

# Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

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Preserving Cotati's Past  
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Prue Draper, Editor

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## SOCIETY OFFICERS

<b>President</b> Prue Draper 795-5510	<b>V. President</b> Lloyd Draper
<b>Treasurer</b> Terry Dutra	<b>Secretary</b> Suzanne Whipple
<b>Outreach</b> Lisa Moore	<b>Newsletter</b> Connie Martin 795-2772

**Archiving Administrator**  
Judy Gustafson

### Note to all members:

This is an abbreviated newsletter because all your board members have been very busy setting up the Cotati Historical Museum, which will have its Grand Opening on February 28, 2010. Please see the article about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Reminder: Membership dues are now due.** And we thank all who have already sent in their 2010 dues.

## COTATI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# GRAND OPENING

*SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2010*

It's finally happening! The Grand Opening of the Cotati Historical Society's Museum is set for Sunday, Feb. 28, from 2 to 5 p.m. It's a day that many people have been anticipating, asking about, wondering if.....

The opening ceremony will be at 3 p.m.; music is planned and refreshments will be served. Admission is free, but as always, donations are welcome.

The effort to establish a museum began on Oct. 7, 2007, when the newly-formed non-profit Cotati Historical Society invited the public to become charter members. We marked the day with a downtown history walk, refreshments in the Cotati Room at City Hall, and tours of the future museum. It looked pretty sad, to be truthful, but lots of people saw its potential, and stepped forward to help with the transformation of the old police office into a museum. Without the cooperation and efforts of many craftsmen, generous donors and willing workers, the museum never would have existed.

We are proud of the results. We believe we are meeting our goal of preserving Cotati's past with attractive and educational displays of relics, photographs and documents. We have attempted to show the diverse elements that have helped make Cotati the community that we all treasure.

We expect to continue to give the public a chance to learn more about our city, research their ancestors, and have a secure place to preserve their relics. We will still need volunteers to serve as docents and archivists.

We hope to have a large crowd at the grand opening, but to those who aren't able to join us that day, we extend an invitation to come and visit after we establish open hours.



*Volunteer family groups have done much of the work on the museum. Here Dennis Thomas, expert drywall contractor, is assisted by his son, Austin.*



*Do you mean the Drapers have stored Burt Chadwick's old barber chair all these years? Bruce and Gary Martin were on the moving team, with Creighton Bell and Julio Roman helping with the heavy lifting*

## HERITAGE NETWORK TO MEET HERE

The Cotati Historical Society has invited the Sonoma County Heritage Network – an organization including all the historical organizations in the county, to hold its April 10 meeting here in Cotati’s new museum.

The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and anyone interested is welcome to attend. The agenda usually includes reports on activities at the various museums in Sonoma County, and April is expected to include guidelines for acceptance of artifacts for museum displays.

A delegation from Cotati attended the January 9 meeting of the organization. Host was the Cloverdale Historical Society in its beautiful new history center-museum.

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## MANY JOIN IN HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Our “Celebrate Cotati History Day” walking tour on Oct. 25 was a huge success. More than 50 people gathered at Cotati City Hall to check the progress of the museum and to walk through the central area viewing historic buildings and scenes. Prue Draper led the tour and told some of the stories behind the history of the buildings.

We were especially honored to have a descendant of our town’s founder, Dr. Thomas Stokes Page, joining us on the tour. Carolyn Hacker is a great-great granddaughter of Dr. Page; she and her husband Paul came from San Rafael for the day.

Thanks to the efforts of Jean Wasp, the tour was videotaped, and Jean is combining her talents with those of Marie McNaughton to produce a DVD version that will be available at the Cotati Museum in the future.



*Prue Draper, with megaphone, led a large group of walkers on October 25. Jean Wasp, center, videotaped the walk. (Photo courtesy of Paul Hacker)*

## SECOND ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE SET FOR APRIL 18

Mark your calendars! Sunday, April 18, 12 noon to 4 p.m. is the date of our second annual Old Fashioned Chicken Barbecue, again to be held at the Cotati Room at City Hall.

Last spring we renewed a Cotati tradition with a big barbecue and bake sale and everyone agreed it should become an annual event. The food was great, the musical entertainment was lively, and old-timers enjoyed renewing friendships. It was also a hit as a fund-raiser, which helped speed the museum remodeling considerably.

This year we plan again to revive the motto of the big Cotati Barbecues of the past – Food Fun and Frolic – but we’ll cook more chickens this time, as we sold out last year. Again, there will be assorted beverages, the antique wheel of fortune will whirl, and we’ll ask all supporters to bring a plate of their special goodies for the bake sale.

Advance-sale tickets will be available at the Grand Opening of the museum on Feb. 28.

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## MANY WORKERS INVOLVED IN PRODUCING A MUSEUM



*Judy Pagnusat frames a historic map, working on an antique table donated to the museum by T.J.Nelson.*

Converting a collection of relics, maps, documents and historical oddments into museum exhibits requires the efforts of a host of people. After Rick Stewart and his crew skillfully moved all the furniture and display cases into the museum, and after we sought advice from Michael Schwager, director of the Sonoma State University Art Gallery and Eric Stanley, curator at the Sonoma County

Museum, we got busy. Board members Prue Draper, Terry Dutra, Lisa Moore, Suzanne Whipple, Connie Martin and Judy Gustafson, with mechanical expertise from Bruce Martin, are all working on large and small details of museum production. A new recruit, Judy Pagnusat, local artist and art instructor, is adding her expertise and is a most welcome new member of the team.

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