



Cotati Historical Society
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A 501(c) (3) non-profit, Tax ID# 300421172

Newsletter

Spring 2024

President's Message and Outlook

Reflecting on the past year, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for our members' ongoing support. The Cotati Historical Society has achieved so much in the past year, thanks to you.

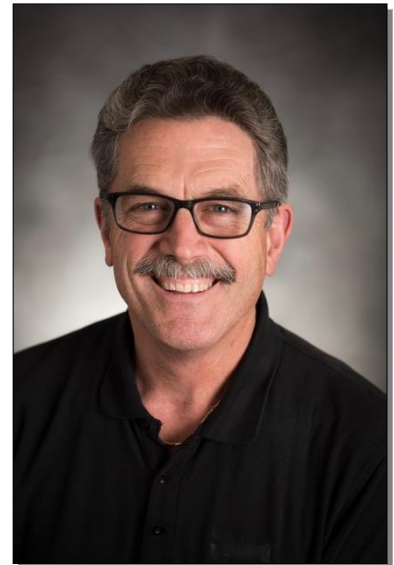
In addition to the wonderful work donated by our museum docents, we have made improvements to our website, reorganized our back storage room, celebrated our musical history with a live musical performance, increased our membership, started a business membership appreciation program, and continued our community outreach efforts throughout the county.

I am very excited to welcome the addition of three new members to our board of directors. Gary Martin, Val Kingsbury and Vanessa Aching Davenport. Each of these individuals bring a variety of lifetime experiences and positive ideas that will enrich our board for years to come.

We continue to move forward on our partnership with the City of Cotati for the restoration and rebuilding of the main barn and brooder house at the Veronda/Falletti Ranch. Connie Martin and I first started this conversation with the City many years ago. I am happy that, although slowly, we continue to progress. These goals will be a big and costly

undertakings. The result will not only preserve an important part of our local history but also help to tell the story of Cotati's rich historical past through displays inside the barn.

Cont'd on page 4



CHS 2024 President, Ed Gilardi

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Docent Profile: Pamela Wilford

Looking over Cotati's last century, a number of the families that came together to establish a tight-knit agriculture-based community stand out—not only for their early contributions, but also for their descendants.

One such scion is Cotati Museum docent Pamela Wilford. Her great grandparents William and Mattie Jane Wilford arrived in Cotati from Nevada in late 1800s. They established a ranch at the end of Cypress Avenue, on the corner of Railroad Avenue.

The Lund family name also goes back to the beginning of Cotati when Francis Lund and Rose Malone were among the village's first residents. Rose came to America from Ireland, shoved on a boat at age 12, by her mother who had too many children to feed, according to family lore. Francis Lund and Rose Malone made it to Cotati by train via Oakland.

The Lund and Wilford families merged with the marriage of Pamela's grandparents Severa (Bud) Wilford, Sr., and Anne Marie Lund in 1918.

The Wilford property (purchased for \$500) near Old Redwood and Gravenstein highways was originally a chicken ranch. With changing times, it evolved into a sheep ranch. The Wilford name was known throughout the nation for the quality Southdown sheep they bred and showed throughout the west. The show ring at the Sonoma County Fair is named in their honor.

Pamela remembers fondly growing up in two houses, one with her parents Severa Wilford, Jr., and Leona, and the other next door with her grandparents. It was a delightful time, she recalls, playing with the sheep and learning about livestock management. It was "a dream childhood, looking back," she says.

The Lund family ranch was located on what is now Commerce Blvd., near the current carwash location. The Lund ranch was known for chicken ranching. Additionally, Francis (Frank) Lund, Jr., was well-known as a developer of horticultural specimens, specifically Gladiolus. As a young man, Frank worked on projects with Luther Burbank.

Pamela decided to volunteer for CHS in 2018 "to keep connected to my wonderful Cotati, where I grew up." Pamela is always good for a fresh story on life in "old Cotati" when she works in the museum, usually the second Saturday of each month.



(left) Pamela working in the museum and (right) 1952 cover girl poses with the Pamela Anne gladiolus, which her great uncle Frank Lund developed on his farm in Cotati.

Purchase tickets in Cotati at
the: Exchange Bank,
Chamber of Commerce,
Cotati Museum, our website
or from any Board Member.



Old-Fashioned Chicken BBQ

Sunday, May 19, 2024

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

Cotati Room, Ray Miller Community Ctr, 216 E. School St.
\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

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



Scan the QR code and
scroll down to buy
tickets which can be
picked up at Will Call
the day of the BBQ



All proceeds benefit Cotati Historical Society,
a 501(c)3, non-profit.
For more information, visit www.CotatiMuseum.org

President's Message Cont'd from page 1

I urge you to consider becoming an event volunteer or docent at the museum. Your involvement as a volunteer is an integral part of our museum and a way to foster a sense of community and shared responsibility in our success. It's also a great way to share Cotati's history with our visitors and possibly learn something about Cotati's past that you never knew.

I look forward to seeing you all at our always popular chicken BBQ and silent auction held this year on May 19th. It is a wonderful opportunity to not only reconnect with friends but to share stories of years gone by.

2024 Board of Directors

President	Ed Gilardi
Vice President	John Dell'Osso
Secretary	Velma DiMeola
Treasurer	Bobbie Veronda
Conservation/Restoration Consultant	John Allred
Archiving Administrator	Judy Gustafson
Board Member	Vanessa Aching Davenport
Board Member	Val Kingsbury
Board Member	Gary Martin

The CHS Mission

Our mission is to preserve Cotati history through the acquisition and preservation of artifacts, photos, archives, and other historical materials. We provide resources for visitors and researchers interested in Cotati's unique past. Our community outreach program enables us to support Cotati-related cultural activities and events and to maintain reciprocal relations.

Ongoing Business Memberships

Church of the Oaks
Cotati Accordion Festival
Cotati Chamber of Commerce
Evans & De Shazo Inc.
Exchange Bank
Hines Signs
Sonoma County History & Genealogy
Library

Loud and Clear Music
Millerick Bros.
Oliver's Market
Professional Framing Services
Rancho Adobe Firefighters Assn

Thomas Page Academy 4th Grade Field Trip

The annual field trip for the fourth graders of Thomas Page Academy once again took place. The students arrived by school bus on February 15, 2024, to absorb more knowledge of California's history and to hear how city government works.

Thirty-four students, teachers Ms. Kiyoko Nakano and Ms. Katherine Ness, and other chaperones were present for the event. The visitors were divided into four groups and were guided by CHS volunteers Marie Aggio, Ed Gilardi, Margie Cassero, and Sandy Divine. Judy Gustafson was on hand to take pictures of the event.

Velma DiMeola greeted the students in the museum to explain the contents of the museum and the scavenger hunt activity which the students busily completed. Lisa Moore guided each group through each department in City Hall introducing the workers and describing the type of work done in that office. An officer met the students at the police station to explain the function of the police department and its equipment.



Marie McNaughton gave a wonderful slide show presentation of Cotati's history starting with the local Coast Miwok people and moving on to the Cotati Rancho, the Page family, and finally the forming of the city of Cotati.

Each student received a goodie bag from the police department, a bookmark and historical information from the museum, and a reusable shopping bag and items donated by Recology.

The group did not go back to school after this experience as they did in past years. Instead, they walked over to the Veronda/Falletti Ranch to have lunch and tour the ranch for the afternoon part of the field trip.



Welcome to CHS New Board Members

The Cotati Historical Society has appointed three new Board Members to our Board of Directors. The application process opened in November and closed in early February.

Our new members are: Vanessa Aching Davenport, Val Kingsbury, and Gary Martin. Here's a brief background on each of them:

Vanessa has served for a number of years on various non-profits throughout the Bay Area. She recently retired as an attorney for the State of California after 17 years. She has lived in Cotati for over 22 years.

Val worked for over 20 years in the Cotati – Rohnert Park Unified School District in Special Education. She has helped out with our Chicken BBQ since the very first one by preparing the delicious coleslaw and other preparations. Val has lived in Cotati for over 36 years.

Gary, another long-time volunteer with CHS, has been setting up, barbecuing, and taking down for our annual BBQ for many years. Additionally, he has served on the Little League Board doing both field maintenance and fundraising. The Martin family is going on seven generations in Cotati!

What is This Building Today?



Did you know that Super Burger was the former Cotati Realty Company building?

Learn more about our downtown with the summer and fall walking history tours. Visit our website for more information.

Thank You To Our New and Renewing Members and Donors

January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Individuals and Families

Marie Aggio
Dennis Andersen
Mary Bartlett & Chris Davis,
Frank & Kathryn Bianchi
Dan & Gemma Bianchi-Pardini
Lillian Blodgett
Candi Burns
Diane Canadas
Ken & Sherri Carli
Fred & Annie Carrasca
Margie Cassero
Caitlin Chaney
Vanessa Aching Davenport &
Clifton Davenport
John Dell'Osso
Velma DiMeola
Ron & Sandra Dodge
Janet Gingher
Karen Griffith & Lou Breuer

Judy Gustafson
Martha Gustafson
Dave Heisel & Karen Braden
Irene Hilsendager
Angela Hollern
Sage Howell
Rick Hull
Kate Johnson
Stephen Kent Jones
Chris Leivas
Jeff & Janet Libarle
Barbara & Jake Mackenzie
Gary & Robin Malone
Bruce Martin & Heather Rose
& Alexandra
Gary & Kim & Jake Martin
Bette McKnight
Marie McNaughton
Fiz-Nik Rick Minervini

Scott Minnis
Barbara Morrow
George Nanny
Tom Origer
Deloris R Osborn
Carole Otani
Bruce & Rita Pearson
Ron & Connie Petty
Gary Santero & Reta Kyle
John T Savage
Patricia Sheehan
Marilee & Roland Shipman
Trudy Simonton
Allen & Carol Stansbury
Forrest "Bob" Tarleton
Congressman Mike Thompson
Lee and Marjorie Torliatt
Robert Waldron
Sandra & Joshua Walton
Pamela Wilford
Carol Williams
Robin Wood

Memorial Donations

George & Nellie Andersen by Dennis Andersen
Carl Schollmann by Dan & Gemma Bianchi-Pardini
Marjorie Roselli by Ken & Sherri Carli
Connie Martin by Fred & Annie Carrasca
Prue Draper by Vanessa & Clifton Davenport
Mary Smith by Martha Gustafson
R.C. "Tubby" Braden by Dave Heisel & Karen Braden
Don and Lorraine Leivas by Chris Leivas
Al & Jennie Falletti by Barbara Morrow
Ralph T McMasters by Deloris R Osborn
Barney & Evelyn Santero, and August & Mary Bianchi by
Gary Santero & Reta Kyle
Prue Draper by Sandra and Joshua Walton
Prue Draper by Carol Williams
Rose Dell'Osso by Barbara Jean Veronda
Mary Smith by Barbara Jean Veronda

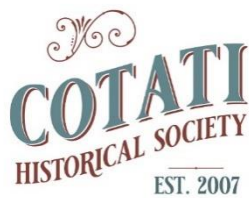
Donations

Dan & Gemma Bianchi-Pardini
Karen Griffith & Lou Breuer
Stephen Kent Jones
Jeff & Janet Libarle
Barbara & Jake Mackenzie
Bruce Martin & Heather Rose &
Alexandra
Fiz-Nik Rick Minervini
Scott Minnis
Carole Otani
Professional Framing Services



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Membership/Dues/Donations 2024



This form may be used for new & renewal memberships, general or memorial donations.
Thank you for your support of Cotati Historical Society.

Dues: Individual \$20, Family (All members of same household) \$25, Business \$40

____ Yes, I want to join/renew my/our membership thru 2024: _____

____ An additional donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Member Name/s _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

A memorial donation of \$ _____ is enclosed in memory of: _____

Please send an acknowledgment to: _____

Address _____

Please send to: **Cotati Historical Society PO Box 7013 Cotati CA 94931**