

Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

A non-profit 501 (c) (3) California corporation Tax ID #30-0421172

Preserving Cotati's Past
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Summer 2019

Bobbie Veronda, Editor

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: John Allred 795-2791
Vice President: Ed Gilardi
Secretary: Velma DiMeola
Treasurer: Bobbie Veronda
Lead Archivist: Judy Gustafson
Membership: Connie Martin

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN SKILL SETS NEEDED

Development . Finance . Grant Writing
Graphic Arts . Social Media . History

COTATI MUSEUM HOURS

Every Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
2nd Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.

For tours and research
appointments,
call 707-794-0305

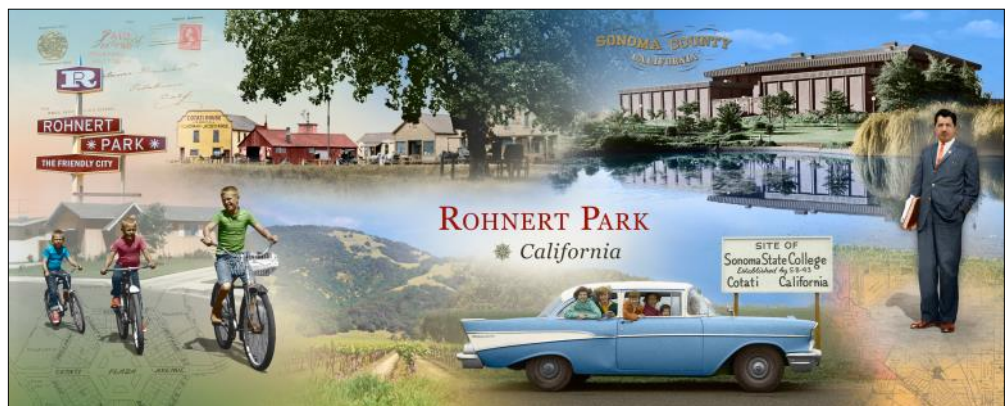
THE CHS MISSION

As stated in our Articles of Incorporation, dated April 11, 2007, the specific purposes of the Cotati Historical Society are 1) to protect and preserve the history and culture of the City of Cotati, 2) to provide a permanent resource (museum and interpretive programs) for the preservation of artifacts, memorabilia and documents illustrating the past and present life of the Cotati community, municipality, and its citizens, and 3) to reach out to the general community and to support similarly guided educational and historical agencies.

Wells Fargo Mural of Cotati and Rohnert Park

Wells Fargo Bank has a community mural program dedicated to “creating unique, custom designed historical artwork that respects the community’s legacy, celebrates its diversity, and honors the past upon which the community was founded.” The murals use images from the early 1800’s to the mid-1900’s which are digitally designed by a dedicated team of designers who “create a digital collage art work that is then printed and installed on location.”

Judy Gustafson worked with bank’s project manager, Kelsey Holmes, and provided numerous images from the archives of CHS to the project. The mural measures 10’ x 4’ and is located inside the Wells Fargo branch at 5 Padre Parkway in Rohnert Park. A mural key is installed next to the work, providing captions for each of the images featured in the design.



New at the Veronda-Falletti Ranch

Five sweet-tempered KuneKune pigs from New Zealand were born in May. In Maori, their name means “fat and round.” They are medium-sized with ear tassels, possibly a mix of Berkshire, Poland China and Gloucester Old Spots, and come in a variety of colors. White-and-black-faced piglets, Salt & Peppa, were tiny when photographed soon after their birth.

Nonprofit Farmster, Dustin DeMateo, manages the property with several varieties of animals. They offer livestock demonstrations and other ag events year-round right here in downtown Cotati.

They also offer volunteer orientations at *Open Farm Friday* from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit farmster.org.

You can find all the animals at 185 East Cotati Ave across from City Hall.



Young Salt and Peppa with mother Dottie. They are much larger now.

CHS Extended Families and Friends Renew Cotate BBQ Tradition

Multiple generations of area families have worked with both longtime friends and newcomers to Cotati Historical Society's annual barbecue to maintain local history.

Public picnics have been a part of the Cotati's social calendar since the 19th century days when the Page Brothers invited local farmers to the Rancho Cotate. CHS has pictures of others at least as far back as 1911. In the 1950's, thousands descended on our little town for the St. Joseph Church barbecue fundraisers. CHS has been proud to renew that tradition with a string of successful events going back eleven years.

Families, including kids, grandkids, aunts and uncles, spouses, or in-laws, have been essential to the long-term success of CHS activities: Some include the Revard-Martin, Veronda-Falletti, Schollmann, Draper, and Santero families and more recently the Moore, Gilardi, Pagnusat, Dell'Osso, Lucas, Landman and Whipple families.

To expand the tradition, CHS has also been able to partner with local schools, Thomas Page Academy, Rancho Cotate, and Technology High, absorbing new families through student essays and teen volunteers.

"I'm always impressed by all of our volunteers, including the students who volunteered from Rancho Cotate and Tech High. They really seem to enjoy making this day happen," noted BBQ Chair Ed Gilardi. "They made a wonderful event even better."

Rancho Cotate and Tech High student volunteers with kitchen director, Dave Wasson.



Besides the delicious BBQ'd chicken and sides, people seldom pass the homemade desserts table without stopping. "It's such fun watching attendees head right for the bake sale to get their jam or dessert, or both, before they pick up their trays to eat. Without all the wonderfully baked goodies, it wouldn't be the same," said Judy Gustafson bake sale coordinator. This year 109 jars of jam were made as well as many delicious desserts ranging from lemon meringue pies to molasses crinkles.

Bake sale volunteers Lisa Moore, Judy Pagnusat and Bette McKnight are enjoying themselves while serving greatly appreciated desserts.



Hard at very early work, Ed Gilardi and son Anthony used 20 bags of charcoal to cook 450 chicken halves.

Silent Auction Chairperson Pat Gilardi puts finishing touches on the auction items.



Thomas Page Essay Winners

During the BBQ, the Thomas Page Academy fourth grade history essay award finalists were presented with certificates. Ziranda Baltazar, first place winner, received her certificate and a \$50 check. Honorable mentions were awarded to Allison Guzman, Naomi Dorsey and Bella Alabona.

All students were from the class of teacher Janae Dedekam whose classroom also received a \$100 check.



L to r: Essay winner Ziranda Baltazar; honorable mentions Allison Guzman, Naomi Dorsey and Bella Alabona



Essay winner Ziranda Baltazar, with her proud mother and grandmother



Front Desk volunteers are ready for hungry people. This year approximately 400 friends and community members attended the event. From l to r: Fred Carrasca, Bruce Martin, Annie Carrasca, Liz Derammelaere of the Cotati Chamber of Commerce, Kim Martin and Janet Orchard. From the Revard-Martin Family: Fred, Bruce, Annie and Kim



Photos by Jerry Pagnusat

Carl Schollmann organized the antique car show again this year. He also showed up very early in the morning with a large tarp cover in case the cooks needed rain protection!



Three generations of Martins interrupted their busy early morning (5:00 a.m.) schedule cooking chickens to pose for a picture. R to l: Dad Bruce, grandson Jake and son Gary.



We were lucky to enjoy two folk/rock bands this year, a trio, The Farallons, and a quartet, the Bluebyrds, pictured here from l to r: Tom Richardson, Steven Nank, Rick Minervini and Will James.



Kirk and Julie Panusis are enjoying the day.



Chris Davis, a silent-auction donor, talks with docent Robin Draper at the Museum, while docent Velma Veronda DiMeola greets another visitor. Sister Bobbie Veronda was working in the Cotati Room.



Kelly Smith, son-in-law of Carl Schollmann, got help from Caden Lucas, Chuck Lucas' grandson. Chuck also volunteered all day but missed this photo.

Sandra Walton Retires from CHS Board

CHS volunteers (l to r) Rosemary Hansen and Simone Wilson, and CHS president John Allred (r) who presented retiring board member Sandra Walton with a framed certificate and flowers during the BBQ.

Sandra has served on the board since 2014 sharing her experience and knowledge of special collections at Sonoma State University and as a judge for the essay contest. She and her son Joshua have designed and created several Kids Day floats for CHS. They were also instrumental in the WA exhibit in the museum.



THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS AND DONORS

Mark & Shannon Ackerman	Kevin Gingher Spanky's,	Gary & Louise Petersen*
Karen Bertolini	Sage Howell	Marie Rice
Jenny Blaker	Nancy Hunt**	Barbara Minatta Ryan*
Sean Bressie	Art & Vicky Ibleto*	Sharie Sbrazza & Bob Parker*
Church of the Oaks	Mark Ibleto	Joan Simon
Congregation Ner Shalom*	Lorna King*	Bobbie Veronda**
Cotati Chamber of Commerce	Valerie Kingsbury	Michael & Marie Von Der Porten
Judy DeMeo**	Jeff & Janet Libarle*	Robert Waldron
Velma DiMeola	Bruce Martin, Jr.**	Wells Fargo Bank**
Vicki Dougan*	Barbara & Terry McGee	Robin Wood
Terry Dutra	Marie and Richard McNaughton*	Steve Young
Ed & Pat Gilardi	Janet Orchard*	

* Indicates a general donation in addition to dues ** Donations only

Note: Memberships and donations received after May 15, 2019 will be acknowledged in the fall newsletter

In Memoriam Donations

Marie Andreoli for Earl Griffith	Gary Santero for Sgt Steve Wodrich, USMC, Retired
Velma DiMeola for Earl Griffith	Sharie Sbrazza and Bob Parker for parents
Darlene Engellenner for her brother, Lee G. Schunk	Bobbie Veronda for Earl Griffith
Gary Santero for Agnes Olsen	

Cotati Historical Society & Museum
Inside Cotati City Hall at 201 West Sierra Ave
PO Box 7013 Cotati CA 94931

The Board of Directors of CHS wishes to thank the many volunteers and local businesses, especially *Oliver's Market, Larsen's Feed & Pet Supply Center, Lagunitas Brewing Co, United Markets, Bay Cities Produce, Full Circle Bakers, Exchange Bank and LV Florist*, who through their generosity make our annual BBQ possible as well as all the friends and families who continue to come to enjoy chicken and desserts. The success of the BBQ allows us to pursue our prime mission of preserving Cotati's past.

Thank you for your support!



Jerry Pagnusat, usually behind the camera at CHS events, takes a break and tries for another lucky 50/50 win this year.