

# Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

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Preserving Cotati's Past  
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Marie McNaughton and Judy Gustafson, Editors

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## CONTENTS

Music Event Drew SRO Crowd,	
Music Exhibit Graces Museum	1, 2
Ibleto Honored at Cotati Post Office	3
Members & Donations	3
Museum closed December-January	4
2023 BBQ Planned for Apr. 30	4
Families Donate Art & Images	4

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## COTATI MUSEUM HOURS

**We will be closed in  
December & January  
for window replacement.**

For research, donations &  
other concerns,  
call 707-794-0305.

**Inside Cotati City Hall  
201 West Sierra Avenue**

## 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.

## “Music in Cotati” Event Caps CHS Reboot; New Donations & Exhibits to Wow in 2023

*What a time we've had over the last 18 months, renewing our commitment to public education about the remarkable history of our little town. In light of and in spite of pandemic, CHS released an online downtown tour video, recruited and trained a new cohort of docents, reopened the museum under COVID-19-safe protocols, revived the fall event, participated in a series of public outreach programs, and this summer launched our first in-person series of walking tours.*

This fall, led by CHS vice president Ed Gilardi, CHS installed new exhibits on the history of music in Cotati, featuring original art by the late rock poster icon Pat Ryan, donated by Cotati Accordion Festival organizer Scott Goree. On November 13, we capped 2022 with a companion panel presentation in the Cotati Room recalling the contributions of local impresarios and musicians and the internationally known performers who have graced the city's stages. The highly entertaining discussion, moderated by Jim Agius of Petaluma's Phoenix Theater, centered on Cotati's nightclub heyday from the 1960s to the 1990s, its influence on today's music scene, and Cotati's continuous openness to music of all kinds.

The event introduction by Gilardi invoked the very earliest songs by Cotati's Indigenous peoples and the tea dances and big-band blasts held at the Cotati Women's Improvement Club from the 1910s through the 1950s. But it was the drug-infused development in the late 1960s by hippie refugees from San Francisco, Vietnam veterans seeking rural solace, and innovative artists from all over that caught the imagination of the presenters and audience. The debt owned by each generation to the previous was also a prevalent theme.

Greg Cochran, founder of the Inn of the Beginning in 1968, and Mark Braunstein, soundman at the Inn and then founder of the Cotati Cabaret in 1982, recalled the struggles and pleasures of club running and working with a wide range of musical artists, from local unknowns to headliners trying

*Continued on page 2*



*At top, event organizer Ed Gilardi introduced eight panelists and greeted more than 125 guests at our annual fall history event. Below, veterans of the 1960s-to-1990s Cotati club scene, the mostly silver-haired crowd laughed and remembered the crazy days of their youth. Photos by John Dell'Osso.*

# CHS Music Event & Exhibit Feature History of Rock & Roll, R&B, Jazz, Country, Funk, Punk, Pop & More

*Continued from page 1*

out new material during the week in preparation for big-city weekend gigs. The late rocker Jerry Garcia and stars still bright like Carlos Santana and Van Morrison were at home here in Cotati. Cochran credited the regular appearance of Frank Hayhurst's Bronze Hog band and a newspaper item by music critic Ralph Gleason, calling the Inn "an incubator of new talent," for the venue's early and lasting popularity.

Phoenix Theater founder (in 1983) Tom Gaffey recalled learning the art of club management from the Cabaret's highly effective but self-effacing Braunstein. Local musician and Loud & Clear music center owner Neville Hormuz remembered Hayhurst (and his Zone Music store) and Zone Recording's Blair Hardman as successful businessmen who built a community "hub for musicians."

Rock musician (and humorist of the panel) Lindee Reese noted that the Inn was "a hop, skip and a joint away" from San Francisco, making it attractive to major artists. She credited Cotati's "vortex of creativity" with her transformation from just "another girl with a guitar" to a leading member of a radical lesbian band.

Scott Goree, who characterized his career in music as stumblingly "Forest Gumpish" and himself as the "first hippie in Petaluma," started out in the 1970s "wrangling bands" for Mark "Mooka" Rennick at Prairie Sun Recording Studio, still operating in Cotati. Many years later he sold his Santa Rosa club to revive the Inn of the Beginning, from 1997 to 2000. Today, he directs the Accordion Music Festival. Another example of the continuity characteristic of Cotati's music community, onetime doorman and bartender at the Inn (not to mention former Cotati mayor)

Richard Cullinen led Cotati's longtime Jazz Festival and now promotes the Accordion Festival.

CHS thanks the *Community Voice* and *Sonoma Gazette* newspapers, KRSH radio, and the Cotati and Rohnert Park Chambers of Commerce for promoting the November event as well as Oliver's Market and Peet's Coffee for refreshments. Additional homemade fare was provided by CHS's own Marie Aggio, Velma DiMeola, and Bobbie Veronda.

***An audio-visual recording of this event, produced by Jim Agius and his crew at the Phoenix Theater, will be available soon.***

***The new music exhibit will be on display when the museum reopens and will continue until fall 2023.***



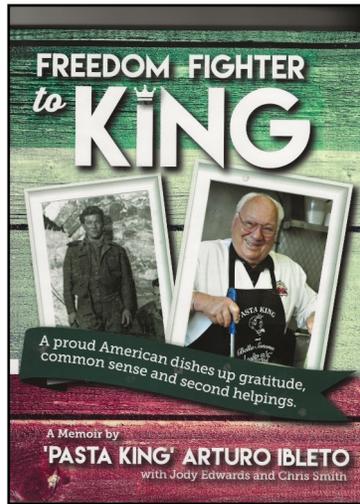
*Top, music display curator Ed Gilardi poses amid musical instruments, locally engineered recordings, club posters, publicity photos, press clippings, scrap books, and other ephemera assembled for the annual fall history event. Photo by Judy Gustafson. Below and clockwise from top left: Greg Cochran and Mark Braunstein; Neville Hormuz; Tom Gaffey; and Scott Goree (in cap), Lindee Reese, and Richard Cullinen. Photos by Dave Wasson and John Dell'Osso.*

# Post Office Named For Art Ibleto

In a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked by laughter, tears, and the smell of pesto, Cotati's U.S. Post Office was on October 21 named for Arturo L. Ibleto (1926-2020), Sonoma County's "Pasta King." Born in Buenos Aires and raised in the Liguria region of Italy, Ibleto was honored in his adopted hometown for a life abundant in good food and good works.

Ibleto family members, close friends U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, District Attorney Jill Ravitch, and writer Chris Smith, and other local dignitaries remembered Ibleto's fight against fascism as a teen in the Italian Resistance as well as his dedication in America to family, hard work, and spreading *la dolce vita*.

Ibleto was known widely for his introduction of pesto and polenta to Sonoma County palates—especially at the county fair's Spaghetti Palace—and for his free catering to nonprofits throughout the region. The production facilities were



*Clockwise from above, entrepreneur and philanthropist Art Ibleto's autobiography is available for reading at the Cotati Museum; Art's brother Angelo Ibleto, U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, Art's daughter Annette Ibleto-Spohr, and Annette's sons Ryan and Ben Ibleto-Spohr pose in the Cotati Post Office next to the newly installed plaque. Photo by Judy Gustafson. Pasta King catering employees serve Ibleto's signature polenta to ceremony attendees. Photo by Marie McNaughton.*

located next to his Stony Point home. Later in life, he also founded Art's Place, a restaurant in Rohnert Park.

CHS honored Ibleto with commemorative envelopes, which many attendees post-marked in remembrance of the day. Those and other memorabilia will be on view when the museum reopens in 2023.

# Cotati Museum Hosted Rancho High School Class Reunion

On Friday evening, Sept. 23, a dozen of the first Rancho Cotate High School graduates met at the Cotati Museum as part of a combined class reunion (1967 to 1970). Many of the alumni attending were also Cotati School graduates and enjoyed the opportunity to share their memories of what is now Cotati City Hall. The group was assembled by reunion organizer and CHS volunteer Margie Arthur Cassero and welcomed by the entire CHS board. The museum event was followed that evening by a Cotati "pub crawl" and dinner at the Tradewinds. The next day, a picnic at the home of Virginia Jones included a raffle with CHS-donated copies of Lloyd and Prue Draper's *Cotati* book. CHS is pleased to arrange museum tours for groups of all kinds. Write to [chsinfo@sonic.net](mailto:chsinfo@sonic.net) to inquire about availability in 2023.



**THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS AND TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS (Sept. 1-Dec. 5, 2022)**

- Dennis Andersen
- Lillian Blodgett
- Jim Brower
- Annie & Fred Carrasca\*
- Janet Cella & Andrew Martin
- Tamara Chapman Davis\*
- Robin Draper
- Dave & Karen Heisel
- Wendy Hudson
- Amy Isquith
- Stephen Kent Jones\*
- Bob Kruse
- Bonny Russell & Wilder Larrain
- Robert Leys
- Kit Lofroos

- Gary & Robin Malone
- Denise Libarle McCarthy
- Rick Minervini
- Vanessa Nordstrom
- Carole Otani
- Jerry & Judy Pagnusat
- Daniel & Gemma Bianchi Pardini\*
- Marilee Shipman
- Forrest (Bob) Tarleton
- Lee & Marjorie Torliatt
- Barbara Jean Veronda
- Robert Waldron
- Suzanne Whipple\*
- Pamela Wilford
- \*Indicates donation in addition to membership**

## General Donations

- Greg Cochran
- Rebecca Mickelsen

- George Nanny
- Carla & Keith Schoenthal

## Memorial Donations

- R.C. "Tubby" Braden
- Lloyd and Prue Draper
- Millie & Red Libarle
- Maryann Moeckel

- Dave & Karen Heisel
- Robin Draper
- Denise Libarle McCarthy
- Martha Gustafson

Cotati Historical Society & Museum  
Inside Cotati City Hall at 201 West Sierra Ave.  
P.O. Box 7013, Cotati, CA 94931

Please note that the Cotati Museum  
**WILL BE CLOSED IN  
DECEMBER & JANUARY**  
For Window Replacement

Thank you for understanding.  
We hope to reopen in February 2023.

Do mark your calendars  
For the next  
CHS Chicken BBQ/Reunion  
—April 30, 2023—

## One Cotati Family's Descendants Visit, Another Makes Art Donation

This fall was marked by two remarkable visits to the Cotati Museum. On September 3, Linda Remley, seated in photo on the right, and her daughter, Ann Scheder, came to donate a collection of notecards by Cotati artist Beverly Colburn. Linda had framed the cards for her home on Sycamore Lane. Coincidentally, the young couple who recently purchased the Remley home were visiting the museum at that moment to learn more about their property.

*Photos by Judy Gustafson*

On October 17, Marci Tarleton Jenkins of Santa Rosa and her brother Bob Tarleton of Jackson, Calif., descendants of the Park family of Chase County, Kansas, shared photos, documents, and stories about three sisters who with their husbands formed the backbone of Cotati society in the early 1900s: Lida (and Robert) Halley, Ruah (and Clem) Jeffrey, Estella (and George) Harlow. Pictured below are Marci and brother Bob in the foreground, with Marci's husband, also Bob, and friend Cotati architect Robert Leys.

You never know who or what you might discover on your next visit!

