



Cotati Historical Society
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CotatiMuseum.org 707-794-0305
A 501(c) (3) non-profit, Tax ID# 300421172

Newsletter

Winter 2023

Carl Schollmann – A Tireless Helper

Cotati residents remember the happy and friendly face of Carl Schollmann who recently passed away. Carl was a friend to everyone he ever met and was a tireless helper for many city events.

Carl opened his business out on West Sierra Ave., Carl's Body Shop, in 1965 and ran it until his son Bruce and wife Helen took over the business in 2005.

He had a willingness to always lend a hand for every event such as the Tree Lighting ceremony (as the Man himself!), Kid's Day Parade by driving a classic car with the Grand Marshall or City Council Members, and of course, the Cotati Historical Society's annual chicken barbecue.

Part of the mission statement of Carl's Body Shop reads: Carl's Body Shop and its employees, will provide our customers with the highest grade of service, and quality of repairs to insure the safety, dependability, and value of your vehicle to you and your family,

We will never suggest a service to your vehicle which is deemed unnecessary. We take your family's safety seriously as if it were our own.

That mission statement sums up Carl very well. Honest, trustworthy, helpful, generous, friendly, humble and community-minded.



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Great Music at Fall Event

Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong put on a show for the ages when they played at our fall event on November 5. The Cotati Room at City Hall was packed solid with nearly 100 people enjoying the great music from these two virtuosos.

With only one short break, they played for over two hours. There was also plenty of good food available provided by the food truck from Twin Oaks Roadhouse.

See additional pictures on page 3.



Crowd enjoying music by Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong. Photo by John Dell'Osso

Sonoma County History Day

Board members Bobbie Veronda and John Dell'Osso attended the Sonoma County History Day event at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa on October 21. Numerous other Historical Societies from Sonoma County were also in attendance. Well over 150 people stopped by our table to find out more about our group and the great events we sponsor.

It was also the first time we were able to use our new table banner designed and fabricated by Hines Signs and our retractable banner (right) printed at FedEx Office in Rohnert Park.



Photo by John Dell'Osso



Sourdough Slim and Robert
Armstrong performing on
November 5, 2023.

Ongoing Business Memberships

Church of the Oaks
Cotati Chamber of Commerce
Evans & De Shazo Inc.
Exchange Bank
Hines Signs
History/Genealogy of Sonoma County
Millerick Bros.
Oliver's Market
Professional Framing Services
Rancho Adobe Firefighters

Film crew swarms the Cotati Museum!

Story by Lindee Reese. Photos by Ed Gilardi.

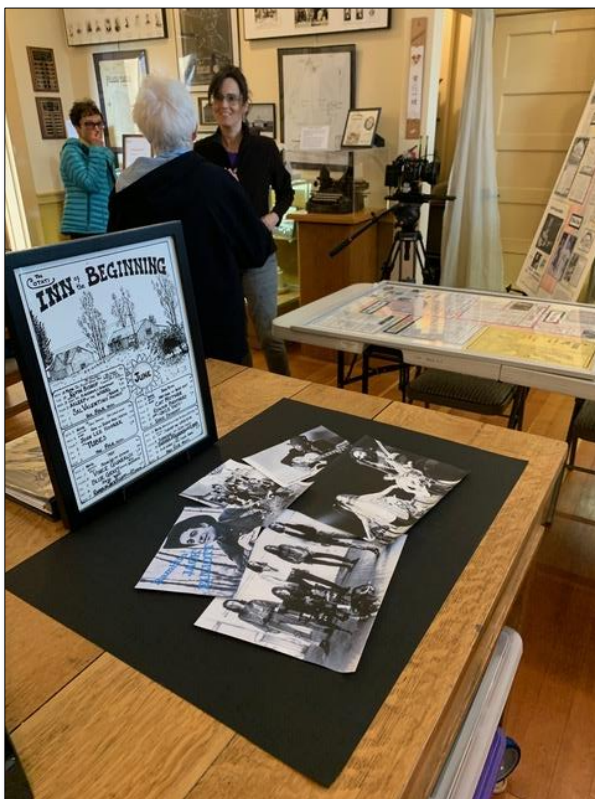
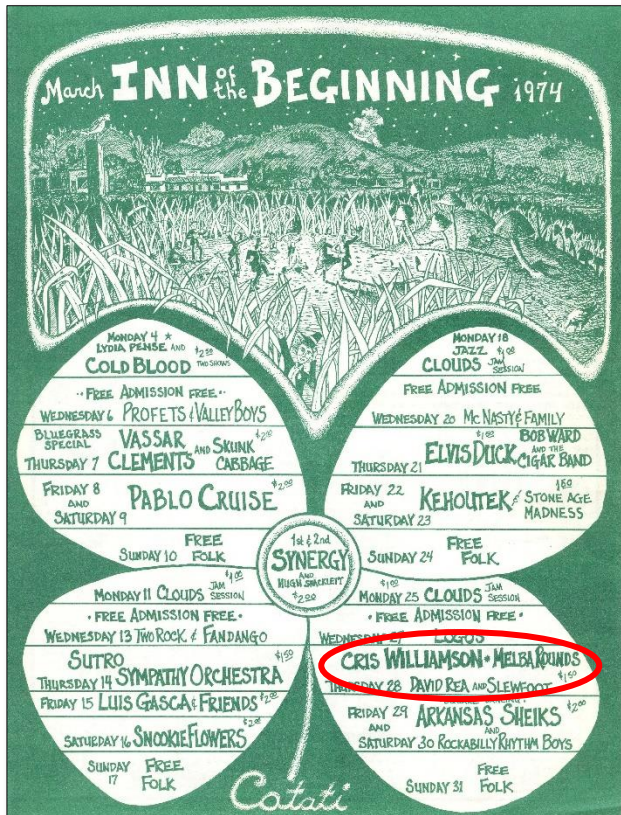
A project is underway to document the origins and history of Women's Music beginning with the founding of Olivia Records in 1973, the first lesbian identified recording company in America, that later became the largest lesbian-owned travel company on the planet. TVGals Media (Bobbie Birleffi and Beverly Kopf), recently visited the Cotati Museum filming archival material related to their documentary.

Essential to that history is singer/songwriter Cris Williamson whose album "The Changer and the Changed," released by Olivia Records in 1975, was for many years the highest selling independent album of all time.

Cotati, of course, is an important part of that story, too. The all-women's crew interviewed longtime Cotati resident Lindee Reese, a close early friend of Cris Williamson, who helped her get her first gig at the Inn of the Beginning. She lived with several other women in a farmhouse just outside of Cotati that became a mecca of creativity for lesbian and other women artists and musicians.



The CHS Museum graciously gave the project's film crew free rein to film and photograph stories and ephemera from the Inn of the Beginning's days for their archives. A special shout out to Ed Gilardi and Marie McNaughton for their hospitality and patience. The film has just begun production and is scheduled for release in 2025.



(Top l to r) Inn of the Beginning poster from 1979 with Cris Williamson. Bobbie Birleffi, Lindee Reese, and Beverly Kopf, and filming in the museum.

Bobbie and Beverly's film production company, TVGals Media have won 2 Emmy's for their previous productions.

CHS is Looking for New Board Members

The Cotati Historical Society has space(s) opening up on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in learning more, go to cotatimuseum.org, and click on Support CHS, then on Volunteer.

The Cotati Historical Society, a dynamic group dedicated to preserving and celebrating Cotati's history, seeks qualified candidates for its board of directors. Directors are expected to advance the financial stability, organizational strength, and cultural relevance of the CHS through active attendance at board and committee meetings, participating in various events, and through acting as CHS representatives in their other community activities.

We are very interested in looking for folks who have background in the following, but all are welcome to apply.

- accessioning/archiving
- fundraising
- writing
- legal expertise
- marketing
- event and exhibit planning
- bookkeeping/taxes

Deadline for applicants is February 7, 2024.

Online Application url: <https://cotatimuseum.org/support/volunteer>

A field trip to the
Crane Ranch by
Board and members



Photo by John Dell'Osso

Thank You To Our New and Renewing Members and Donors

August 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Individuals and Families

Marie Andreoli
Jenny Blaker
Robert Marc Fero
June Kimball
Chris Leivas
Marc Libarle
Bruce Martin
Judith Newton & Ben Ford
Tom O'Dell
Allen & Carol Stansbury
Daniel & Carolyn Torliatt
Barbara Jean Veronda
Jack Withington

Memorial Donations

Travis Gustafson by Marie Andreoli
Carl Schollmann by Marie Andreoli
Travis Gustafson by Velma DiMeola
Carl Schollmann by Velma DiMeola
Carl Schollmann by Martha Gustafson
Jack Withington by Patrick & Anna Marshment
Connie Martin by Bruce Martin
Prue Draper by Oliver's Market
Travis Gustafson by Barbara Jean Veronda
Carl Schollmann by Barbara Jean Veronda

Business Memberships

Cotati Chamber of Commerce
Evans & De Shazo Inc.
Oliver's Market

Donations

Bob Draper
Deanna Issel
Chris Leivas
Marc Libarle
Keith & Carla Schoenthal

**Our Dues Have Changed –
see back page for details**



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Cotati Historical Society
PO Box 7013
Cotati CA 94931

2023 Board of Directors

President	John Allred
Vice President	Ed Gilardi
Secretary	Velma DiMeola
Treasurer	Bobbie Veronda
Archiving Administrator	Judy Gustafson
Communications/Outreach	John Dell'Osso

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.



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**