



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum
presents

the Cornerstone

Spring 2017

Volume 27, Issue 3

RAISING BEES IN OLD MONTA VISTA

|| By Gail Fretwell-Hugger, Historian

Sam and Mary Minaker lived on Stevens Creek Rd. in old Monta Vista. Their lot went from Stevens Creek Road back to Granada Avenue, with the house on the Stevens Creek end and an extensive yard all the way back to Granada. There they raised their daughter Jackie, along with fruit trees, flowers and vegetables. They belonged to the Garden Club.

Sam had a bad hip and couldn't bend over much so he carried a long pointed stick to pick up stray leaves or bits of paper in the yard. He had a very large collection of cactus plants, which he kept, in small pots arranged in neat rows in an outbuilding. He cross-pollinated all the cactus by hand using a tiny artist's paintbrush.

Mary raised beautiful chrysanthemums and every year she would hand me bouquets over the back fence. As she reminded me to pull more weeds so they wouldn't migrate to her yard, There were no weeds in Mary's yard - ever! Sam also kept bees and had four or five hives. He put water in 2-pound coffee cans and placed little sticks across the top so the bees could light on the sticks to get a drink. In the spring, the bees would sometimes swarm. Mary would telephone. "Gail put the kids in the house, the bees are swarming." So we'd stay in the house for a couple of hours and then she'd call and announce that Sam was coming to collect the bees.

Invariable the bees would have swarmed to a climbing rose on a trellis by our front door. Soon Sam would appear, dressed in his beekeeper suit and hat with long netting. We'd go outside and stand at a respectful distance to watch him collect the queen bee. The swarm would often be three or four feet long and a couple of feet wide and how Sam knew where to locate the queen was always a mystery to me.

After he'd "smoked" the swarm to quiet them down, he'd put his hand into the humming mass and gently draw it out again holding a big clump of bees, including the queen. He placed them in a small container and took them back to a new, empty hive. Soon, the rest of the swarm would leave the rose trellis,

following the scent of their queen back to their new home.

In the fall, when it was honey harvesting time, Mary would bring over a large wooden frame of honeycomb and a big square of cheesecloth. She cut the thick honeycomb out of the frame and dumped the drippy chunks onto the cheesecloth, tying up the ends hanging it on a hook to let the honey slowly drip into a pan below. Sometimes we would chew the hunks of honeycomb like candy.

Their fruit trees had wonderful, big apricots and the neighbors would help cut the cots and have fun visiting at the same time. They had their own sulfur shed and plenty of room to spread out the drying trays.

Mary and Sam are gone now but whenever I taste "real" honey (not to be confused with "store-bought") or pick bunches of chrysanthemums, I think of Jackie and Mary and Sam and their wonderful garden and bountiful bees. □

NEW EXHIBIT

Bees Contribution to Cupertino's Agriculture and Economy

Cupertino Museum is partnering with Santa Clara Valley Beekeepers Guild to present the new exhibit demonstrating the importance of bees and their contribution to our lives.



BEE Informed!
Come to the museum
and check out the
BuZZ!!



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum is to preserve and illuminate Cupertino's past to inspire our youth, strengthen the sense of community, and shape a better future by making Cupertino history relevant and available to all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna Austin | *President*
Helene Davis | *Immediate Past President*
Bill Kerr | *Treasurer*
Shannon Patrick Lee | *Secretary*
Darryl Stow | *Vice President*
Gail Fretwell-Hugger | *VP - Museum Collections*
Jane Alvarado
Sharon Blaine
D. Michael Foulkes
Sandra James
Mark McKenna
Janet Riddell
Sabrina Rizk
Sean Sullivan
Crystal Tai
Steve Ting

MUSEUM STAFF

Ragini Sangameswara | *Director*

TRAVELING TRUNK DOCENTS

Sonja Cook | *Coordinator*
Gail Fretwell-Hugger
Shari Kerr
Ina Checkman

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Donna Austin, Sharon Blaine, Gail Fretwell-Hugger,
Ragini Sangameswara

The Cornerstone is published quarterly by the Cupertino Historical Society, a private, non-profit organization.

Proposed Slate of Officers 2017 - 2018

Donna Austin, Jane Alvarado - *Co-Presidents*
Shannon Patrick Lee - *Vice President*
Wendell Kerr - *Treasurer*
Sean Sullivan - *Secretary*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Donna Austin, President



Dear Members and Friends of the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum,

Did you know the honeybee is a highly sophisticated insect that has evolved over millions of years? The earliest recorded Bee was found in Myanmar (Burma). It was found encased in amber and has been dated as 100 million years old. Bees have been making history through the ages and you can come visit our museum to see how bees affected Cupertino history.

We have had some amazing exhibits this year and all of them are reflections of our past and point us to future success. I want to thank Ragini Sangameswara and Gail Fretwell-Hugger and the collections committee for their creativity and hard work in setting up and displaying such outstanding exhibits. Please stop by the museum anytime, Wednesday through Saturday from 10 to 4 or call for a special time or *schedule an event*. We can always use volunteers to meet and greet visitors. Let us know how you can help.



We have a wonderful presentation planned for our Speaker program, by Ken McKenzie. He is president of the Beekeepers Guild. His talk will be in-

formative about how bees affected our early orchard days. Come to our annual meeting on May 17th, at McClellan Ranch classroom near the blacksmith shop. Hear Ken speak and meet our historical society board and fellow members.

Last month we held our high school essay contest for the third year in a row. We thank Bill Mannion for spear heading this event and Reno DeBono for guiding us through the history questions. Four high schools participated and we are in the process of choosing the winning essay from each school.

Our annual barbecue will be held on Saturday, June 24th! Please mark your calendars for a fun time, good music and food and people who love Cupertino history!

Donna Austin, President of the CHS&M

CHS&M Annual Meeting and Speaker Program

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Refreshments 5:30 p.m. Election of Board 6:00 p.m.

Presentation 6:10 p.m. Admission is FREE

McClellan Ranch Preserve,

Environmental Education Center,

22221 McClellan Rd, Cupertino

RSVP: cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net

or call (408) 973-1495

Why Bees Matter

A presentation by Ken McKenzie



Ken McKenzie is a local hobbyist beekeeper and current president of the Santa Clara Valley Beekeepers Guild. A native Californian, Ken moved to the Santa Clara Valley in 1968. Keeping bees for the past 9 years at multiple apiaries in the Valley, Ken has received a refreshing reminder of the inherent richness of the valley that still exists.

EXHIBIT NEWS

Exhibition "An Introduction to Elements of Chinese Culture" opened in February to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Items on exhibit illustrated important components of this ancient culture including: Ceramics, Architecture, Music, Literature, Martial Arts, Cuisine, Visual Arts, Philosophy and Religion.

Many of the items on display were loaned to the museum by members and friends of the Cupertino Museum from their own collections. We would like to thank Steve and Jeannie Ting, Don Sun, Richard and Sharon Blaine, Ling Ling Kulla, Janet Riddell, Hsing Kung, and Barbara Stocklmeir for their generosity.

Selected display items were available for bid at a silent auction. Proceeds benefited CHS&M Education programs. We raised \$2000 for the High school History Scholarship Award competition.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

FEB 2017 thru APR 2017

RENEWING MEMBERS

Ellie Bortner
Mary Eade
Cray Foley
Roselyn Frolich
Morris and Louise Hosoda
Gail Fretwell Hugger
James Jackson
Gail and Howard Jensen
Shannon Patrick and Susan Lee
Orrin and Carolyn Mahoney
Bill Mannion
Bill McCarty
Paul and Wanda Mikulaco
Kathy Nellis
Anne Ng
Barbara Rogers
Steve and Jeannie Ting
Irvin Webster
Bill and Judy Wilson

NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Levitan
Linda Levy



*to supporters of
the Cupertino
Historical Society
who so graciously
supported this
year's Annual
Fund Drive
2016-17.*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	One Year Complimentary Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer: \$50		<input type="checkbox"/> Students
<input type="checkbox"/> Explorer: \$100		<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer: \$500		<input type="checkbox"/> CHS Fundraiser Donors and Sponsors

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ (H) _____

Email _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make checks payable to:

**The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum,
10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014**

If you would like to charge your membership fee to your Credit Card, please contact the museum at (408)973-1495 with your credit card information. We accept Master Card, VISA.



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum

Quinlan Community Center
10185 North Stelling Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
Telephone: (408)973-1495
E-mail: cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
CUPERTINO, CA
PERMIT NO.266

BULLETIN BOARD

CHS Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, May 17, 2017
5:30 p.m., McClellan Ranch, EEC
Wednesday, June 21, 2017
4:00 p.m., QCC, Conference Room
Wednesday, July 19, 2017
4:00 p.m., QCC, Conference Room

Museum Hours:

Located in the Quinlan Community
Center, the museum is open to the public
**Wednesday through Saturday from
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is FREE.**

Coming Events:

Annual Meeting
May 17, 5:30 p.m.
Barbecue Fundraiser
June 24, 5:00 p.m.

Holidays: QCC closed

May 29, 2017
Memorial Day
July 4, 2017
Independence Day

Current resident or:

Cupertino Historical Society's Annual BBQ Fundraiser

Around the world

*A Sip of
History*

**Saturday, June 24, 2017
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Cooper - Garrod Estate
Vineyards**

**22645 Garrod Road
Saratoga, CA 95070**

\$60 per person

\$10 for children under 12

For further information
please contact the CHS at
(408)973-1495
or email:

cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net

