayle
Jonathan Harris
Sylvia Knauer
Carmack McCormick
Sean Norton
Kelli Tonnesen

Welcome one and all!