



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

Newsletter

Spring 2025

Message From Our President

What can I say other than we have had a very productive year. We started the year off with the always popular Thomas Page Academy 4th grade field trip where the kids not only learn about the history of Cotati but also learn about how Cotati's city government works.

Our annual Chicken BBQ was another great event attended by over 300 people. It's always great seeing old and new friends sharing stories and enjoying a delicious meal while listening to wonderful music and viewing the many classic cars.

Our four, downtown walking tours and stories about Cotati's past were enjoyed by many again this year.

We were represented in several parades this year by our wonderful docents and many volunteers.

We held a special event honoring our docents at the Church of the Oaks.

We participated in several outreach events promoting our museum with displays about Cotati's history, including at the Cotati Accordion Festival and Sonoma County's Finding History Day.

Our annual fall event focused on the Laguna de Santa Rosa, whose headwaters are in Cotati. Our panel of 5 local experts presented an outstanding history of the Laguna and set up several informative displays where they answered questions to about 100 visitors.

After a year of planning, we finally were able to get a bench dedicated to Carl Schollmann in La Plaza Park.

We continue to work with the City of Cotati in the planning for the future of the Veronda Falletti ranch.

Many thanks to all our supporters, businesses and volunteers who are a vital part of our museum's success. Special thanks go out to Bruce Martin who designed and built the two new platforms for our display cases in memory of his wife, Connie Martin, and to Gary Martin who built our new BBQ. We also appreciate the wonderful artifacts, letters and photos donated to the museum this past year.

Special thanks to our docents. We couldn't have the museum open to the public on Saturdays without them. Our docents are the public face of the museum, answering questions and guiding our visitors through the history of our treasures in the museum.

I look forward to another successful year for the museum and visiting with you at one or all of our events.

Ed Gilardi

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Thomas Page Academy Annual Field Trip

The 4th Grade class from Thomas Page Academy has an annual field trip to Cotati City Hall organized by CHS and the City. The children get to visit all of the departments to find out all of the different jobs at City Hall, including the Police Department, and CHS Board and volunteers present a history of Cotati slide show as well as a scavenger hunt in the museum.



CHS docent Marilee Shipman (above) and Board Secretary Velma DiMeola (right) go over instructions for scavenger hunt and other activities. Photos by Ed Gilardi.

CHS gets BBQ Refurbished

We thank Board Member Gary Martin for facilitating a new barbecue for CHS to be used at our annual Chicken BBQ. Partially constructed BBQ (axles and tub) was donated by Daryll Bushken, of Guerneville. Daryll's donation was facilitated by Kerch Thomas, of Cazadero. Sheet metal work donated by Millerick Bros. Iron, Sebastopol. All other expenses from tires, steel, paint, etc. was paid for by Bruce Martin. See story on page 3 about Bruce and the Martin family.



Before (above) and after (left) images of refurbished barbecue. Photos by Gary Martin.

Thank You to the Martin Family

The beautiful new riser for the large display case, designed and built by Bruce Martin, has been installed! Bruce designed and built the risers for the two display cases. Bruce also funded the large, glass-enclosed display cabinet in the museum (not pictured).




Top image – new display cabinet; left image – (left to right) Greg Gustafson, Jake, Bruce, and Gary Martin. Photo by Judy Gustafson

Bruce has been involved with CHS for many years. His wife Connie was a long-time Board member and supporter until she passed.

Gary Martin, Bruce's son, has been involved with the CHS for a long time as well. He recently joined the Board of Directors in 2024 and remains involved with all of our activities from

barbecuing chicken at our annual event to refurbishing an old barbecue (see story on page 2).

The Martin Family has given countless hours of volunteer work as well as money, to help support the Cotati Historical Society.


COTATI
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
EST. 2007



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT COTATI HISTORICAL SOCIETY, A 501(C)3, NON-PROFIT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT COTATIMUSEUM.ORG

Old-Fashioned Chicken BBQ

Sunday, May 4th, 2025

12:00pm to 4:00pm - \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door



LIVE MUSIC by THIRD RAIL BAND

WWW.THIRDRAILBAND.COM

Meals Served until 3:00pm!

1/2 BBQ Chicken, Beans, Coleslaw, Roll & Drink.

Take out Available. Beer & Wine for Sale.

Bake Sale, Silent Auction and Classic Car Show!



The Ray Miller Community Center
216 East School Street, Cotati

Buy Tickets in Cotati at: Exchange Bank, Chamber of Commerce
Online at cotatimuseum.org or from our Board Members



Scan the QR code to order
tickets on-line before May 4!

2025 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 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 - Cotati Branch, Hines Signs, Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library, Loud and Clear Music, Millerick Bros., Oliver's Market, Professional Framing Services, Rancho Adobe Firefighters Association, and Redwood Self Storage

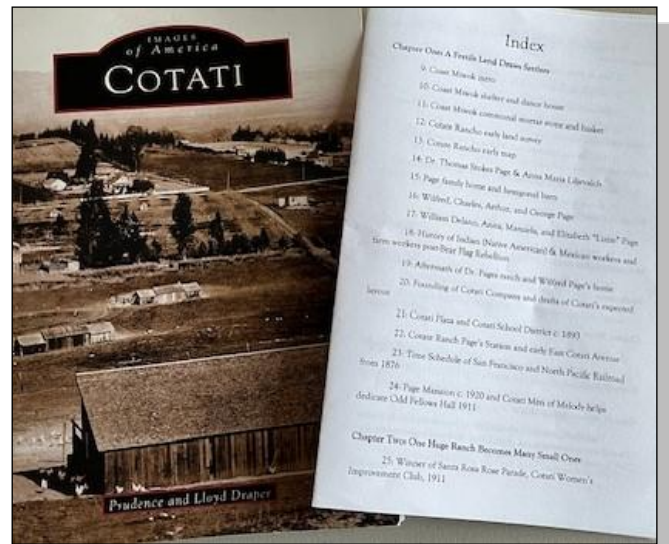


Printed by Minuteman Press

Free Index to Cotati book

We now have a detailed Index (see image to right) to go with the Cotati book. The index was created by volunteer Cyan McMillan.

Stop by the museum for a complimentary copy of the index. The book is available for \$20.



Can You Identify This?

Recently, Gary Martin saw this item in his garage and recalled, "I have this item which I pulled out of my great-grandparents barn and rebuilt years ago." It is a revolving nut and bolt cabinet for a hardware store countertop. This rotating hardware store screw cabinet includes a holder for twine to tie up your packages. His relatives never had a hardware store, but they were landlords, and when a tenant left, his great-grandparents would pack home everything left in the building. He recently found out which hardware store it came from.

There must be more dusty stuff out there of interest!

If you have something from Cotati's history for a future article like this, contact us via email at CotatiMuseum@gmail.com.

Photo by Gary Martin.

Thank You To Our New and Renewing Members and Donors

December 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Individuals and Families

Shirley Avilla & Gordon McCulloch
Judy Baranzini
Jenny Blaker
Dick Braden
Michele and John Brewer
George & Graciela Bunting
Lori Burke
Ken & Sherri Carli
Carol Clothier
Greg & Karen Cochran (creator of
"Inn of the Beginning")
Vanessa & Clifton Davenport
Jessica Davies
Tamara Chapman Davis
John Dell'Osso
Vicki Dougan
Bob Draper
Robin Draper
Darlene Schunk Engellenner
Jane Ferina
R. Marc Fero
Pat & Ed Gilardi
Jean Gilbert
Janet Gingham
Marilyn Gordon
Karen Griffith & Lou Breuer

Individuals and Families

Judy Gustafson
Irene Hilsendager
Vincent & Margo Hoaglund
Angela Hollern
Marci & Bob Jenkins
Susan Kashack
Val Kingsbury
Janet Kurvers
Mary Lou Issel Lentz
Jeff & Janet Libarle
Marc Libarle
Steve Lightman
Kit Lofroos
Gary & Robin Malone
Robert Mandler
Bruce Martin
Gary, Kim & Jake Martin
Barbara McGee
Bette McKnight
Marie McNaughton
Nita Miller
Scott Miller
Rick & Gwyn Minervini
Scott Minnis
Millie Nibe
Vi Nordman
Vanessa and Mark Nordstrom

Individuals and Families

Kathy Norwood,
Deloris Osborn,
Stan Poncia
Bob & Debbie Renati
Marie Andreoli Rice
Annette Roth
Gary B. Santero & Reta Kyle
John Savage (family)
Patricia Sheehan
Marilee & Roland Shipman
Trudy Simonton
Allen & Carol Stansbury
Bill Tomrose
Dan & Carolyn Torliatt
Lee & Marjorie Torliatt
Pamela Torliatt-Ghirardelli
Jerry Turney
Barbara J Veronda
Sandra & Joshua Walton
Suzanne Whipple, Kellan Arnold &
Emily Harris
Pamela Wilford
Carol Williams
Simone M Wilson & Creighton Bell
Robin Wood
Stephen Yanicak

Memorial Donations

Mark Ibleto by Shirley Avilla & Gordon McCulloch
Marjorie Rosselli by Ken & Sherri Carli
Prue & Lloyd Draper by Robin Draper
Eda Silva by Jane Ferina
Connie Martin by Vincent & Margo Hoaglund
Connie Martin by Bruce Martin
Al & Jennie Falletti by Barbara Morrow
Mildred & Howard Jacobsen by Kathy Norwood
Ralph T. McMaster by Deloris Osborn
Connie Martin by Stan Poncia
Prue & Lloyd Draper & Carl Schollmann by Bob & Debbie Renati
**Barney & Evelyn Santero, Gus & Mary Bianchi, and
Aunt Louise Santero** by Gary B. Santero & Reta Kyle
Carl Schollmann by Mary Schollmann
Prue Draper by Sandra & Joshua Walton
Neya Reaney Ferrari by Suzanne Whipple, Kellan Arnold & Emily Harris
**Dr. Geoffrey D. Woodward, Dr. Rolfe Erickson &
Dr. Terry Wright III** by Stephen Yanicak

Donations

John Allred, Professional Framing Serv
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George & Graciela Bunting
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Bob Draper
Darlene Schunk Engellenner
Jean Gilbert
Marilyn Gordon
Karen Griffith & Lou Breuer
Janet Kurvers
Jeff & Janet Libarle
Marc Libarle
Bette McKnight
Scott Miller
Rick & Gwyn Minervini
Keith & Carla Schoenthal
Jerry Turney
Barbara J Veronda



PO Box 7013
Cotati, CA 94931

Membership/Dues/Donations



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: _____

____ 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 mail to: **Cotati Historical Society, PO Box 7013, Cotati CA 94931**

Online payments: **cotatimuseum.org/support**