

# Cotati Historical Society Newsletter

A non-profit 501 (c) (3) California corporation Tax ID #30-0421172

Preserving Cotati's Past  
P.O. Box 7013 Cotati, CA 94931  
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Fall 2019

Bobbie Veronda and Marie McNaughton, Editors

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** John Allred 795-2791  
**Vice President:** Ed Gilardi  
**Secretary:** Velma DiMeola  
**Treasurer:** Bobbie Veronda  
**Lead Archivist:** Judy Gustafson  
**Membership:** Connie Martin

### BOARD POSITIONS OPEN SKILL SETS NEEDED

Development . Finance . Grant Writing  
Graphic Arts . Social Media . History

## COTATI MUSEUM HOURS

Every Saturday, 1-4 pm  
2nd Tuesdays, 5-7 pm

For tours and research  
appointments,  
call 707-794-0305

## 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.

## Sunday, November 3rd Event To Honor Cotati Women

This year our fall history event on November 3, 2019 will celebrate a number of Cotati women who contributed to our community over the last century. Local panelists will share stories of three particular citizens who lived in the city from the 1930s to the 2010s: Ethel Clothier, Marguerite Hahn, and Prue Draper.

Marie McNaughton will also share her ongoing research into the spirited women who founded Cotati's first Ladies' Improvement Club and the city's first female voters.

We hope also to open the floor to those attending who would like to honor Cotati women of their choosing with stories, pictures, and/or artifacts.

**Anyone wishing help in preparing a short presentation or to volunteer to help with the event can contact CHS at 707-794-0305 or chsinfo@sonic.net.**

This free event is open to the public and will take place from 2 to 4 pm in the Cotati Room, 216 East School St, and Cotati City Hall, 201 West Sierra Ave, Cotati.

Light refreshments will be served.

## Other upcoming history events: See inside for more information

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
Bingo Night, 5-9:30 pm

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5**  
Sonoma County Archives Day, 12-4 pm

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**  
Extraordinary Women Exhibit Opens in Sebastopol, 1 pm

## Gustafson's State Farm Grants Now Total \$5,000

For the tenth year in a row, CHS this summer received a \$500 Good Neighbor Grant from State Farm Insurance, in recognition of the many volunteer hours worked, recorded, and submitted for 2018 by Judy Gustafson, a State Farm retiree. Judy, our archiving administrator and bake sale chairwoman, worked for the insurance company for 30 years, retiring in 2004.

Judy has been our go-to director for all things digital since 2009. She maintains our computer programs and collection data base, oversees our website and other social media. She also works as a docent and creates museum displays, most

memorably our 2016 exhibit celebrating Christo and Jeanne-Claude's 1976 *Running Fence* art installation.

The State Farm grant honors the community service performed by its retirees, a minimum of 40 hours per calendar year. Judy puts in at least 80 hours annually and is ready to apply for another \$500 for us in 2020 for the work she has done in 2019.

If you are an employee or retiree from a large corporation, you may be able to earn similar credit for your favorite nonprofit. Just ask your company's human resources department.

**State Farm  
Good Neighbor  
Grant**

## “Extraordinary Women” To Appear Soon At West County Museum

As part of the national 2020 Women’s Vote Centennial Initiative, the Cotati Historical Society, Bodega Bay Historical Society, Geyserville Historical Society, Healdsburg Museum, Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, Russian River Historical Society, Santa Rosa Historical Society, and the Windsor Historical Society will help the West County Museum fill its display room with exhibits honoring “Extraordinary Women” of Sonoma County, from December 5, 2019 to March 15, 2020.

Each historical society or museum has selected a few extraordinary women who have made significant contributions to



Ethel Clothier  
1895 –1994



Marguerite Hahn  
1907-1972

their local communities. The opening reception on Saturday December 7 at 1 pm. will spotlight these individuals, their family members, and distinguished guests, including Sonoma County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins.

The CHS contributions will feature Ethel Clothier, a 1930s Cotati business-woman; Marguerite Hahn, Cotati librarian, fire department dispatcher, Second World War nurse, and local news correspondent; and Prue Draper, who edited *The Cotatian* newspaper for many years and helped found the society and museum.

The West County Museum is located at 261 Main St Sebastopol.

## Susan Kashack Helps Spread Cotati History With Sign, Tours & Brochures

Susan Kashack, who volunteers for the Cotati Police Department, Chamber of Commerce, and Historical Society, is generating fresh collaborative energy among Cotati agencies, business, and history telling.

Having retired from Sonoma State University after 32 years, the last ten in marketing and communications, Susan offers a wealth of story-telling expertise. Editor of the university magazine, she also oversaw the news function and campus communication.

Working on one project seems to inspire other projects. For example, working on a new walking tour route and brochure of Cotati, she learned that the floor of the **Redwood Cafe** is made of lumber from the 1920s **Cotati Speedway**. She immediately said, “There needs to be a sign telling people that story.”

So she designed the one pictured below to hang on the cafe wall to tell the story of the once-upon-a-time international raceway and the many local projects made from its disassembly.

One of the local spots soon to be featured in the walking tour is the **Cotati Inn**, built in 1932. Once a classy establishment specializing in duck dinners, sold and converted in the 1950s to **Sophie’s Cotati Inn**, it later became **Michel’s** restaurant. In 1968 it became a popular hippie-era cabaret called **Inn of the Beginning**. Visiting musicians included Arlo Guthrie, Janis Joplin, Grateful Dead, Jerry Garcia, Joan Baez and many more



Susan Kashack poses with new Cotati Speedway history sign for Redwood Cafe.

who drew overflow crowds. Today the building houses **Friar Tucks Pub** and **Spancky’s Bar**.

These buildings and many more are chronicled in the new Cotati Walking Tour booklet, available this fall.



**SEPT. 20th**  
COTATI  
WALKING TOUR  
BENEFIT

Doors open at 5pm  
Bingo is 6:30-9pm  
Food & drinks  
available for purchase

Hosted by:  
**Cotati Chamber** & **Cotati Museum & Historical Society**

**BBQ & BINGO  
NIGHT**  
All Proceeds Benefit  
**COTATI  
WALKING TOUR  
Brochure**

**\$20 PRESALE  
\$25 AT THE DOOR  
FLAT FEE FOR ALL  
GAMES**

**LOTS OF PRIZES**  
**Family Friendly Night**

Cotati Room  
216 E. School St  
Cotati

For questions or  
for advance tickets  
**707-795-5508** or  
**www.cotati.org**

## We Love Our Volunteers and They Love History!



**Diane Canadas** is seen here working to preserve one of the Kay Nylander scrap-books donated to the Historical Society in 2009. This set of four large albums contains multiple Cotati histories, and hundreds of newspaper clippings and photographs—from nearly every decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Diane recently retired from a career managing patient records for Kaiser Permanente. Besides bringing her archival experience to the museum, she is an amateur genealogist. She has tracked her roots back to Ireland, England, and Germany, personally discovering her forbears in multiple church and government records.

Diane is also a regular contributor to our annual BBQ Bake Sale (scheduled next year for May 3). It's not too late to plan now for an early arrival next year to buy slices of her famous lemon meringue pie & pineapple upside-down cake. They disappear fast!



**Chris Wendt**, seen here digitizing historical photos at the museum, is a Sonoma State University grad with a B.A. and an M.A. in History. Chris grew up in Middletown and Penngrove. He has done volunteer work for Petaluma Historical Museum & Library, Museums of Sonoma County in Santa Rosa, Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, and teaching at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

He is currently working as a full-time substitute teacher.



**Marie McNaughton**, a CHS volunteer since 2009, has been our secretary, president, and newsletter editor. This winter she resigned from the board of directors in order to spend more time researching Cotati's past—from the First World War backwards into Coast Miwok days.

Marie has a master's degree in Humanities with an emphasis in history and recently retired from teaching that subject at San Francisco State University. She looks forward to uncovering, sharing, and presenting her research to our members and the public. She hopes this research will evolve into a California history book, featuring Cotati and the Thomas S. Page family.



*Thank you all for helping to preserve Cotati's past!*

## CHS To Participate in Countywide History Event, “Archives Crawl”

Did you know October is National Archives month? Across the country, museums, libraries, historical sites, and related agencies will be promoting the unique and often irreplaceable books, documents, letters, reports, and physical objects contained in their public and research collections. To celebrate—in the first-ever, soon-to-be-annual, totally free “Archives Crawl” — many organizations across Sonoma County will host a variety of unique exhibits and interactive activities on October 5, from 11 am to 4 pm. **The Cotati Museum will be featuring the Jim Boggio and Cotati Accordion Festival collections.**

Other participating organizations that collect and preserve archival materials will include the Sonoma County Library's three special collections, the History & Genealogy Library (downtown Santa Rosa), the Wine Library (Healdsburg), and the Petaluma History Room. Other locations will be the Charles M. Schulz Museum,

Museum of Sonoma County (both Santa Rosa), the California State Parks Blue Wing Inn (Sonoma), The Sitting Room



Community Library (Penngrove), West County Museum (Sebastopol), Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society (Petaluma), Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, Geyserville Historical Society Museum, and the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum.

In addition, other groups will be hosting information tables at the Central Santa Rosa Library Forum

Room (211 E St, Santa Rosa). The event is co-sponsored by the Sonoma County Historical Records Commission and the Sonoma County Library. **For more information visit <https://sonomalibrary.org>.**

## THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS AND DONORS

Sean Bressie  
Tamara Davis\*

Jane Ferina  
Kevin Goddard

Carolyn Hacker  
Nancy Hunt\*\*

Don Leivas\*  
Gary & Robin Malone

Jack Withington

\* Indicates a general donation in addition to dues

\*\* Indicates a general donation

Note: Memberships and donations received after August 15, 2019 will be acknowledged in the winter newsletter

## In Memoriam Donations

Vi Nordman for Ed Nordman

## Come Visit “Wa”!

### The CHS Japanese-American Exhibit Continues Through October 12th

CHS is especially proud of our current exhibit of historical and cultural information and artifacts relating to Japanese families in our area. One of our museum cases is dedicated to a rare collection of arts and crafts made by local Japanese while incarcerated during the Second World War. Other cases feature personal and household items as well as valuable antiques on loan from local families.

Also inside the museum multiple panel displays include historical images, letters, and family photos about Sonoma County's Japanese-American community from the

1880s to the present.

The museum is open every Saturday, from 1 to 4 pm and the second Tuesday of each month, from 5 to 7 pm. Special tours and appointments are available weekdays and weekends through October. Contact us at 794-0305 or [chsinfo@sonic.net](mailto:chsinfo@sonic.net) to make arrangements.

In addition, a hallway timeline outside the museum—and viewable whenever City Hall is open, near the City Finance Department—tracks important legal precedents in the U.S. history of immigration and civil rights.

Cotati Historical Society & Museum  
Inside Cotati City Hall at 201 West Sierra Ave  
PO Box 7013 Cotati CA 94931

## 12th Annual CHS BBQ

will move

from April to



**May 3rd** in 2020

**Mark your calendars early!!**