

# Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

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

Preserving Cotati's Past  
P.O. Box 7013 Cotati, CA 94931  
E-mail chsinfo@sonic.net

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Connie Martin, Editor

Vol. 10 No. 1

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## Board of Directors

**President:** John Allred 795-2791  
**Vice Pres.:** Sandra Walton  
**Secretary:** Velma DiMeola  
**Treasurer:** Connie Martin  
**Archive Admin:** Judy Gustafson  
**Membership:** Yvonne VanDyke  
**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
Barbara Jean Veronda 795- 4545  
**Director:** Marie McNaughton

## Cotati Museum Hours:

Saturday 1 - 4 P.M.  
2nd Tuesday of each  
month 5 - 7 P.M.  
Special times by appointment  
Phone 707-794-0305

Learn more about Cotati history and  
the Cotati Museum at our **website:**  
[www.cotatihistoricalociety.org](http://www.cotatihistoricalociety.org)

The Cotati Historical Museum  
always needs volunteers to  
welcome visitors on Saturday  
afternoons, when we are open  
from 1 to 4 p.m. Docents work in  
pairs and the duties are basic -  
unlock doors, turn on lights, open  
blinds and prepare to be friendly.  
We have an instruction pamphlet  
that tells you everything you need  
to know. If you are interested,  
contact Barbara Jean Veronda,  
795-4545.

## Remembering Our Founder Prue Draper

Prue Draper, co-founder of the Cotati Historical Society and Historical Museum, died Jan. 21. She was also a key figure in organizing Cotati as a city in 1963.

When it was clear that Rohnert Park was on the verge of becoming incorporated, Prue, Bill Kortum and other Cotatians rushed to incorporate Cotati to preserve its distinct character from its sprawling neighbor.

Prudence King was born in Cleveland but grew up in Georgia and then Petaluma, later studying at Cal Berkeley. In 1949 she met printer Lloyd Draper. Together they bought the Cotatian newspaper and later served in the Peace Corps in Western Samoa. On returning, Prue worked variously for the Argus-Courier, for Hewlett-Packard, and as Gaye LeBaron's assistant at the Press Democrat. She and Lloyd amassed a collection of local artifacts and photos, and were instrumental in creating the Cotati Historical Society in 2007 and its museum in a wing of Cotati City Hall in 2010.



Lloyd & Prue Draper in 2010.

Photo by Paul Hacker



Prue leading a walking  
tour of downtown Cotati,  
which included the  
history of all the old  
buildings and the  
businesses that had been  
there in past years.

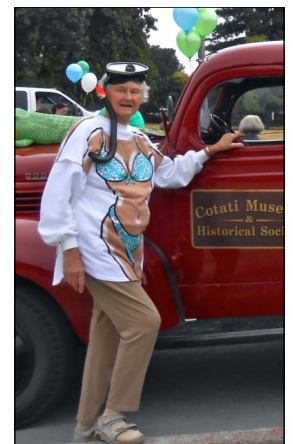
Photo by Simone Wilson

Prue led fascinating walking tours of Cotati's architecture - in recent years relying on her motorized scooter. She gave 4th graders at Thomas Page School annual talks about local history, and was instrumental in preserving Veronda-Falletti Ranch on W. Sierra Avenue.

When the arrival of the Smart Train tracks threatened a unique Chimera Redwood on East Cotati Avenue, she spearheaded the removal of the tree to a safe location near the new depot across the street. She also organized annual forums on topics ranging from the origin of street names to the local music scene.

Prue displayed her trademark wacky humor by dressing variously as a snorkeler or a chicken for the Kid's Day Parade, and she was a regular at Wavy Gravy's annual Clown Camp. So it was not out of character when several speakers at her Feb. 7 memorial, including her brother and her niece, wore Prue's fluffy cloth chicken hat.

Continued on page 2



Prue, as a snorkeler,  
preparing to ride in  
the Kid's Day Parade.

Photo by Jerry Pagnusat

# Remembering Prue Draper Continued from page 1

Prue was a motivating force in the CHS, and we are all bereft at her loss, but eager to continue the work to preserve and celebrate Cotati's unique history. The annual barbecue on Sunday, April 9, will be dedicated to her memory.

*Contributed by Simone Wilson*



In February 2011, walkers retracing the route of Fred Wiseman's 1911 airmail flight came through Cotati and were greeted by apron-wavers, re-enacting the local housewives waving as Wiseman flew over their homes. Left to right: Yvonne VanDyke, Prue Draper, Marj Torliatt, Judy Gustafson, Marsha Sue Lustig, Suzanne Whipple and Robin Draper.

*Photo by Creighton Bell*



Prue with the board members celebrating the Cotati Museum's first anniversary in 2011. Left to right: Lisa Moore, Judy Gustafson, Judy Pagnusat, Prue Draper, Connie Martin, Terry Dutra and Suzanne Whipple. *Photo by Jerry Pagnusat*



Prue hanging the picture of the Chimera Redwood tree in the Smart Train Depot prior to the April 2015 public showing of the train and depot.

*Photo by Simone Wilson*

## THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS & SOCIETY DONORS

Marion Ackerman, Marie Aggio, John Allred, Lars & Erin Andersen, May Andreoli, Mary Bartlett, George & Karen Baur, *Harold Berke-meier*, Frank & Kathryn Bianchi, Lillian Blodgett, *Richard Braden*, *George Bunting*, Diane Canadas, Kenneth & Sherri Carli, *Ann & Fred Carrasca*, Church of the Oaks, Beverly Colburn, Chris Davis, Sandy Devine, Velma DiMeola, Julie Dinkins, Diane Dorfman, *Bob & Robin Draper*, *Jennie Falletti*, *Jane Ferina*, Melanie Fleek, *Maurice & Betty Fredericks*, *Barbara Gegan*, *Janet Gingher*, Harold Griffith, Fred & Judith Groverman, Judy Gustafson, *Martha Gustafson*, Sage Hall, Bill & Connie Hammerman, *Sue Harvey*, Dave & Karen Heisel, Melvin Hendrix, Irene Hilsendager, *Nancy Hunt*, Andrew & Catharine Hutchins, Mark Ibleto, Art & Victoria Ibleto, Mary Lou Issel Lentz, *Kelly Chadwick Janney*, *Larry Justis*, Patricia Kavanaugh, Valerie Kingsbury, Lucy Kortum, *Michael & Janet Kurvers*, Bob & Alice Larsen, Ken & Amy Larsen, Don Leivas, *Jeff Libarle*, John & Muriel Mahall, Gary & Robin Malone, *Bruce & Connie Martin*, Gary, Kim & Jake Martin, *Bruce Jr.*, *Heather & Ali Martin*, *Klyoko Maruyama*, Patrick McCarty, *Barbara & Terence McGee*, Eleanor Miller, Scott Minnis, Robert Nelson, Mildred Nibe, Ed & Vi Nordman, *Kathy Norwood*, Janet Orchard, Tom Origer, *DeLoris Osborn*, Ellen Ostrand, *John Page*, Jerry & Judy Pagnusat, Joe & Karen Panfiglio, *Bruce Pearson*, Connie & Ron Petty, Fred Reed, Bob & Debbie Renati, Carl & Mary Schollman, *Mike Sheehan*, Rhonda Smith, Allen & Carol Stansbury, Louise Steacy, *Dan & Carolyn Torliatt*, Pamela Torliatt, Joan Tunzi, Yvonne VanDyke, *Barbara Veronda*, *Robert & Janet Waldron*, Sandra Walton, David, Laura & John Wasson, Pamela Wilford, *Carol Williams*, Simone Wilson

**NOTE:** Names in italics also gave donations to the Society.

## Memorial Donations Made in Memory of Prue Draper

Don Arabit, Ken & Dee Blackman, Sean & Joanna Butler, Sandra Curtis, Jacqueline Dickson, Ray & Jackie Dietlin, Velma DiMeola, Jennie Falletti, June Ferguson, Jane Ferina, Sandra Fox, Mary Fricker, Fred & Lyngre Groverman, Judy Gustafson, Art & Victoria Ibleto, Lucy Kortum, James & Patricia Lang, Gaye LeBaron, Chris Leivas, Geraldine Magers, John & Muriel Mahall, Barry Mendelson, Ronald Moreland, D.H. & Dorothy Nelson, Janet Orchard, Tom Origer, Jerry & Judy Pagnusat, Tim Baker & Wendy Perrin, Gary & Louise Petersen, William & Katherine Rinehart, John & Laurie Sheehy, Lee & Marjorie Torliatt, Pamela Torliatt, Barbara Veronda, Sandra Walton

**Thank you for remembering her!**

## Donations Received In Honor or Memory of Other Long-Time Cotati Residents

Harold Berkemeier in Memory of Julie Berkemeier  
Sandy Devine  
in Honor of Martha Gustafson's birthday  
Dave & Karen Heisel  
in Memory of R.C."Tubby" Braden  
Chris Leivas in Memory of Loraine Leivas  
Robert Nelson in Memory of Mabel Nelson  
Bob & Debbie Renati in Memory of Lu Waters

# Old Fashioned Chicken BBQ Preparations Being Made

As in past years, Ed Gilardi's barbecued chicken will be the highlight of the April 9, 2017 BBQ. We are continuing with all of our popular events as in the past, including live music by "Take Yer Medicine," vintage car show, silent auction, 50-50 raffle, bake sale and awarding of the winner of the Thomas Page 4th grade essay contest.

The event will be dedicated to the memory of Prue Draper and her absence will be greatly felt by all attending. But as she would tell all of us: "Carry On!"

Complete information including where to buy tickets is on page 4 of this newsletter.

Things you can do to help and the person to contact:

Bake your favorite dessert for the Bake Sale.

**Judy Gustafson 707-665-5993**

Display your vintage or otherwise noteworthy car.

**Gary Santero 707-888-1101**

Donate an item (or items) to the Silent Auction.

**Barbara Jean Veronda 707-795-4545**

Volunteer to set-up, clean-up or serve. We need help on Saturday and Sunday.

**Yvonne VanDyke 707-792-1478**

## Thomas Page 4th Graders Learn Cotati History on Annual Field Trip



Marie McNaughton welcomed the students, their teachers and chaperones.

In preparation for the 4th grade essay contest, sponsored by the Cotati Historical Society, the 4th grade classes from Thomas Page Academy visited the Cotati City Hall and Museum on Feb. 1. They participated in a scavenger hunt in the Museum which encouraged them to browse and answer the questions of the hunt, at the same time learning about Cotati's history. They also visited the City Hall offices and the Police Department, learning about city government.



Connie Martin assisted students working on the scavenger hunt questions.



Being locked in the police jail cell brought smiles and laughter from the students.



Climbing inside a police car is another fascinating thing the students are anxious to do.

*Photos by Jerry Pagnusat*



In the City Manager's Office, Lisa Moore, right, introduced the students to (l to r) City Manager Damien O'Bid, Deputy City Clerk Lauren Berges and Recreation Coordinator Ashley Wilson.



Field trip coordinator Velma DiMeola explains the scavenger hunt to the students and encourages the use of correct spelling and proper capitalization.

# Time to renew your dues for 2017

We collect dues every January and you too, can help preserve Cotati's history. **Dues are still only \$10 per person per year.** Please complete this form and send with your check.

*Yes I want to renew my membership for 2017 @ \$10 per person*

*An additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed*

*A memorial donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_*

Please send to:  
Cotati Historical Society  
P.O. Box 7013  
Cotati, CA 94931

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

*We can save postage by sending quarterly newsletters online.*

*Editor's Note: This is my first attempt at putting out a newsletter without Prue Draper at my elbow writing the stories. Simone Wilson has graciously consented to help and I truly appreciate her expertise and ability. Thank you Simone!*

Cotati Historical Society  
P.O. Box 7013  
Cotati, CA 94931

## Cotati Museum & Historical Society

9th Annual

### Old-Fashioned Chicken BBQ

Sunday, April 9, 2017

12 Noon - 4:00 pm -- Meals served until 3:00 pm

Cotati Room, Ray Miller Community Center, 216 E. School St.

\$14 in advance, \$17 at the door

Meal includes: One-half chicken, beans, coleslaw, roll & drink.  
Take-out available.  
Beer & Wine for sale

Tickets available at:  
Professional Framing Services 795-2791  
Cotati Exchange Bank  
Cotati Historical Museum 794-0305

**LIVE MUSIC \* SILENT AUCTION \* CAR SHOW \* BAKE SALE**

*All proceeds benefit the Cotati Historical Society*

Event dedicated to Prue Draper, founder of the Cotati Historical Society and Museum.



Prue was also one of Cotati's most prominent supporters and cheerleaders.