

History News & Views

M I L L B R A E H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y N E W S L E T T E R

JACK GARDNER NAMED MILLBRAE MAN OF THE YEAR

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We are proud to announce that Millbrae Historical Society Vice-President **Jack Gardner** has been named Millbrae Man of the Year for 2007 by the Mayor's Civic Coordinating Council and the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce. Jack was nominated by the Historical Society for his valuable contributions to the Society and the Millbrae Museum over the years, as well as his volunteer activities with numerous other community organizations. Jack and Millbrae Woman of the Year **Ann Kirkbride** (also an MHS member) will be hon-

ored at the Millbrae Man & Woman of the Year Dinner on Friday, October 12 at the Millbrae Westin Hotel.



Jack is a third generation Californian, born and raised in San Francisco. He and

his wife Ann moved to Millbrae in 1955, where they raised their six children.

Jack has been a tireless community volunteer, contributing his knowledge, time, and energy for a number of organizations and charities. He is known as a person who can always be counted on to pitch in and get involved wherever there is a need to be filled. For all these reasons, **Jack Gardner** richly deserves the title of Millbrae Man of the Year for 2007!

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARY VELLA TRESELER

I am honored to have been re-elected as President of our Society. We have a superb Board. I wish to thank Trustee **Joe Teresi** for relieving me from some of my duties such as membership, roster and mailing labels update, and - last but not least - editing our newsletter. Also, a "Big Thank

You" to Trustee **Dora Bruno** for taking over my "Sunshine Duties". I'm breathing much better these days....

It's hard to believe that fall is just around the corner. We've had a very busy year thus far. In March,



Millbrae Mayor **Marc Hershman** swore in our new Officers and Board of Trustees. Also in March, we participated in the Millbrae Scramble
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VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JACK GARDNER

The year 2007 is moving along very rapidly, and soon we will be looking forward to the holiday season. This year, so far, has been very rewarding. Our activities have kept us very busy, and there is much more to do in the coming months ahead.

In the month of March we had the installation of the new Society officers and trustees. Along with that, we had a wonderful program featuring **Fred LaCosse** and his rendition of American history and

democracy in action. On the Fourth of July we had our annual picnic, where we had a great crowd, great food, and great prizes. We also had a one day stint at the Millbrae Art and Wine Festival over the Labor Day weekend.

In appreciation for all the time and effort that the docents, trustees, and officers give so generously to our "Little Wonder" Museum, we will be having a special luncheon on Sunday, October 21

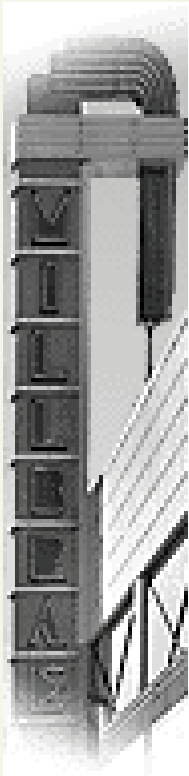


for those special volunteers. Invitations were sent out for this special event — please RSVP by October 14.

Our annual holiday party will be held on the evening of Tuesday, December 4 for all of our Historical Society members. Hope to see you there for a good time!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



by opening the museum an hour earlier than normal and serving brownies at the end of the Scramble. On April 15, we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the opening of our Millbrae Museum, together with the tenth anniversary of Millbrae Community Television (MCTV). We had a wonderful program featuring **Fred LaCosse**, Bay Area television and media personality. In May, Curator **Alma Massolo** and Yours Truly presented a program on the history of Millbrae for the Burlingame Women's Club at a Founder's Day Tea in celebration of their Centennial Year. In July, we held our annual Fourth of July BBQ, co-sponsored with the Millbrae Lions Club. In August, Curator **Alma Massolo** completed the compilation and editing of our Millbrae Heritage Book, which was given to the publisher for printing. And, in September, we participated in the 37th Annual Millbrae Chamber of Commerce Art & Wine Festival....."GREAT BALLS OF FIRE".....

Our congratulations to MHS Past President and current Vice President **Jack Gardner** and MHS Member **Ann Kirkbride**, who were named as Millbrae Man & Woman of the Year for 2007. The Mayor's Civic Coordinating Council, Millbrae Chamber of Commerce, and Millbrae Man & Woman of the Year Committee invites you to attend this wonderful ceremonial event at the Westin Hotel, 1 Old Bayshore Highway, Millbrae on Friday evening, October 12. For invitations, please call Angela at Millbrae City Hall @650-259-2334 or Lee @ 650-697-8288.

In closing, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support.....Without your help and the generous support of our community there would be no Millbrae Museum, Millbrae Train Museum or Millbrae Historical Society. How important is that???

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

CURATOR'S REPORT

ALMA MASSOLO

Many historical artifacts have been added to our museum. **Kurt Hahn** of Healdsburg has donated his father's album recording the history of the turmoil in the city of Millbrae in the 1950s. **Walter Hahn, Jr.** was a partner of the firm of Hahn, Campbell and Wise Planning Consultants. Walter drew up the first master plan that was adopted by the city, pro bono. He was city planner, manager and Councilman in 1950-1951. After Millbrae was established, Walter Hahn went to the city of Monterey in the role of city manager, then on to San Diego as a planner-manager. His successes were always accomplished.



Gerry Kelm of Millbrae donated an album and many pictures of the workings of the Royal Container Company in the 1930s. He worked at the company as a teenager and offered a wealth of historical facts about Millbrae. Thank you Gerry.

Tom Dawdy has donated a wrought iron set of fireplace tools manufactured by **Alfred Gee**, Millbrae blacksmith. They were found on the property purchased by his in-laws, **Mr. and Mrs. Frank Catania**, from the Gee Family. The tools complement the Fran Baxter Room fireplace. Thank you Tom...Also thank you Tom and Faye for your generous donation of the 8x10 photos of historical places in Millbrae that we sold at the Art and Wine Festival. We deeply appreciate your offerings. Thank you for being such great supporters.

We also wish to thank **Al Biagi** for his donation of the Honorable Discharge Papers from the three wars he was active in and his life story, which is displayed in the Museum's Profile Book.

Thank you Al....

A thank you to **Peter Fates** for his generous contribution of a newer computer to replace the one that he had also donated to the Museum. We are now operating very well. Thank you Peter....

Lillian Tang, a Jr. Docent volunteer from Mercy High School, is a great asset to us. She speaks Mandarin and Cantonese very well. Many of our visitors are Asian and when the need arises, Lil will provide a tour in their native language. For this



they do appreciate and enjoy learning the history of their new homeland.

Due to the drop in attendance, the summer operating hours of the Museum were from 12 o'clock to 3pm instead of until 4pm. This worked out very well.

After a lengthy and tedious effort, The Millbrae Heritage Book has been completed and forwarded to the Arcadia Publishing Company for publication. Delivery date is scheduled for December 3, 2007. These books will make unique Christmas Gifts.

Now that the book is finished, we are going to update albums, cut out articles of Millbrae happenings from newspapers, compile albums, and "etc". If you are interested in helping, please call **Alma Massolo** at (650) 697-8377. Thank you.



TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS

ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR
VERN BRUCE, REPORTER

Many things have happened since our last newsletter to you. We have received many donations of both labor and artifacts.

Dennis Reeves 'remodeled' our bathroom, making it much more spacious, and easier to get around in. Countless hours have been spent by **Jay King** and **Dave Hannigan** on various projects, including the restoration of a 'cross buck' railroad crossing sign, creation of a mock-up of a locomotive cab, and installation of a computerized DVD video display system. Dave Hannigan has also donated a DVD, and **Dianne Hannigan** has loaned the above-mentioned video display system.

Millbrae resident **Marco Beckwith** donated a much-

needed 4000 lb. capacity forklift.

Ronald Johnson donated various snack foods for our volunteers, as well as numerous railroad-oriented postage stamps from around the world. **Rudy Horak** donated a 1920's vintage hand-truck. **Ralph Bennett** donated three sets of railroad playing cards as well as a Southern Pacific padlock with key, all in excellent condition. **Gino and Gerry Micheli** donated numerous railroad video tapes, posters, and other related artifacts. **Dave Hockett** donated several books and DVDs, as well as vintage toy trains.

Al Thoman, of Highlands Ranch, Colorado (formerly a Peninsula resident) donated over a dozen



slides of 'new' 1950's diesel S.P. locomotives taken on the Peninsula. In addition he donated a magnificent HO-scale set of a 'Daylight' train and an early (1910's) commute train. Each of these sets accurately depicts trains that ran down the Peninsula, and stopped at our depot/museum.

Of course, our Millbrae Train Museum docents must be acknowledged also. Many thanks go to **Liz Furber, Bob Gorran, Gino and Gerry Micheli, and Vernon and William Bruce**, for their time spent on Saturdays.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The DiMaio Family
Frank Barbaro
Betty Decter
Jeanne Steenberg
Margaret Stirling
Joe Monsor
Donna Curusis

Upgraded to Life Membership

Dora Bruno
Richard & Nadia Holober



MILLBRAE MAN OF THE YEAR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

2007 Millbrae Man of the Year **Jack Gardner** is an active leader and participant in the following community organizations and activities in the city of Millbrae:

- Millbrae Historical Society
- Millbrae Art and Wine Festival
- AARP Millbrae Chapter #2049
- Native Sons of the Golden West, National Parlor #118
- Mayor's Civic Coordinating Council
- United Airlines Retired Employees
- Senior Advisory Committee
- St. Dunstan Catholic Church

CONGRATULATIONS TO JACK GARDNER!!

CHAMBER SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED TO MARJORIE WILSON

Congratulations to MHS member Marjorie Wilson on receiving a Chamber Service Award from the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented at the annual Millbrae Business Awards dinner last January. Marjorie has been a member of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce for nearly 40 years and was recognized for her years of service and volunteerism. She continues to participate in the Chamber's activities as a member of the Ambassador Committee and as a volunteer at the Art and Wine Festival. Congratulations, Marjorie!



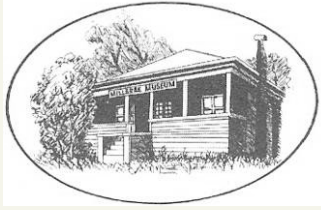
“NAME THE NEWSLETTER” CONTEST

Hey, Millbrae Historical Society members! This is your chance to make a little history of your own. That's right – We're looking for you to submit your bright and imaginative ideas for a new name for the Society's semi-annual member Newsletter. Give it some thought and let your imagination run wild. If you provide the winning entry, you'll see your idea at the top of the next Newsletter!!

Submit your ideas to Newsletter Editor Joe Teresi by e-mail to jtnia@comcast.net or by mail to 5 Bluebell Court, Millbrae 94030.

To receive e-mail reminders of Millbrae Historical Society meetings and events, please send your e-mail address to Joe Teresi at jtnia@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.MILLBRAEHS.ORG



**MILLBRAE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 511
Millbrae, CA 94030
Phone: 650-692-5786

MHS OFFICERS—2007

Mary Vella Treseler, President
Jack Gardner, Vice-President
Lois Way, Secretary
Vern Bruce, Treasurer
Alma Massolo, Curator & Historian

Joe Teresi, Newsletter Editor

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

Tuesday, October 2: Millbrae Candidates' Night – Meet the candidates for Millbrae City Council and Millbrae Elementary School District Board, 7:00 pm, Millbrae City Council Chambers, 621 Magnolia Avenue.

Friday, October 12: Millbrae Man and Woman of the Year Dinner, 6:00 pm, Westin Hotel, 1 Old Bayshore Highway. Reservations required – call 259-2334.

Sunday, October 21: Millbrae Historical Society Thank You Luncheon for Officers, Trustees, and Docents, 11:30 am, Millbrae Museum. RSVP to Jack Gardner at 777-0061.

Fourth Wednesdays of the Month: Millbrae Historical Society Board Meetings, 7:00 pm, Millbrae Museum, 450 Poplar Avenue. MHS members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, December 4: Millbrae Historical Society Annual Holiday Party, 7:00 pm, Millbrae Museum, 450 Poplar Avenue.

Millbrae Historical Society Museum Operating Hours

Millbrae Museum: Saturdays, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

Millbrae Train Museum: Saturdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm