Please join us for
The Mill Valley Historical Society’s 41st Annual
Members’ Meeting & Potluck Dinner
6 p.m., Thursday, October 18, 2018
Mill Valley Community Center

Dinner will be followed by the Membership Meeting at which new Directors will be elected. As always, the Meeting and Dinner are held for our current paid membership, and we warmly welcome those who wish to join at the door. Please see details for the evening on page 3, and be sure to RSVP by October 15.

Guest Speaker, Betty Goerke

Director Betty Goerke has appeared frequently at MVHS events, most recently when she spoke at our April First Wednesday event. That evening she spoke on her recent book, A Broken Propeller, the story of her father’s participation in the 1919 transcontinental biplane air race. For our dinner meeting, she has chosen the topic, “When Indians Lived in Mill Valley.”

Betty is a scholar of Native American history and culture and has taught anthropology and archaeology at College of Marin since 1972. She is well known for her book, Chief Marin, published in 2007.

During her research for the book, she examined old records that pointed to the location of the village where Chief Marin was born. In 2009, Betty organized the dedication of a plaque at the site of the village at Locust Avenue, a project sponsored by MVHS.

The title of honorary elder of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (the only honorary elder) was conferred on Betty that day.

Marco and Ethan Ariowitsch of Mill Valley study the Chief Marin plaque, 2012.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE — Mountain Railway Locomotive Coming Home: Progress Update

In March, 2018, we wrote to our membership to share some exciting news for fans of local history, and in particular of the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway: We managed to purchase the last remaining major piece of equipment on Earth from the mountain railway – a Heisler steam locomotive that since 1953 has been sitting in the town square in Scotia, California, about 200 miles north of Mill Valley.

As many of you know, the mountain railway opened in 1896 and ran from the Depot in Mill Valley to the top of Mt. Tamalpais. The railway was considered an engineering marvel in its day, and drew tourists from around the world.

Eventually, the railway was also extended to Muir Woods. Sadly, the automobile and the Great Depression led to the demise of the railway in 1930, when the rails were torn up, the passenger cars burned to the ground, and the steam engines sold off. The Heisler engine No. 9, built for the mountain railway in 1921, has now spent most of its life in the California logging industry and on display in Scotia. And for decades, past and present Mill Valleyans and mountain railway enthusiasts have been working and hoping to bring this steam engine back to its original home.

To help plan and manage the work of bringing the Heisler back to our community, the Mill Valley Historical Society, the Marin History Museum, and the Friends of Mt. Tam have created a new organization called the Friends of No. 9. Since winning Scotia’s auction of the Heisler back in March, these organizations have focused mostly on the considerable task of moving the locomotive out of Scotia and also finding a new home for the other historic equipment that Scotia bundled in the auction we won. After the move, we will arrange for the Heisler to undergo restoration and hazardous-materials mitigation (asbestos and lead-based paint were commonly used in the manufacture of locomotives of the Heisler’s era).

These are, of course, interim steps leading to the ultimate goal of bringing the Heisler back to its original home in Marin County. Many people have expressed excitement about this prospect, and naturally they have asked, “Where are you going to put it? At the top of Mt. Tamalpais? In Mill Valley?”

(Continued on page 4)

MVHS to Elect New Board Members and Officers

This year’s Nominating Committee, comprised of Directors Eric Macris, Jerry Cahill, and Stella Perone, is very pleased to have identified several new Director candidates who are accomplished in their professions, have years of Mill Valley experience, and possess a keen interest in local history. Each will be a great asset to MVHS.

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits and recommends approval by the Members of the Mill Valley Historical Society the following slate of Directors for 2019. Voting will occur at the Annual Meeting of the Members on October 18, 2018. One individual from each membership address is entitled to vote as long as that person is physically present at the meeting.

The dates after the Directors’ names indicate the years their terms expire on December 31. All new Directors are elected for a three-year term and eligible to run for a second three-year term. Nancy Emerson and Corinne Purnell have been nominated for their second terms.

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2019

President
Eric Macris, 2019
Vice President
Jill Benton-Tardy, 2019
Treasurer
Nancy Glasenk, 2020
Secretary
Nancy Emerson, 2021
Claudia Chittenden, 2021
Betty Goerke, 2019
Rhona Gordon, 2021
Matt Mathews, 2021
Corinne Purnell, 2021
Debra Schwartz, 2019
Dick Spotswood, 2019
Charlie Vogelheim, 2020
Bob Wright, 2020

Special Thank You to our Departing Directors

Jerry Cahill
Elected 2016
Walk into History guide
Nominating Committee

Trish Intemann
Elected 2018
Walk into History guide

Stella Perone
Elected 2013
President 2014
Secretary 2016-2018
Walk into History staff
Nominating Committee
Annual Dinner chair

Meg Rose
Elected 2017
Walk into History guide
Memorial Day parade 2017
Biographies of new MVHS Board members who will be officially introduced at the annual dinner

Claudia Chittenden

Claudia grew up near Detroit and received an M.A. in speech and language pathology from George Washington University in 1975. She moved west and she and her family have lived in Mill Valley for over 35 years. She worked part-time in a private school in San Francisco, allowing her to be a very active parent volunteer in her children’s classrooms.

Claudia completed her professional work as an itinerant speech therapist with the Marin County Office of Education. Early retirement in 2002 allowed her time to serve on the Board of the Marin Literacy program, both as secretary and events committee chair and was a tutor trainer and a tutor/teacher with the Conservation Corps, for over 15 years. She also participated in the FLAGship Mobil pre-school, with the Marin County Free Library, encouraging parents to learn how to be their children’s first teacher of language and literacy.

Last year when she and her husband David decided to downsize, they looked at houses as far north as Sonoma and as far south as S.F., but when they found a condo in M.V. they looked at each other and said; “this is where we belong.”

Claudia has been an enthusiastic guide on the MV History Walks for many years and before that an appreciative patron of the Walks. She is a member of the Alpine Club, Scott Valley Swim Club and an avid user of the Mill Valley Rec Center.

“Mill Valley has been here a lot longer than I have and will be here much longer than I am,” says Claudia. “I want to preserve, present and participate in its history. I am looking forward to becoming an active member of the board of the MVHS.”

Rhona Gordon

“I’m thrilled to be living in Mill Valley, a town that has been on my radar since 1972 when I first moved to California from the East Coast,” says Rhona. Her first visit to the state back then was to Mendocino, Pt. Reyes, and Mill Valley where she had friends. She loved all three of those places but as fate would have it, she wound up living in Los Angeles for 40 years and didn’t move up north until 2012. “I met and married my husband John Maxwell, who had lived all over Marin and SF during the late 60’s, 70’s, and early 80’s and had also wanted to return to the Bay Area,” say Rhona.

They met on a movie set in the 1990s as they both had careers in the film industry. Rhona started working as a studio teacher on movie sets in 1980 to help studios comply with the 1939 Coogan Act, which protects all working minors in the entertainment industry by providing them with an education and establishing a bank account where a certain portion of their earnings is set aside exclusively for their own use. (Jackie Coogan was a child actor who received no compensation or education, and was often asked to perform emotionally or physically compromising work.)

“My career has given me so much in the way of working alongside so many people for one purpose,” she says. “I love new experiences, new challenges, and meeting new people. I feel lucky to be living in this beautiful town and have learned so much about its history through the Walks into History and attending events at the library. I would love to be able to use some of my time to help preserve, promote, and learn about the history of this special place I now call home.”

Matt Mathews

Francis "Matt" Mathews is a California native, originally from Eureka where he first developed a love for history and historic buildings. He worked his way through college and MBA graduate school in Sacramento by renovating homes and selling them. Matt then moved to San Francisco in 1983 and worked in real estate brokerage where he met his wife Jan. They relocated to Mill Valley in 1990 and raised two daughters Jenelle and Macey, who are now off on their own working in the Bay Area.

Matt parlayed his experience in real estate brokerage and construction into a career renovating commercial buildings in San Francisco and other Bay Area communities. His specialty has been finding older buildings that have an interesting history and story behind them, from an old belt factory in San Francisco to the first medical clinic in Sonoma. They have all become “part of the family” and are still being managed by the Mathews.

Matt and Jan’s most recent project has been the 1892 Mill Valley Lumber Yard, sitting in the heart of Mill Valley. It’s been a legacy project for Matt and his family, renovating and repurposing an important part of Mill Valley’s history. They have also included it in an Historic Overlay to preserve the important site for future generations to enjoy.

The 41st Annual Members’ Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Mill Valley Community Center

Social Hour—6:00 pm
Dinner—6:45 pm
Members’ Meeting—7:30pm
Guest speaker—7:45 p.m.

We appreciate the following contributions:
A-Q: Main Dish, Side, or Salad
R-Z: Dessert
Beverages will be provided
E-mail RSVP by October 15
to info@mvhistory.org
or call (415) 388-1953
Mountain Railway Locomotive (Continued from page 2)

We are excited to have reason now to begin this discussion about the Heisler’s new (old) home. But, it is important to emphasize that the Friends of No. 9 cannot possibly make this decision alone. We plan to reach out to community leaders, government entities, and the general public to engage in what is likely to be a lengthy discussion about creating a new, permanent home for the Heisler.

To begin this discussion, we propose three goals for the Heisler’s public display:

- Easy public access
- Protection from the elements and vandalism
- Location somewhere along the original route of the mountain railway

Another frequently-asked question: How much will it cost to create the Heisler’s new home? At this early stage, the answer is unknowable. But certainly, we must raise much more money than we now have. Please visit the MVHS website at mvhistory.org to find out more.

We will keep you informed as we make progress on this exciting project.

News from the Lucretia Little History Room

TimeWalk Mill Valley

Last fall the Mill Valley Public Library launched "Building History in 3D," an internship in which local high school students used local history research and 3D modeling software to recreate Mill Valley buildings as they were in the past. Fast forward one year later and visitors to the History Room can now don an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset to explore TimeWalk Mill Valley, a historical virtual world that students have helped to populate with their buildings. Next time you're in the History Room, come try out the headset and step back in time to the days when trains pulled into the Depot and silent movies played at the local theater.

New Oral Histories

The Mill Valley Public Library and the Mill Valley Historical Society have long collaborated on the Mill Valley Oral History Program, an initiative to capture, preserve, and share the voices and stories of local residents and others whose experiences help to shape the collective memory of Mill Valley. Among the newest oral histories to be featured online are the following: academic and Roosevelt family member John Boettiger, former mayor Betsy Cutler, musician Huey Lewis, Throckmorton Theatre founder Lucy Mercer, landscape architect George Omi, lawyer and conservationist Martin Rosen, and educators Tia Smirnoff and Margaret "Kett" Zegart.

Get Involved

The History Room is seeking computer-savvy volunteers to help with a variety of projects, including digitizing and cataloging photographs. Are you comfortable using Word, Excel, and databases? Interested in local history? Contact History Room Librarian Cate Mayfield to inquire, cmayfield@cityofmillvalley.org.
First Wednesdays- 2018 Speaker Series

Once again MVHS has sponsored a full schedule of First Wednesday programs, representing a wide array of topics and drawing record crowds. Thanks again for the cooperation of the Mill Valley Library staff and to all our speakers.

Marin Revealed Through Historic Maps - Dewey Livingston, West Marin historian

How a Mountain was Made: Coast Miwok Stories - Greg Sarris, tribal chairman of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

The Bolinas-Fairfax Road; 138 Years of History - Brian Crawford, historian and open-space activist

A Broken Propeller - Betty Goerke, author, anthropology, and archaeology

It Happened in Marin - Jim Holden, author and historian

Jack London - Lou Leal, Park Historian for Jack London State Historic Park

Recovering from the Depression: New Deal Gifts to Marin and Sonoma - Dr. Gray Brechin, historical geographer, with John Boettiger, grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt

Of Marsh and Men: Staying Above Water at Bothin - Laurel Collins, Watershed Sciences consultant

Mill Valley's Golden Age of Rock and Roll - Richie Unterberger, music historian

Yet to come: In November, Ross: A Rich History, with Historians Richard Torney and Fran Cappelletti; and in December, Druid Heights, A Place for Makers and Doers: A National Park Perspective, by GGNRA architectural historian, Kristen Baron.

Soon available online: All of our Wednesday evening presentations have been filmed and will be available for viewing on our website. Watch for announcements in MVHS Constant Contact mailings.

A Home at Last: the Saga of the Trail Map

After 14 years in the possession of the Mill Valley Historical Society, the historic Mt. Tamalpais Trail Map has found a new home. The map will be installed in early fall at a downtown location with a public dedication ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

The location chosen is the wall of the building at 34 Miller Avenue, known to old-timers as "the locksmith shop." It will face the driveway into the Mill Valley city parking lot off Miller Avenue. The original map will be accompanied by a descriptive sidebar explaining its history.

The map was originally commissioned in 1949 by the owner of Old Mill Market at the corner of Throckmorton Avenue and Old Mill Street. However, by 1960 the map had disappeared, having been covered with shingles. The Market changed hands over the years, later becoming a fix-it shop.

In 2004 the owner of the then-vacant building began planning to replace it with residential units. As the demolition began, a part of the map was exposed. That's when longtime MVHS member Cary (CJ) Carrillo came on the scene. "I thought that it should be preserved as part of the history of MV," says CJ. "I contacted the owners of the parcel and secured permission to remove the map. The removal is a story in itself."

Tim Amyx (a Board member 2001-2014, president 2010-2013) picks up the story. "He (CJ) was the one who practically tore it down himself. My brother, Kirk Amyx, took a super high-resolution photo, with the idea that one day we might blow up the photo into a billboard-size replica of the old map," says Tim. The map was then stored in pieces in CJ's storage unit until about 2013, when it was passed on to local contractor Guy Palmer.

Time passed, as did Board members with various ideas for displaying the map. Finally, in 2013 the City approved the idea of installing a billboard of the map on the side of the Old Mill Park bathroom. However, in 2015 when the Board plans got more ambitious with the idea of installing the map itself in the Park, the City said "no."

Architect and Board member Jill Benton-Tardy had taken over the project in 2014. It fell to her to continue the work of finding another home for the map after the Old Mill Park disappointment. Without Jill's skill and determination, this project could not have been brought to a successful conclusion.

Rebecca Curtis-Cassacia was hired to do restoration on the boards, as the project at the Miller Avenue site was moving through the City approval process. Final approval was granted in August. Guy Palmer will be the contractor and Kelly Turbin will offer structural engineering skills pro bono. Special thanks to building owner Russ Keil and tenant Helen Russell for their cooperation.
100th anniversary of the first Women’s Dipsea Hike

The Mill Valley Historical Society joined the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first Women’s Dipsea Hike on April 21, 2018. More than 500 participants took to the Dipsea Trail in a ceremonial hike to commemorate the trailblazing women’s race (called a hike to meet national athletic regulations), which took place on April 21, 1918 and annually through 1922.

This race was the first-ever cross-country sporting event in the United States organized exclusively for women and featured hundreds of women runners. The centennial hike began at Old Mill Park and ended at Stinson Beach Park with a reception for participants and friends. In the spirit of the anniversary event, many hike participants wore costumes representing race attire of the period.

Preceding the Hike, the Dipsea Race organization hosted a reception that was open to all Women’s Hike participants and the wider community on Friday, April 20th. During this event, the Historical Society and the Mill Valley History Room together sponsored a table that displayed historical photos and information about women in the original and subsequent Dipsea races.

Dipsea historian Barry Spitz gave a short illustrated talk about the history of this pioneering event, complete with a slide show put together by History Room Librarian Cate Mayfield. The Dipsea Race organization, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce, One Tam, and the City of Mill Valley all participated in this historic and trailblazing event.

Historical Photograph Display

The latest exhibit “Back To School: The First 55 Years” will examine Principal E.E. Wood’s vision for all Tamalpais High School students to graduate and continue to college or be able to find a job without serving an apprenticeship. The following themes will be explored: academic and vocational components; transportation for students as far away as Pt Reyes; and the various clubs and organizations. The exhibit will be on display in the Mill Valley Library’s downstairs gallery until the end of 2018.

Photo courtesy of the Lucretia Little History Room, Mill Valley Public Library

Also coinciding with the Dipsea Hike, MVHS member Lora Good curated a photo display in the hallway outside the Lucretia Little History Room that featured photos of women participating in the original five Women’s Dipsea Hikes as well as in subsequent Dipsea Races right up to current times.

Did you know that women were barred from entering the races between 1923 and 1972? (There were concerns about women’s health and the damage that would occur due to long distance running.) The ban didn’t stop women from participating, but it wasn’t until the implementation of Title IX in 1972 that they were officially allowed in the race.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Killion  
Age 98  
Founding Member

Charles (Chuck) Crawford  
Age 89  
25 Year Member

Arlene Beverly Halligan  
Age 82  
20 Year Member

Newsletter Staff: Editor, Corinne Purnell; Assistants, Josh Hanna, Kurt Peterson, Phil Rhodes; Contributors, Tim Amyx, Jill Benton-Tardy, CJ Carrillo, Nancy Emerson, Lora Good, Eric Macris, Cate Mayfield, Debra Schwartz; Photos, Kirk Amyx, Jill Benton-Tardy, Nancy Emerson, Betty Gorder, Eric Macris, Fred Runner. Thanks to Stella Perone and MVHS volunteers who prepared the Newsletter for mailing.

6 FALL 2018—MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
2018 WALK INTO HISTORY—MILL VALLEY GROWS UP

This year’s Walk into History, titled “Mill Valley Grows Up,” focused on the Tamalpais Park and Jagtown neighborhoods. The route of the Walk took participants through the neighborhoods where early Mill Valley was transformed from its rough-and-tumble beginning in lumber cutting and rowdy taverns to becoming a mature community with subdivisions of both stately and humble homes.

The Walk started at the recently re-imagined and refurbished Mill Valley Lumber Yard, where we were hosted by Jan and Matt Mathews, MVHS members and Lumber Yard owners. After wandering down Miller Avenue and through the leafy and fragrant streets of Tamalpais Park, the Walk route reached East Blithedale at Sycamore Avenue and ended at the newly renovated Scout Hall. There, Scout Hall’s Board of Directors arranged refreshments for almost 300 walkers. A special thanks to the Scout Hall Board and especially, Board Secretary Roberta Keller, for their support of our Walk into History.

For this year’s Walk we provided some new history of early residents based on original research conducted by Phil Rhodes, adding to our long-time lore. We stopped at the homes of early Miller Avenue residents, the Lenharts, and mid-century dancing personalities, Dick and Marguerite Ford. We also stopped at the Tamalpais Park home of prominent town attorney, Peter Breen, and Tamalpais High School teacher, coach, and Superintendent of Construction, Gerard “Pop” Wendering. The current owners of Wendering’s California Spanish style home invited tour members to walk through the front rooms of this iconic building. We also introduced the contributions of long-time doctors (and brothers) Wilson and A.B. (Tom) Goddard.

We recalled the histories of well-known residents, including the Jacob Gardner and William Weissich families, and reviewed the evolution of Tamalpais Park School. On Blithedale Avenue, we delved into the businesses of the Bagshaws, Watsons and Hansens, and compared the original Tamalpais Motors building with today’s renovated building. We examined the knobby-kneed Sycamore trees, the paths of Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio and Warner Creeks, and the towering bay and redwood trees in the neighborhoods, and traversed an original shortcut lane between Catalpa and Walnut Avenues.

The 41st Annual Walk into History was a success due to the involvement of many MVHS volunteers, who lent their time and talents to the many tasks that support the walk every year, including developing the Walk, organizing the guides, handling the publicity, registering the participants, selling memberships and books, and guiding the tours. We appreciate their efforts in this ever-popular event. And this year, we recognize Bill Lary, who provided his hand-drawn map of the route, as he has for many past Walks, and Mary Osborn, Graphics Designer for MVPL, who provides posters for our Walks.

2018 Walk volunteers and guides:

Co-chair Nancy Emerson          Barbara Ford          Corinne Purnell
Co-chair Phil Rhodes            Nancy Glasek           Steve Quarles
Tim Amyx                        Betty Goerke           Meg Rose
Jerry Cahill                    Rhonda Gordon         Debra Schwartz
Fran Cappelletti                Bill Lary             Trubee Shock
CJ Carrillo                     Eric Macris            Dick Spotswood
Donna Carrillo                  Cate Mayfield         Charlie Vogelheim
Matt Cramer                     Mary Osborn          Greg Werner
Ruth Downing                    Stella Perrone        Bob Wright

We are always looking for members who want to participate in this annual event. If you are interested, please contact the Walk co-chairs or any of the volunteers to find out more about how you can be part of this exciting event!
Thanks to the following 2018 Membership Donors

Mt. Tamalpais - $50-$99
Katie Beacock
Nancy Benjamin
Jill Benton-Tardy
Suzanne Bettinger
Janis Bosenko
Joe & Connie Breeze
Nicholas Carter
Larry & Jane Clinton
Beverly Coughlin
Alan & Cynthia Cowan
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Bret Davenport
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Robert & Diane Wagner
Nancy Willard
Dennis & Sonia Williams

Old Mill - $100 - $250
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Suzanne Brogger
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David & Pam Canepa
C.J. & Donna Carrillo
Susan Clark & Neil Rudolph
Nancy Emerson & Steve Quarles
Bonnie & Jeff Freiberg
Jon & Betty Goerke
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Robert & Diane Wright
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Chief Marin - $500
Diane Paul

Life member - $1,000
Dennis & Pam Fisco
Nancy Glasek
Jane Miller
Jean Rhodes & Family
Philip Rhodes