

Morgan Hill Historical Society

Historically Speaking

Our mission is to “preserve and share the history of Morgan Hill, and its environs, to inspire a sense of community.”

Published Quarterly

Oct 2020



Founders Dinner – Canceled Due to COVID

This year is the 51st anniversary of our tradition to honor Founders, long-term residents who have helped shape the heritage and history of our community. We look forward to gathering once again when we can do so safely after COVID-related restrictions on social gatherings are lifted.

Meanwhile, filming and production of “Stories from the Past” 2020 is underway and will be screened online (see MEDIA update in this issue).

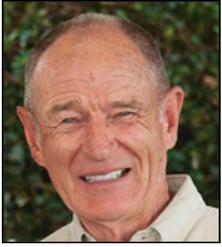
Holiday Boutique & Tea – Canceled due to COVID

We look forward to seeing all of our friends and loyal supporters at these events in 2021.

The Historical Society continues to embrace digital technology to save time and improve cost-efficiencies when sending communications to our members. Our print newsletter is now being distributed digitally. We hope you enjoy the convenience.

President's Message

Roger Knopf, President



Roger Knopf
President

It is my honor to share this message with loyal and supportive Historical Society members, our wonderful Community Partners, and all who reside in our Morgan Hill, Coyote, Madrone and San Martin communities.

I was elected to the Board of Directors in April and to the position of President in June, but I was not new to the Historical Society. My involvement as a volunteer began in the mid 1990's when my wife Janie was on the Board and restoration of the Hiram Morgan Hill House was undertaken. I was able to bring my experience as a general building contractor (now retired) to my volunteer role at Villa Mira Monte, and in the last few years as a member of the Property Management Committee, to help keep **our community's "Central Park"** open and in good repair. It has been fun and rewarding.

Serving as Board President is an honor and a responsibility I do not take lightly. I know the facility well and what's more important, I've gotten to know the dedicated volunteers who've made the Historical Society a respected organization and a beloved part of Morgan Hill over the years.

I am following a great role model in former Board President Kathy Sullivan. We all owe her our gratitude. On behalf of us all, **THANK YOU, KATHY!** I also have the privilege to work with passionate board members and volunteers who help preserve Morgan Hill history, from a smoothly operating and welcoming facility to engaging history programs and events for the entire community to enjoy.

My personal goals and commitment to this organization are to (1). ensure that the Historical Society fulfills its commitment and responsibility to maintain the historic Villa Mira Monte site; and (2). ensure that the Historical Society remains financially sound and in compliance with all agreements, laws and regulations; and is managed and governed to exist in perpetuity.

The present challenge. The coronavirus pandemic has presented our community with many challenges. For the Historical Society it has meant closing our doors to traditional year-round events and thus the loss of a major source of funds and fundraising opportunities. At the same time, our responsibility to maintain this historic site on behalf of and for the benefit of the Community continues. To neglect or delay maintenance and repair work would only create higher capital cost in the future.

How you can help. Continue to support the Historical Society through membership dues and cash contributions. Share your passion for the Historical Society and its mission with your friends and neighbors and ask them to join too. Consider volunteering, and encourage others to volunteer with you. Contact Margo Hinnenkamp about volunteer opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you at Villa Mira Monte as soon as we bring the pandemic to just a point in HISTORY. I am sure we are all ready for that day!

Special Message from Kathy Sullivan



Kathy Sullivan
Past President
and current
Board Member

My admiration and appreciation for Roger Knopf and his wife Janie spans the 14-plus years I have known them, primarily through their many years of dedicated work in support of the Historical Society and Villa Mira Monte. At this time in our organization's history, his leadership as President is exactly what is needed to ensure its sustainability and the ongoing preservation of Villa Mira Monte, a key City asset and valuable history park. The future is bright!

Museum News

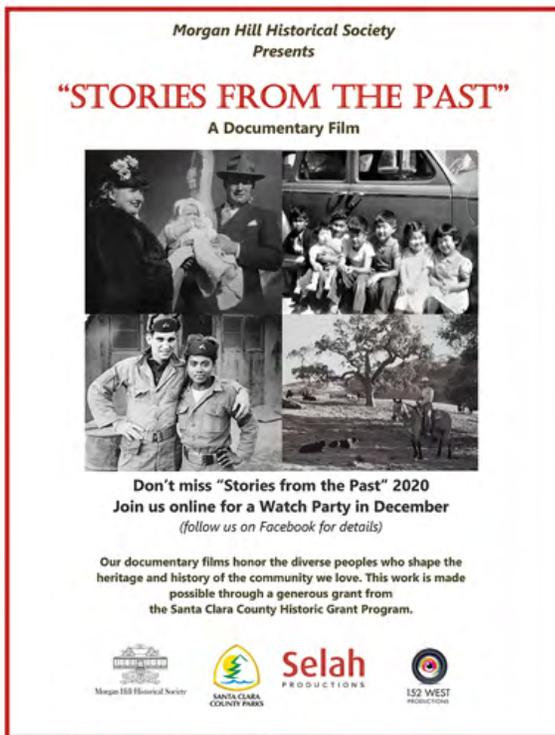
by Kathy Devine, Museum Director

During the closure of Villa Mira Monte, actions have been taken to make collection items and reference materials easier to locate. Beth Wyman graciously gave MHHS her notes from the writing of her book, Hiram Morgan Hill. It took Teri Hennessey, Clay Pytlik and Joan Shomler hours to organize the data and write notations on the contents of each file. We have recently digitized a searchable spreadsheet that covers all of this information. Our efforts continue to preserve history at the Morgan Hill Museum.

We have also made two additions to our reference library. The first is a new five-part documentary series, *Asian Americans*, spanning 150 years of immigration, racial politics, international relations and cultural innovation. The series was made available through PBS on DVD. The second is a book entitled "African Americans of San Jose and Santa Clara County," by Jan Batiste Adkins (*Images of America series*, Arcadia Publishing)

MHHS Media Update

"Stories from the Past" 2020 *Celebrating Santa Clara County History*



The "Stories from the Past" documentary series profiles people and events shaping the history of south Santa Clara County. This year's film explores our diverse heritage through the stories of Filipino, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese and Swedish immigrant families. Time travel through more than 100 years of history and hear firsthand accounts of farming, ranching, wartime efforts, education, volunteerism, and the celebration of long-standing traditions at the heart of our community. "Stories from the Past" 2020 will debut at our first-ever Watch Party later this year. Enjoy the film and special guests by watching

online. Co-hosted by the Historical Society and other partners TBA. "Stories from the Past" 2020 is funded by a grant from the Santa Clara County Historic Grant Program.

Watch for upcoming details and view our past films on the MHHS [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

"History Makers" *Something New for 2021*

History Makers
A Documentary Film Series

We are proud to announce a brand new documentary film series, "History Makers," coming your way in 2021. These films will have topical themes that are both historic in nature and relevant to today's world. Development and production of "History Makers" is made possible by a grant from a generous local family. Our 2021 film will pay tribute to the people whose vision and commitment shaped the founding and evolution of the Morgan Hill Historical Society. It's a story with an unexpected cast of characters and lots of twists and turns. We're excited to share the first film in our new series with all of you as part of Morgan Hill Historical Society's 50th anniversary celebration next year.

Watch for news about "History Makers" on the MHHS [website](#) and on [Facebook](#).

2021 Membership Drive



Linnie Lee

Board Member
& Membership
Director

During 2020 we've experienced the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires. In March we closed our doors to all programs and events to ensure public safety. This has created a loss of income needed for ongoing support of our mission. Your membership and donations provide vital support to our mission of preserving and sharing our community history. This includes the preservation, maintenance and operation of Villa Mira Monte, including: Hiram Morgan Hill House, Morgan Hill Museum, and Centennial History Trail. We're now focusing on our 2021 Membership Drive and need your continued loyal support.

Memberships are for the calendar year beginning in January. New memberships paid in the last quarter cover the following year. Your 2021 membership invitation will arrive the first week in November. PLEASE send it back as soon as possible. If more convenient, you can also submit your membership payment and any donations through our website. We can't do this work without your generous support. We very much appreciate your membership and look forward to opening our doors as soon as it is safe to do so. Thank you!

Property Management Update



Director, Ellie Weston along with her team of Roger Knopf, Karl Bjarke and Al Alciati have completed the final work funded by our 2018-2021 Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission County Grant. This grant for \$185,250 provided funds for maintenance work on the Hiram Morgan Hill House, including: replacing the roof, repairs to the south wall with the addition of the new faux chimney, and re-decking and painting the veranda. The old Victorian lady is looking good! We thank the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission for their funding commitment to preserving County historical sites.

Mother Nature's Light Show

by Linnie Lee, Board Member
& Membership Director

In the wee morning hours on August 16th, 2020, Mother Nature put on a spectacular lightning show to be seen in our valley skies. On this occasion area resident Rufus White awoke to view its majesty and was inspired to write this poem. With his permission, friend and Board member Linnie Lee shares it with us. The reality that this beauty caused the massive wildfires that have devastated our state is a side of Mother Nature we would prefer not to see. Our hearts go out to all those suffering and displaced by the fires.

AN EARLY SHOW | BY RUFUS WHITE

In my sleep was a disturbance, what could it be?
A dream induced turbulence? Maybe let me see.
A bright flash there briefly caught my eye,
Momentarily lighting the dark morning sky.
It was followed closely by a deep rolling thunder.
So much out of season it caused me to wonder.
I opened the blinds to a sky fluffy and gray.
Then listened to what mother nature had to say.
Electric streaks from the clouds put on a show.
Quickly illuminating the hills and valley below.
From the darkest Clouds in the long train,
Came a shower with very large drops of rain.
The show moved on with its rumbles and flashing light,
Reminding us of nature's beauty and great might.
Early in the morning it was probably seen by few,
For now, there are wispy clouds and patches of blue.

Community Partner Appreciation

The Morgan Hill Historical Society appreciates the many individuals and businesses who partner with us in support of our mission to preserve local history through programs, exhibits, archives, media productions, and events at Villa Mira Monte. Our shared value of history strengthens our community's sense of identity. If you'd like to learn more or become a Community Partner, email us at info@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com. Your donations are tax deductible.

Community Partners We Thank Our Community Partners

We very much appreciate the following organizations and individuals who support us in fulfilling our mission to preserve and share the history of our area. Please visit them, shop local and thank them for supporting our community history.

City of Morgan Hill	www.morgan-hill.ca.gov
Guglielmo Winery	www.guglielmowinery.com
Heather's Original HeatShield	www.heatshieldstore.com
Nancy Reynolds, Rainmaker Real Estate	www.nancyreynoldshomes.com
Rosy's at the Beach	www.rosysatthebeach.com
Colibri Art & Framing	www.colibrigallery.com
Ladera Grill	www.laderagrill.com
Rotary Club Morgan Hill	www.morganhillrotary.org
ASCO Services, Inc.	www.ascoair.com
Cal Color Growers	www.calcolorgrowers.com
George Chiala Farms, Inc.	www.gcfarmsinc.com
Jachimowicz Law Group	www.jachlawgroup.com
Jet Electric	
Johnson Lumber ACE Hardware	www.johnson-lumber.com
Lee A. Olsen, A.E Tax & Bus. Consultant	laoea@garlic.com
MH Engineering Company	
M & L Precision Machining, Inc.	www.mlprecision.com
van Keulen & van Keulen Attorneys at Law	
Anritsu	www.anritsu.com
Pacific Diversified Insurance Services, Inc	www.pdins.com
Recology South Valley	www.recology.com
South Valley Fleurs Garden Club	www.facebook.com/SouthValleyFleursGardenClub
Carol Spence Interior Design	www.carolspenceinteriordesign.com

Cindy Miller, Coldwell banker	www.coldwellbankerhomes.com
D.R. Domenichini Construction	www.drdcon.com
Edward Boss Prado Foundation	www.edwardbossprado.org
Frank's Plumbing	
M & H Tavern	
Mainstream Boutique	www.mainstreamboutique.com
Murphy's Mercantile	www.murphysmercantile.com
On the Road Again Classics	www.ontheroadagainclassics.com
Pinnacle Manufacturing	www.team-pinnacle.com
Renteria Bros Custom Shop	
RNP Advisory Services	
Rocca's Market	roccasmarket.isoars.com
South County Animal Hospital	www.southcountyanimalhospital.com
Hiland Consulting	www.hilandconsulting.org
Laura Sordello	
Morgan Hill Photography Club	morganhillphotographyclub.org
Ron Kumar Notary Public	info@kumarr.com
The Valley of Heart's Delight	www.thevalleyofheartdelight.org
AAUW	www.aauwmh.org
BookSmart	mybooksmart.indielite.org

Morgan Hill Historical Society
P.O. Box 1258
Morgan Hill, CA 95038-1258

Non-Profit
US Postage
Paid
Morgan Hill, CA
Permit No. 93

Morgan Hill Historical Society Board of Directors

- Roger Knopf, President
- Karl Bjarke, Vice President
- Ron Kumar, Treasurer
- Linnie Lee, Secretary
- Kathy Sullivan, Director
- Margo Hinnenkamp, Director
- Kathy Chavez Napoli, Director
- Ellie Weston, Property Manager

City Partnership



We thank City Staff members Chris Ghione, Maureen Tobin, Nichole Martin, Jennie Tucker and others for their work with our team to provide services that support Villa Mira Monte and MHHS events. We also appreciate Norma Bussing and Brigitte Crawford of the Library, Cultural and Arts Commissioners (LCAC) for their work with MHHS to explore opportunities for support.