

Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

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

Preserving Cotati's Past
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June 2017

Marie McNaughton, Editor

Vol. 10 No. 2

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SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: John Allred 795-2791
Vice President: Sandra Walton
Secretary: Velma DiMeola
Treasurer: Connie Martin
Archiving Administrator: Judy Gustafson
Membership: Yvonne Van Dyke
Newsletter: Marie McNaughton
Museum Volunteer Coordinator: Bobbie Veronda 795-4545

**2017-2018
BOARD POSITION
OPEN**

COTATI MUSEUM HOURS

- Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
- 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m.
- For tours and 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, California, 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.

CHS Volunteers Do It All the Time



From dawn to dusk, BBQ volunteers "git 'er done." It's 38 degrees as Joe Panfiglio and Ed Gilardi (at far right) warm themselves with coffee and early morning grilling for the afternoon feast. *All photos by Jerry Pagnusat*

On Sunday, April 9, the Cotati Historical Society once again hosted a sell-out crowd at this year's ninth annual Old-Fashioned Chicken BBQ at the Cotati Community Center next to City Hall. The now traditional event ensures the continued care of the city's historical collection, overall management of the Cotati Museum, and the support of educational and cultural activities in and around Cotati.

"It's a labor of love for our members and other community volunteers," said John Allred, president of the nonprofit historical society and master of ceremonies. "We spend nearly six months each year planning, executing, and wrapping up what is really a small-town reunion for current and former Cotatians."

Volunteers manage not just the barbecue, but a vintage car show, sweets sale, beverage bar, 50/50 raffle, the Thomas Page Academy history-writing award ceremony, and a silent auction of local gifts, art, services, and handcrafts.

"Without the support of interested individuals, organizations, and businesses, the membership could never hope to get all the work done alone," said John.

"Not only does the weekend of the event require a disciplined team setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up," added society vice president Sandra Walton. "It takes dozens of hours spent by dozens of volunteers throughout the year to make this happen and to support fellow cultural nonprofits. We sort of rest in the summer by participating in parades and festivals organized by other community groups. In fall, we also hold a history or museum-related event."

BBQ chair and chef Ed Gilardi reports that the 2017 barbecue dished up 340 chicken halves, 14 gallons of beans, 36 dozen rolls, and 80 pounds of cole slaw. Joe Panfiglio helped Ed tend the early morning-to-late-afternoon grills along with

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CHS Volunteers Do It All the Time, continued from page 1

Ed’s son Anthony, and three generations of the ever-reliable Martins: Bruce, Gary, and Jake. Steadfast food and supply donors were Oliver’s Market, Larsen’s Feed, Bay Cities Produce, United Markets, and Lagunitas Brewery.

“We had 20 people make goodies for the bake sale,” reported chair Judy Gustafson. “There were eight pies, seven cakes, assorted breads and muffins, and about 30 dozen cookies, brownies, and bars, and we sold out of everything.” Her volunteer team—including Diane Canadas, Lisa Moore, Judy Pagnusat, Shelby Gustafson, Bette McKnight, and Ellen Ostrand—also sold 100 jars of the highly prized organic jams made specially for the event by Gustafson and Connie Martin.

Connie herself was here, there, and everywhere, making sure things were running smoothly—as she does each year.

The event’s dining, sales, and dance areas, once limited to the Cotati Room, now spread across outdoor sun and shade spots to the Stony Point Room, accommodating more than 400 guests. Local band Take Your Medicine inspired many to dance in the sunlit open space.

Annual car show impresario Gary Santero rounded up seven oh-so-shiny vintage models, plus a copy of the police car from the movie *American Graffiti*, provided by nonprofit Cruisin’ The Boulevard’s annual salute to the classic film.

The Thomas Page Academy History Essay winner this year was Angelica Aguilar Lopez; runners up were: Zuri Ruiz, Aaliyah Salgado, Cali Figoni, and Kimberly Pineda. Presenting the awards were Velma DiMeola and Marie McNaughton.

Silent auction chair Bobbie Veronda reported that of the 173 items collected and presented for auction, 80 local businesses and individuals contributed, many with multiple items. “It’s not just longtime Cotatians who participate, but new businesses also get a chance to attract the attention of hundreds of guests,” said Bobbie.

Also on the Saturday-Sunday team were:

- Set-up/take-down: Shannon Roberts, Dave Wasson
- In the kitchen: Cole slaw queen Val Kingsbury and many others mentioned elsewhere in our story
- Greeters and cashiers: *city employee Lauren Berges*; Janet Orchard, Kim Martin, Ann and Fred Carrasca
- Serving food: Marie Aggio, June Kimball, Yvonne Van Dyke, Jan Landman, Jacquie Dell’Osso; *city employees Damien O’Bid and Vicki Parker*; *council members Mark Landman, Wendy Skillman, and Susan Harvey*
- Raffle tickets: *Council members John Dell’Osso and John Moore*
- At the bar: Chuck Lucas, Kelly Smith
- In the museum: Velma DiMeola with Robin Draper
- Silently auctioning: Muriel Mahall, Suzanne Whipple, Sue Ahearn, Kim Martin, Dave Wasson, Ann Carrasca

Finally, our fabulous flowers came from many local gardens and were arranged by Ann, who brought still more all the way from her current home in Butte County.

Thank you to ALL for your thoughtful and hard work.

Volunteers pictured at left (from top to bottom, then left to right): 1) Tami Taylor, Yvonne Van Dyke, Fred Carrasca, Lauren Berges, Ann Carrasca; 2) Vicki Parker, Susan Harvey, Jacquie Dell’Osso; 3) John Moore, Sue Ahearn, John Alfred, John Dell’Osso; 4) Jake Martin and Cameron Davis.

Highlights of the 2017 Ninth Annual CHS Old-Fashioned BBQ, Car Show, Bake Sale & Silent Auction

More than 400 guests filled the Cotati Room, Stony Point Room, and the outdoor shade and sun of the Ray Miller Community Center. Eighty businesses and individuals donated to the silent auction. History fans visited the Cotati Museum and Prue Draper memorial inside Cotati City Hall. Music and spontaneous dance added to the festivity.

Photos by Jerry Pagnusat



THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT CHS MEMBERS & KIND DONORS

Marion Ackerman, Patricia Anderson, Karen Bertolini, Chris Bossard, Martha Stammer Brankline, Ken and Sherri Carli, Cotati Chamber of Commerce, Donald Cropper, Vicki Dougan, Terry Dutra, Cathryn Fairlee, Amy Fox, Kevin Gingher, Dana Gustafson, Carolyn and Paul Hacker, Jenny Hancock, Robert Herrerias, Lorna King, Stephen Jones, Reta Kyle and Gary Santero, David and Marsha Lightfoot, Rick Minervini, Janet Orchard, DeLoris Osborn, John and Anne Page, Joan Simon, Michael and Elaine Von Der Porten, Jack Withington, Robin Wood.

NOTE: Italicized names indicate a separate donation.



- *Do you like to have fun?*
- *Are you creative? Social?*
- *Interested in supporting community nonprofit events?*

CHS summer volunteers develop floats, walk in parades, and meet the public on behalf of the Cotati Historical Society & Museum.

CALL CHS at 794-0305 to leave your name and number and to tell us your interests.

Coming up:

Penngrove 4th of July Parade July 2
25th Annual Kids Day Parade July 8
Accordion Festival August 19 & 20

Cotati Historical Society
P.O. Box 7013
Cotati, CA 94931
www.cotatihistoricalsociety.org



Honorees of the 2017 4th Grade Thomas Page Academy History Essay contest are flanked by their teachers Mira Patel (left) and Robin Greer (right). From left to right: Zuri Ruiz, honorable mention; winner Angelica Aguilar Lopez; honorable mentions Aaliyah Salgado and Cali Figoni. Honorable mention Kimberly Pineda was not present at the barbecue, but received her award at a later school assembly.