



# THE METEOR

Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara  
Harris-Lass House Museum

*Summer Edition – July 2025*



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## Family Fun Day Sunday, July 13, 2025

The Harris Lass Museum, 1889 Market Street (west of Winchester) in Santa Clara will hold a free summer event for the public on Sunday, July 13, 2025, from Noon – 3 p.m.



Children from the extended Lass family enjoying a day on the farm  
almost 100 years ago in 1926

This special event will be a **'Family Fun Day'** with a variety of games including Corn Hole, a scavenger hunt, and old-fashioned toys. Check in at the information table and then discover the craft-making tables. Learn to make a lavender wand or a yarn doll! Or try one of the other activities that will be offered! Ice-cream and juice bar treats, lemonade and cookies will be served from the Barn. There will also be a photo opportunity with props including a vintage saddle from the late 1800s.

Short tours of the House Museum will be offered beginning at 1 p.m. Lass Family antiques and artifacts illustrating their 'Hobbies and Pastimes' in the early 1900s are on display in mini-exhibits throughout the house. The Tank House Gift Shop will be open for browsing and purchases.

We hope that moms, dads, grandparents and children of all ages will come and enjoy this fun event together!



## Garden Volunteer Day

The Museum Board is very grateful to Membership Chair Julie Fisk for assembling a list of people willing to volunteer for special events and assignments at the Museum. On Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> Julie and Board member Jeannie Mahan supervised eight volunteers in sprucing up the Museum's blooming garden and orchard area.



Quoting from Jeannie's report: "We dead headed the roses, taking off dead flowers and leaves. We removed weeds. One of the volunteers trimmed the arbor. We worked in the orchard (surrounding the parking lot) picking up fruit that had fallen. Overall, we did a lot of detail work to tidy-up and beautify the gardens." Jeannie also noted: "Everyone enjoyed the sunshine and camaraderie. We all said we would come back again to keep the party going!"



Did you know volunteering in a beautiful setting could be so much fun! If you have any interest in joining the garden volunteers or volunteering at one of our future fun public events, contact our Membership Chair Julie Fisk at [membership@harrislass.org](mailto:membership@harrislass.org).

### Volunteers needed!

We also need volunteers to help staff the house museum when we are open to the public (we are generally open the first Saturday of the month) and/or to help at our special events.

If either of these are of interest to you or if you'd like to be added to our general volunteer list for future events, please let us know at [info@harrislass.org](mailto:info@harrislass.org).

## Movie Night in the Barn

On Friday evening, August 22<sup>nd</sup> the Harris Lass Museum will resume one of its pre-COVID era traditions – “Movie Night in the Barn.”

Arrive at 6:30 p.m. to check out the Museum gardens, get settled in, find a chair, and have some popcorn and a beverage. About 7 p.m.

***The Valley That Was*** will be shown.

Running about a half hour, the film was made about 50 years ago – in the 1970s, for the Santa Clara County Office of Education, in what was then the waning days of Santa Clara Valley’s orchard and agricultural era.

There may also be an option to see a second short film (about 20 minutes), ***The Valley of Heart’s Delight***, for those that want to stay and see a “double feature.” This is a free event and suitable for ages 12 years and older. As the date draws closer, look for additional information on the Museum’s website at <https://harrislass.org/events/> or email [info@harrislass.org](mailto:info@harrislass.org).

## Annual Flea Market & Rummage Sale

Save this Date! On Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> on the Harris Lass grounds and lawn in Santa Clara, the Museum will hold its Annual Flea Market & Rummage Sale, open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Museum will be selling unneeded donations and deeply discounted gift shop clearance items. In addition, members of the Museum will be selling their crafts and/or no longer needed treasures!

Members that want to have a table to sell their wares must contact and register with event coordinator Sue Harper. For more information, email [info@harrislass.org](mailto:info@harrislass.org) or leave a message by calling (408) 249-7905. As the event date draws closer, check out the Museum’s website at: <https://harrislass.org/events/>.

## Website Makeover

Although the Harris Lass Museum website address remains the same -- <https://harrislass.org/> -- earlier this year, the Harris Lass Museum Board approved a contract with a professional web designer, Matt Knowles of Aesthetic Design & Photography (<https://www.aestheticdesign.com/about-us/>) to redesign and host the Museum’s website with the goal of making it look more professional, visually attractive, and easier to navigate. Matt will also add updates and corrections, as necessary.

The redesigned website went “live” in May 2025, and the Board hopes the membership and the public will check it out and find it both aesthetically pleasing and informative.

The tabs at the top to navigate through are the basic “Home” page, a “Visiting the Museum” page, a “Membership” page, a “Volunteers” page, a “Rentals page”, a “History” page with various pull-down weblinks, and the “Events” or calendar page which also has links to recent issues of ***The Meteor*** newsletter.

Feel free to email your critique or comments to: [info@harrislass.org](mailto:info@harrislass.org).

### Editor’s note:

In addition to everything else that he does, Matt Knowles maintains a free database of historic homes in America that are open to the public.

They are listed by state and in most cases include a photo. They can be viewed as a list or with map view.

Check it out at <https://www.oldhomefolks.com/>



## **HPSSC Board of Directors**

*Aka the volunteers who are responsible for the  
Harris Lass House Museum*

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Historical Landmarks Liaison:

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**The Meteor newsletter is usually  
published in the Spring, Summer &  
Fall by the HPSSC.**

**To see the full-color edition, view  
on the web at [www.harrislass.org](http://www.harrislass.org)  
or request an emailed copy.**

Newsletter Editor: Mary Hanel

Layout Editor: Sue Kozdon

### **Location:**

The Harris-Lass Museum is located at  
1889 Market St. (west of Winchester)  
in Santa Clara.

### **Mailing address:**

HPSSC, P.O. Box 3311,  
Santa Clara, CA 95055

### **Museum message line:**

1 408 249-7905

**Web site:** [www.harrislass.org](http://www.harrislass.org)

***The Harris Lass Museum is  
generally open the first  
Saturday of the month from  
12 noon – 2 pm.***

***Our next first Saturday  
public tour dates will be July  
5<sup>th</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup>***

## **Welcome to our new Board Member – Carol Lucero!**

I am happy to join the Harris Lass Museum's board. I moved to Sunnyvale during grade school and never moved far away. The history and charm of the Old Quad neighborhood enticed my husband and I to buy an 1890 Queen Anne Cottage in 1998. The house was mostly original but needed renovations and upgrades. It has been an interesting process.



I retired a few years ago after working at Lockheed Martin for over 40 years. My skillset includes patience, communication, organization and teambuilding. Volunteering at the Harris Lass fills a void and gives me a sense of purpose. It feels good to know I can help with something as important as the Harris Lass Museum. I started volunteering as a docent for the Historic Home Tour. That was followed by having my home on the tour and being a home coordinator. I am currently in charge of getting donations for the opportunity baskets for the Home Tour.

My other interests include cooking/baking, sewing, embroidery, soldering, jewelry making and gardening. I like to travel with my husband and friends, taking trips to many interesting places that were just dreams a few years ago.