

**Morgan Hill Historical Society**  
Established 1971

# Historically Speaking

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

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The Peace Monument  
at City Hall

# *A Spring F'aire*

Fundraiser benefitting the Morgan Hill Historical Society

**ADMISSION FREE**  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

10am to 5pm

April 29th & 30th, 2023

Hiram Morgan Hill House  
at Villa Mira Monte

17860 Monterey Rd, Morgan Hill CA

## Fabulous Crafts

### To Sign Up

Vendors Call  
Ellie Weston  
408-838-2576

## Good Old Treasures

### To Donate

Your Good Old Treasures  
Call Carol O'Hare  
408-782-9029  
Deliver to VMM  
Wednesday, 26th &  
Thursday, 27th  
1pm - 4pm each day!

The Morgan Hill Historical Society  
**Information: Ellie - 408.838.2576**  
[www.morganhillhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.morganhillhistoricalsociety.org)

# Our Mission: To preserve and share the history of Morgan Hill, and its environs, to inspire a sense of community.

## ▲ NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Roger Knopf, [rknopf@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:rknopf@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com)

Our newly elected Board of Directors (BOD) and the Operating Team started 2023 with an in-depth review of the Historical Society. Reflecting on our organization's past performance and successes and looking for opportunities for improvement, these are our conclusions:

MHHS presents many **educational opportunities** to our community:

Downtown Walking Tours, History Conversations at the Morgan Hill House, docent-conducted tours of the House and Museum, self-guided tour of the Centennial History Trail, the films Stories of the Past and History Makers (now totaling nine and posted on our website).

There are several **capital improvement projects** that will enhance VMM and complement our Mission.

The BOD approved the following in the 2023 Operating Plan:

- Display the polished Poppy Jasper boulder donated by Anthony Goularte.
- Develop a uniform site signage program and install a sign at the front entrance of VMM.
- Complete the Native Garden with educational signage.
- Upgrade the security camera system with enhanced video recording and retrieval and monitoring capability by the police department and other agencies as needed .

The Society needs to better **manage its available funds** by recognizing two categories of revenue:

Restricted Funds and Unrestricted Funds.

**Restricted Funds** are those from any source (government agency, local organization, individual donor) that are designated for a specific use, such as a project, event, or activity. None can be used for the operation, care, and repair of VMM and its structures.

**Unrestricted Funds** are sourced from member fees, general donations, rentals, and an unrestricted annual grant from the City of Morgan Hill. It is in this area that we have a challenge. We completed 2022 with a short fall in income vs expenses, a situation that is not sustainable. For 2023 the Operating Team has submitted a balanced budget, which has been approved by the BOD.

From these observations, you can see and appreciate what I am asking of you and our fellow community members. The **Society needs your help!** We need increased unrestricted funds to maintain all of Villa Mira Monte. We need volunteers with a passion for community service and an interest in preserving and presenting our history, with a goal to improve Villa Mira Monte.

## We want and need you!



**“A Spring Faire”**  
**Crafts & Old Treasures**  
**Benefitting the Morgan Hill Historical Society**  
**April 29 & 30**

**Do you have antiques or collectibles that need a new home?**

**Would you like to help raise funds for the Historical Society?**

We are asking members to donate items to be sold at the Spring Faire, April 29-30, with all proceeds going directly to benefit the Society. We will have our own space for member donations, separate from other vendors’ booths.

We are looking for antique and collectible items in good condition: glassware, dishes, silver pieces, jewelry, quilts, small furniture, dolls and toys, figurines, coins and stamps, vinyl records, books, any special treasure that you think might be of interest to someone. (Remember, this is not a garage sale!)

You will be asked to price your own donations, but we will try to provide assistance if needed. If you have questions or would like to donate to this sale, please contact Carol O’Hare: 408-782-9029. [cbohare@garlic.com](mailto:cbohare@garlic.com)

If you have craft vendor questions about the Spring Faire, contact Ellie Weston: [eweston@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:eweston@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com)

**▲ An Honor & Privilege**

For over 16 years it has been my honor to serve our community and the mission of the Morgan Hill Historical Society. Most rewarding is getting to know and become friends with the many members, volunteers and community partners who have been an integral part of my Journey. I look forward to staying in touch.

I have left the Board but will remain involved as an occasional volunteer. It’s time to embark on the next chapters in my life, both personal and community projects that are of interest.

I am proud of what the Board accomplished under my tenure and look forward to future developments under the leadership of Roger Knopf and the new Board.

Gratefully, Kathy Sullivan



## !! CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS !!



### MHHS BOARD MEMBERS

Rosy's at the Beach, Chamber Small Business of the Year  
Kathy Chavez Napoli, Chamber Volunteer of the Year  
Mario Banuelos, Morgan Hill Leadership Excellence Award

AAUW (a MHHS Community Partner), Chamber Non-Profit of the Year  
Cecelia Ponzini, Chamber Legacy Award  
Charles Weston, Chamber Man of the Year

Celebrate Awards, March 12th • Leadership Excellence Award, September 9th, both at Guglielmo Winery

*Time for Movie Night!*

### "STORIES FROM THE PAST"



Invite family and friends over  
to enjoy our newest film

*Featuring*

Wally Adams  
Daniel and Cheryl Benz  
Lorraine Leonetti Caruso  
Karen Kay Buchheister Christopher  
Gene and George Guglielmo  
Mary Lou Britton Gunter

### MEDIA

Our newest film in the *Stories from the Past* series debuted at the Morgan Hill Community Center in December 2022. Once again, residents with deep roots in the Morgan Hill, Madrone, Coyote and San Martin communities shared stories that go back generations and shape the place we call home. Folks lingered after the film to swap family history and enjoy wine donated by our gracious friends at Guglielmo Winery.

This year's *Stories from the Past* was funded by a grant from the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Grant Program. Watch all of the films in this series on our website:

[MHHS MEDIA - Stories from the Past](#)

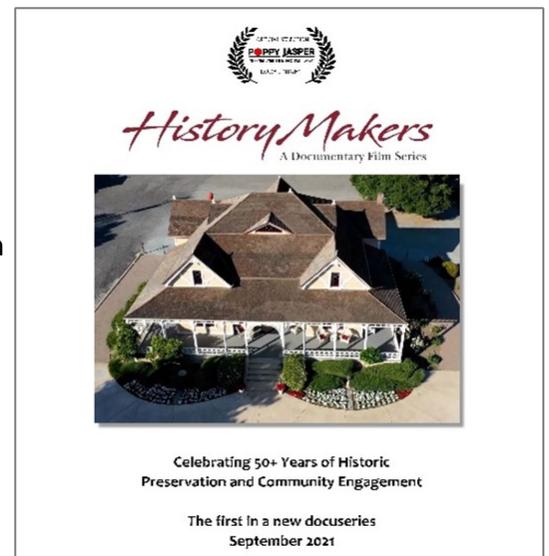
**WHAT'S NEXT?** Our tenth film in this series is slated for release this Fall at our annual Founder's Dinner. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you at this ever-popular community event.

### *History Makers*

If you haven't seen our first film in the new *History Makers* series, crawl out from under that rock! This film is your ticket to essential Morgan Hill history. The Morgan Hill Historical Society wasn't created in a vacuum. It was inspired by the community's desire to preserve historic buildings and milestones, and to establish Villa Mira Monte as our very own history park.

Watch the film on our website: [MHHS MEDIA - History Makers](#).

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Our second film in this series will explore a regional theme and bring America's spirit of innovation to the big screen. Watch for it later this year. The *History Makers* docuseries is made possible by a grant from a generous local family.





# HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS



Margo Hinnenkamp, Tour Docent

I have discovered that the best way to learn more about the history of our city is to immerse oneself in the ambiance of downtown Morgan Hill during its early days. We have so many unique buildings that each has a story to tell. Sharing those stories is a marvelous way to introduce our tour attendees to the people and places that are distinctly Morgan Hill.

Those who join us on the tour are always fascinated with those tales of days gone by. Some of these folks are familiar with that era and have stories of their own to share with the group. "I didn't know that!" is a frequent refrain. "You mean those sculptures near the depot are a depiction of Morgan and Diana Murphy Hill and their daughter? I have seen them so many times and never stopped to read the plaque."

**The tours take place on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am to noon.  
We meet at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Plaza, just outside the parking garage.**



## THE MUSEUM

Kathy Devine, Museum Director



Valentine's Day Cards



Charles Kellogg Exhibit  
Listen to his bird call songs!!

**Where can you go to be entertained for 20 minutes (or more if you have the time), without spending a dime, no reservations required, and children are welcome?**

Well, on Saturdays in Morgan Hill you can stop by Villa Mira Monte and checkout the latest exhibits at the Museum! Just drop in between 10am and 1pm.

Even though we have packed away the Holiday decorations, the model train will continue to be up until March. Displays for the 2023 Lunar New Year and Valentines Day are in both the Morgan Hill House and the Museum.

A look at Charles Kellogg is currently the central exhibit in the Museum, including original albums of his bird songs available for your listening pleasure.

Behind the scenes, we have picked up work on chronicling life during the Pandemic and are sorting and cataloging newspapers collected from the San Jose Mercury News, Morgan Hill Life, and Morgan Hill Times over the last few years. It is interesting to compare what made the headlines for each paper. Helping us is our newest volunteer, Kristina Ortiz. We have more projects that you can help with too, just contact Kathy Devine [kdevine@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:kdevine@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com)

## In Memory of Paul Wesley Ward

1923 - 2023

Long-time community member, Paul Ward, passed away peacefully on January 27th, in his beloved Paradise Valley. He was among five generations of Wards who have called Morgan Hill their home.



Paul's great grandfather, James Parmalee "J.P." Ward, purchased 75 acres on the west side of Morgan Hill from the Catherine Murphy Dunne Land Company in 1894 and established Oak Glen Ranch. James is credited with naming the area "Paradise Valley." James and his wife Orra built a three-story farmhouse for the family. Their son Wilbur ran a successful chicken hatchery out of the farmhouse basement. In 1922, their grandson Harold and his wife Alda (Paul's parents), built a second house on the family's property, near Machado School. This is where Paul grew up.

Paul attended the one-room Machado School, which was just across the orchard from his home, and graduated as salutatorian of his class at Live Oak High School in 1941. That fall, he headed to UC Berkeley to study forestry. However, World War II cut his college plans short.

He enlisted in the Air Force at age 19, graduated among the top fighter pilots in his class, and was retained by the Air Force as a flight instructor. He was promoted to second lieutenant at age 20.

After the war, Paul resumed his studies at UC Berkeley where he met Anne Polich. They married in 1947 and graduated the following year. Paul quickly landed work in lumber sales—a smart move given the boom in suburban development at that time.

Paul and Anne built a house in the Berkeley hills and started a family in the 1950s. In 1973, Paul and family returned to Paradise Valley and moved into the original Ward farmhouse once occupied by his grandparents and great-grandparents.



Paul helped found the Machado School Heritage Society and served as its president for 35 years. He was also an active member of the Morgan Hill Historical Society. One year, he generously opened Oak Glen Ranch for an historic home tour hosted by the Historical Society. Paul enjoyed the Historical Society's Annual Founders Dinner and BBQ events, and Friday lunch with friends at Rosy's at the Beach.



Paul was predeceased by his wife Anne, sister Wilma, and brother John; and is survived by sons Ron and Robert. Paul will be remembered for his love of life, laughter, and good times.

A memorial celebration will be announced in the early Spring. Those interested in contributing to a charitable organization in Paul's honor are encouraged to donate to the Morgan Hill United Methodist Church, the Machado School Heritage Society, or the Morgan Hill Historical Society.

**Cheers to Paul!!!**

Read more about Paul on [the MHHS Blog](#). Watch Paul in [Stories from the Past \(2015\)](#).

## ▲ Little Free Library at Villa Mira Monte

By Margaret L. Rodrigues



### TAKE A BOOK. SHARE A BOOK

The newly erected Little Free Library at Villa Mira Monte was dedicated February 9, 2023. This library joins five other registered locations in Morgan Hill. The goal is to inspire a love of reading, build community, and spark creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges. The concept is to “Take a book. Share a book.”

Weston Miles Architects built some of the libraries that are supported by donations from BookSmart. Lesley Miles, a partner at Weston Miles, joined with Gamma Alpha, which is the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a women's educational society, to help support the expansion and upkeep of these libraries.

The Morgan Hill Historical Society (MHHS) enthusiastically offered the use of space just outside the Villa Mira Monte front gate as a perfect site

for this special project. This Little Library is dedicated to a history theme, as most of the books have a historical aspect. It is our hope that the community will enjoy sitting on a bench and reading about history while being surrounded by local memories of the past. Books have been donated by local teachers, Oakwood School, and BookSmart. Now you have an opportunity to share your books, too.



Margaret Rodrigues, Volunteer Coordinator of “Take a Book, Share a Book”

**The Library is accessible anytime.**

**To enjoy reading on the grounds,**

**Villa Mira Monte gates are open daily from 8:00am to 6:00pm, and hours will expand as daylight increases.**

To create your own Little Free Library, go to: [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org) for information.

Build one for your neighborhood to encourage a love of reading!

## ▲ GOODBYE DEAR LAURA – Kathy Sullivan

**Laura Sordello** is a Marketing Strategist | Consultant & Freelancer. She established this e-newsletter and has been the volunteer publisher since its inception several years ago. Working with Robin Shepherd, who guides our Media program, she has also managed the Historical Society's social media presence. Laura is resigning from her role due to the growing work responsibilities. This will be her last issue. It has been our pleasure to work with her, and we thank her for volunteering her professional services to share our news with the community. There will be a brief hiatus until we locate someone else to fill this role. As an all-volunteer nonprofit, we are always looking for volunteers.



If you or anyone you know is qualified and would like to join our dynamic organization in this role, please contact Kathy Sullivan at:

[ksullivan@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:ksullivan@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com)

## IN MEMORIAM

Herman "Geno" Acevedo • Sarah Yvonne Barbaglia  
Janette Kay Fleetwood Barsanti • Paul Fredrick Dunne  
Thomas Tamaki "Tom" Inwanaga • Kenneth Lee "Ken" Ludwig  
Mary Ludrie "Lou" Costa Mirviss • Susan Lee Nicholson  
Sanmwkh "San" Panwala • Armand Maurice Perry  
Richard "Rich" Phillips • Paul W. Ward  
James Arnold "Jim" Henley • Nancy Castle Buchanan

**Morgan Hill House & Museum open on Saturdays, 10:00am — 1:00pm**  
**The Grounds, Rose Gardens & Centennial Trail daily open 8:00am — 6:00pm**

### Morgan Hill Historical Society

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### MORGAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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