



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* MORRO BAY

### HSMB Winter Newsletter—February 2018

#### **Mission Statement:**

**The Historical Society of Morro Bay is a non-profit educational institution whose mission is to promote an understanding of the history of Estero Bay by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting that history and its relationship to the region, and nation beyond, to audiences of all ages and interests.**

#### **Please join us at our next member meeting:**

Sunday, February 11, 4:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Church, 385 Piney Way,  
Fireside Room

Hear 'A Geological History of Morro Rock'  
by John McCabe

A potluck supper and social hour will  
begin at 4:30, followed by a brief  
meeting and the presentation.

#### **Message from the President**

Happy New Year, everyone! It's shaping up to be a busy time at the Historical Society of Morro Bay, with plenty to do for everyone. I'm taking advantage of this space to catch you up on a few things going on.

First, our friend and co-founder Roger Castle is making progress in his fight back from a debilitating infection. The most amazing thing about him is how positive he has remained despite a series of medical interventions from hell. We are, as always, looking forward to his return to the fold.

Thanks to the S. Sami Solu, M.D. Charitable Fund (and to John and Joan Solu), your Society has received a grant to make improvements to the new Franklin Riley Park. We are in the beginning stages of planning a series of events over the next year to renovate and dedicate the Park to commemorate Riley. The community—including you—will be part of it! Stay tuned for your invitation.

Another project getting underway is the creation of an historic preservation ordinance. We intend to nudge the city toward adopting an ordinance that is fair to property owners, but also helps us to preserve the essential character of old Morro Bay. We will have more information on this over the year.

In addition, we will have our usual programs for members, beginning on February 11 with John McCabe's presentation on the geological history of Morro Rock. John is experienced on this topic and very much excited about it. Join us for the potluck at 4:30 at the Presbyterian Church and stay to find out how we all came to be here.

As for the Board: I am sorry to report the resignations of Lou Tornatzky and Victoria Berry. At the February 11 meeting, we will elect Board members for the coming year. Elsewhere in this issue are bios of the suggested slate, but if you want to join the Board, please let me know (contact me at [gsilloway@mac.com](mailto:gsilloway@mac.com)). We are especially looking for someone to take over basic accounting chores for us as Treasurer (another of Roger's shoes to fill).

Looking forward to seeing you in February, and beyond.

Glenn Siloway, President  
HSMB

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In our recent heat waves, it's hard to imagine this ever happened in Morro Bay...



## Our February Program: The History of Morro Rock

The Rock is the iconic representative of Morro Bay. It's on virtually every piece of advertising, most local websites, and serves as the background on more business cards than any other site on the Central Coast.

But what do you know about this "Gibraltar of the Pacific?"

Join us at 4:30 pm, Sunday, February 11 at the Morro Bay Presbyterian Church's Fireside Room [485 Piney Way, MB] to hear John McCabe talk about the fascinating geological history of Morro Rock and its sister morros. This talk will cover the formation and evolution of the Rock, as well as its impact on Morro Bay.

John McCabe is a tutor in geology at Cuesta College and Docent at the Natural History Museum, and is a widely admired presenter on the geology of the Central Coast. He is an engineer in his professional life.

Bring a dish to share during our pot luck social hour, beginning at 4:30 pm. At about 5:15 we will have a very brief business meeting, including the election of your Board of Directors for 2018. John's presentation will begin about 5:30.

**We look forward to seeing you at the February program.**



## Board Elections

It is that time of year when the Historical Society of Morro Bay elects its Board of Directors. During the business portion of our meeting February 11th, our President, Glenn Silloway, will ask for one of our members to make a motion nominating those on the slate to the Board, and then he'll seek a second on that motion from another member. Before the final vote is taken, any member may nominate her/himself or anyone else, and anyone may want more discussion of those running for the Board of Directors.

Our bylaws state that the historical society is to have at least 7 Board directors, but we can have more, ideally an odd number (so there are no ties). The following board directors are running for another year on the board. One current Board director will be unable to serve this year, so we are actively seeking a 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Board director. The board usually meets once a month for an hour and a half (4:30 pm - 6:00 pm), on the third Wednesday of the month.

Here are brief biographies of the five Board directors on the 2018 slate:

**Glenn Silloway** is the President of the Historical Society of Morro Bay. He also chairs the Morro Bay Open Space Alliance, serves on the Board of the Winter Bird Festival, is a member of the Morro Bay General Plan Advisory Committee, and is the budget chair for the SLO County League of Women Voters.

In his spare time, he sometimes thinks about his brief retirement from being sole proprietor of a little Internet marketing business before becoming a full time volunteer.

**Cathy Ryan** is Vice-president of the Historical Society of Morro Bay, has been on the Board of Directors since 2011, and has been a member since 2005. For several years, Cathy has been the liaison between the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association (CCMMA), of which she is a member, and the historical society. In that capacity, she devoted many hours helping the CCMMA bring the replica of Cabrillo's galleon, the San Salvador, on its first maiden voyage out of San Diego Harbor and into Morro Bay Harbor. Cathy has also been responsible for organizing the HSMB's participation in the 2015-2017 Harbor Festival, as well as manning its booth. Born and raised in Morro Bay, Cathy is not only one of this city's biggest fans.

**Lisa Winn** is a board director of the Historical Society of Morro Bay. She is also

As an owner of a Public Relations firm in Sausalito California, **Shelagh Considine**



the Secretary for Morro Bay Beautiful, a volunteer for Pacific Wildlife Care and Cambria Center for the Arts. As with Joan Solu and Victoria Berry, Lisa was actively involved in the MB50th Celebration in her role as acting executive director of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce. Lisa is a native to San Luis Obispo where she currently lives with her Dog Molly. When she isn't volunteering or working, you will find her at the beach with Molly.

### **Wanted: Treasurer for Society**

As most of you know, our friend and founder Roger Castle has had to resign his post on the Board of the Historical Society to put fulltime effort into beating back his health problems. We fully expect him to return.

In the meantime, this leaves us with a spot to fill: Treasurer.

We are converting our books to a standard Quickbooks format, so the main job of our Treasurer is to keep track of the income and expenditures, make monthly summary reports to the Board (using built-in Quickbooks reporting), and supply information for our year-end reports. All of this should be quite simple since we have few transactions in most months.

Can you help us with this important job? Or, do you know someone who fits the bill? Please contact Glenn Silloway at [info@historicalmorrobay.org](mailto:info@historicalmorrobay.org) or 805-748-9475.

spent a lot of time in promotions and marketing. An interest in the Graphic Arts led to a degree as Webmaster and experimenting with various software. She began 'Cruising,' a magazine for boating enthusiasts when she lived up north following retirement. Shelagh is an avid History Buff.

Board Director, **Joan Solu**, began her involvement with the HSMB through her activities as the leader of the 2014 City of Morro Bay's 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee Joan has continued to play an active role in the momentum of HSMB and supports the board's new direction and energy. She is looking forward to the establishment of a potential museum – a permanent home for the society's growing collections, as well as a place to celebrate Morro Bay's rich and colorful history.

Previously, Joan was the Chair of the City of Morro Bay's Recreation and Parks Commission and the city's Tourism Business Improvement District Board. She is also the past President of the Community Foundation of Estero Bay and the Del Mar PTA. Joan's leadership abilities and understanding of how business owners, residents, local government and nonprofits work together continues to enrich the entire community and to guide the HSMB in what she see is it's significant role in that process.

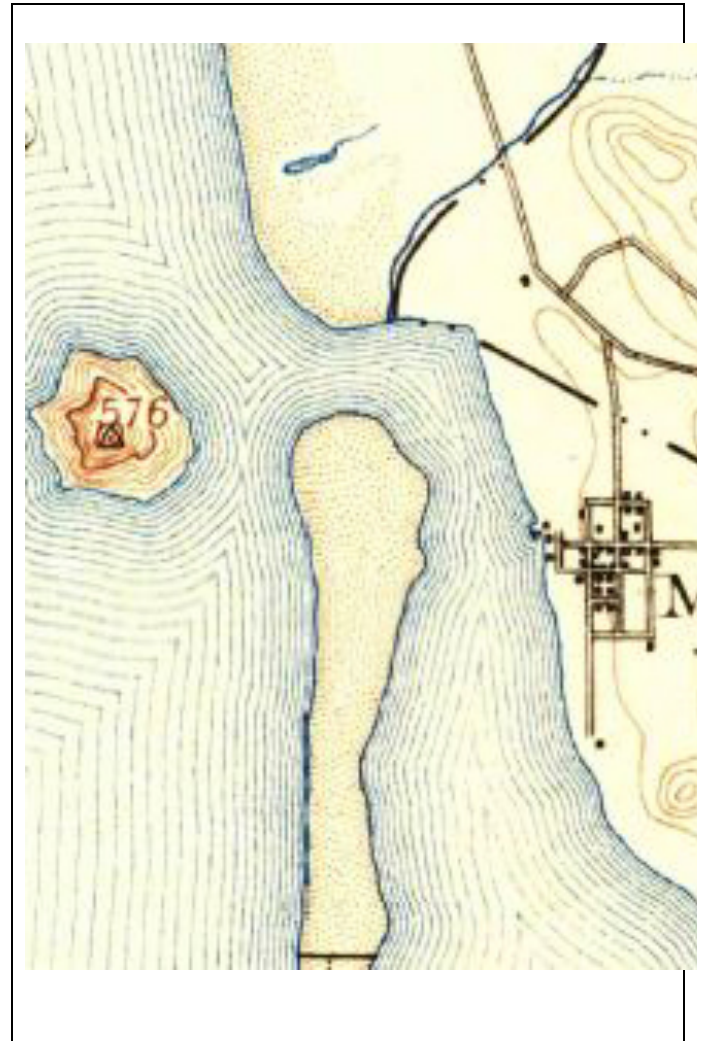
## An 1874 Map

The HSMB Board of Directors has appointed Cathy Ryan and Shelagh Considine to find quotes for the cost of mounting an 1874 map of San Luis Obispo County that was given to the Society by two former residents, Joe Dunlap and Lee Bickford.

Because of the size of the map, 4'9" x 3'5", we are having a difficult time finding someone to mount this large map. But we will conquer! The cost of this endeavor is unknown at this time, but that will not prevent us accomplishing this.

We are moving forward and hope to find monies, the right products, and any other assistance available so that we can preserve and display this treasured map.

---- Cathy Ryan



## Cerrito Peak (aka Eagle Rock) Lava Dome

Cerrito Peak—known to many as Eagle Rock—is a landmark in south Morro Bay almost next door to the Presbyterian Church. The ‘peak’ is a pile of hard, cool lava. For years, I thought it was a little morro, a volcanic plug like the Morro Rock, only smaller, but no: it is a lava dome, typically formed by molten magma flowing through a vent and cooling in place. The magma that forms a dome is typically too thick to flow very far, so it builds up in place.

I felt I needed to get re-acquainted with an old friend I had misunderstood. Luckily there’s an Internet. Oregon State University maintains a site called “Volcano World” that includes information about [lava domes](#), which is one of the primary sources used here. Better yet, local expert John McCabe (our Historical Society presenter in February), who has taught college geology, has helped us get this right.

There are various shapes a lava dome can take, from flat-topped to spikey. It’s a little hard to see the shape of Cerrito since the lower slopes are covered by buildings, but it seems to be a fairly round base at the foot of the slope that runs up to Black Hill.

The lava that makes a dome can be one of several compositions, but generally contains a high concentration of silica because that’s what makes lava more viscous, thicker. John McCabe has a sample from the peak that is Rhyodacite-Rhyolite, with the Rhyolite being one of the major general categories of volcanic rock. One of the interesting features of lava domes is that they often seem to be made of large blocks of rock because the thick lava cools into discrete chunks. Next time you walk up to the rocks on Cerrito Peak, take a look at the shapes of the blocks and rocks.

OSU says that lava domes can occur anywhere there is volcanic activity, with the exact terrain determining the dome’s final shape and size. It’s pretty clear that Cerrito Peak is part of the same cluster of volcanic activity that created the nine Morros, including Morro Rock. It lies roughly in the line that includes all these volcanic plugs, from south of San Luis Obispo to Morro Bay. Geologists believe that this cluster of volcanic forms was part of an active system about 24 million years ago, perhaps located in an area that is now part of Baja California. The system moved northward on the Pacific tectonic plate, which is still moving at about half an inch per year.

Slow but steady is how we are going.

----Glenn Silloway

If you have not already, please renew your membership, and pass along to a friend who would enjoy the HSMB. And we greatly appreciate your important tax deductible donations!

## Historical Society of Morro Bay

**[please print]**

Name(s) or Company \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State,

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships are due on March 1st of each year**

☐ Individual Membership (\$20.00)

☐ Couples Membership (\$35.00)

☐ Business Membership (\$30.00)

☐ Student Membership (\$15.00)

☐ Information Change/Correction Only

☐ Email List only o New o or Renewal

☐ Tax deductible donation also enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please provide an e-mail address if at all possible. It saves us postage costs and allows us to keep you up to date on new developments.

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Winter 2018 Newsletter

### **Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 921, Morro Bay, CA. 93443

Voice mail: 805-399-2772

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HSMB is a 501-(C) 3 non-profit corporation. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Federal EIN: 77-0574960. CA corporate ID: 2348703.



Historical Society of Morro Bay  
PO Box 921 Morro Bay, CA 93443

Hope to see you at the general meeting Sunday, February 11th, 4:30PM

[info@historicalmorrobay.org](mailto:info@historicalmorrobay.org) | voicemail: (805) 399-2772 | [historicalmorrobay.org](http://historicalmorrobay.org)



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