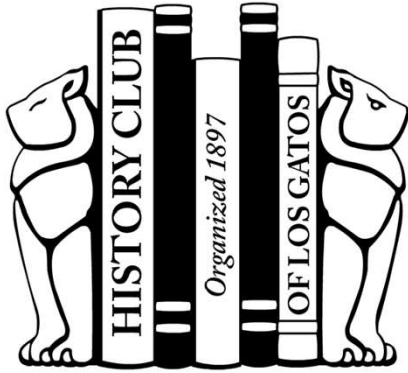


THE CATS' TALE

History Club of Los Gatos

September 2025
Volume 30
Issue 1

A women's philanthropic and social organization since 1897



Community • Social • Philanthropy

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Jamie Schwarzfeld

Relax, Refresh and Recharge

I hope you all had a wonderful summer—I certainly did! I spent time in upstate New York with family, celebrating milestones and making memories. My sister and I played tourists in Manhattan, enjoying the Anne Frank exhibition, Operation Mincemeat on Broadway, delicious meals, and a private viewing of the John Singer Sargent exhibit at the Met.

On a more personal note, I've been navigating breast cancer since February. It was caught early but is aggressive. After months of tests and planning, I'm currently undergoing radiation and will be on an estrogen blocker for five years. Thankfully, due to my age, I've avoided major surgery and feel emotionally grounded with a clear path forward.

Now, I'm energized and ready for the 2025–26 History Club year! Our August 6 Strategic Planning meeting was a success, with dynamic focus groups on Marketing and Promotion (led by Joy Silveira) and Club Maintenance and Renovations (led by Joanne Rodgers). The enthusiasm was contagious!

The Brick Project fundraiser is moving along—we'll begin laying engraved bricks soon, with a celebration planned for Sunday, November 23 (mark your calendars). The updated HCLG roster/handbook will be available at our September Back to Club coffee.

Returning to California, I felt recharged by my New York escape—bagels in Penn Station, train rides along the Hudson, and joyful reunions with loved ones. I'm truly Relaxed, Refreshed, and Recharged, and can't wait to kick off another exciting Club year. Looking forward to seeing you at our September gathering!

Jamie

Editor: Mary Grace Miller (mgvemiller@gmail.com)

Calendars



2	11:00 AM	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)
3	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	HCLG Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
8	3:00 PM	SIG: The Chatty Cats (via Zoom)
10	1:00 PM	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
13	10:00 am - 12:00 PM	Community Outreach: AAUW Gifts for Teens
15	3:00 PM	SIG: TV, Movie and Book (via Zoom)
17	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Back to Club Coffee (at the Clubhouse)
18	3:00 PM	SIG: TED Talk (via Zoom)
24	10:30 AM	Field Trip: HCLG Parking lot - Hayes Mansion
25		Deadline for submission of content for Cats' Tale
30	11:00 AM	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)



1	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	HCLG Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
8	1:00 PM	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
11	TBD	Fundraiser: Pumpkin Sale
12	TBD	Fundraiser: Pumpkin Sale
13	3:00 PM	SIG: The Chatty Cats (via Zoom)
15	6:00 PM	General Membership Dinner
16	3:00 PM	SIG: TED Talk (via Zoom)
20	3:00 PM	SIG: TV, Movie and Book (via Zoom)
22	9:00 AM	Field Trip: HCLG Parking lot - Stevenson House
25		Deadline for submission of content for Cats' Tale
29	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Games at the Clubhouse
29	12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Book Discussion Group

Upcoming Events

Back to Club – Coffee – The first 2025-26 Club get together is Wednesday, September 17th @ 10:00 AM for a coffee social. The guest speaker, Rob Moore, Vice Mayor of Los Gatos, will talk about news in our Town. Invites have been sent and please RSVP by September 10th. Welcome Back to the Club.

First Field Trip of the Year: Hayes Mansion

Join us on Wednesday, September 24th as we kick off the year with a visit to the historic Hayes Mansion in South San Jose. Built in 1905 for the Hayes Family. This elegant estate is the second mansion on the site and now part of Hilton's luxury collection.

- Meet-Up: History Club parking lot at 10:30 AM on September 24, 2025
- Tour Begins: 11:00 AM
- Cost: \$15 per person (all proceeds benefit the Historical Preservation Council of San Jose)
- Lunch: After the tour, we'll dine together at the on-site restaurant, Palm & Ember.



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Come explore a piece of local history and enjoy a lovely afternoon with fellow members!

Member News

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Hirano	9/11
Lupe Ortiz	9/12
Valerie Andrews	9/14
Bridget Garza	9/17
Joanne Rogers	9/18
Therese Wiese	9/21
Cathy Beltran	9/24
Diana Pleasant	9/29

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Welcome Krissy Wilson!
We're delighted to welcome Krissy Wilson as a new member, introduced by her friend Debbie Donlon. Krissy brings a wealth of experience and warmth to our community. She has lived in Pocatello, San Rafael, Sonoma, and now calls San Jose home. Married with two grown sons, Krissy holds a master's degree in Nursing Administration and has served in diverse roles across Emergency, Oncology, and Critical Care.

Her passions include reading, water aerobics, travel, and her faith. Recently, she joined the Assistance League to support classroom reading, and she's excited to contribute to projects benefiting women and children through the History Club. Krissy's mentors are Debbie Donlon and Jean Stroud, and we're thrilled to have her on board.

Let's give Krissy a warm welcome and look forward to the meaningful work ahead!



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Member News - Memoriam

BARBRA WHITE



It is always sad to hear when one of our History Club presidents has passed. Barbara White passed away the end of July. She had been living at Merrill Gardens. Barbara joined the History Club in 2012. She was president 2015-2016. Barbara could often be spotted in her trademark hats and loved to donate crazy holiday headbands for the Los Gatos Children's Parade walkers!

Services have been held. Cards can be sent to the family at
The family of Barbara White, c/o Liz Baumuller, 103 Hepplewhite Ct, Los Gatos, CA 95032

ROSE ARNAUDO



We are sorry to announce the passing of our member Rose Arnaudo. Rose joined the History Club in 2011. We could often find Rose crocheting blankets that she donated to various groups in Santa Clara County. We could also always count on Rose to come help with any of the blanket tying activities for Community Outreach. Rose had a background in bookkeeping and was on the History Club Board for several years as Auditor. We will miss Rose's optimism and positive outlook on life.

Services have been held. Cards can be sent to the family at
17843 Andrews Street, Monte Sereno 95030.

Thank you, Barbara & Rose, for your time and dedication to the History Club of Los Gatos. We are better because of you.



Philanthropy

Supporting Spartan Food Pantry

What Students Say

- "Thank you for all the food you donate. I cook everything because I don't have the money to buy much, but the pantry and donations make it easy for me to make delicious food on a budget."
- "It helped me a great deal in saving money on toiletries, allowing me to maintain good hygiene without financial stress. Thank you so much!"

As we begin a new Club year, we are proud to continue our tradition of giving—this time by supporting the Spartan Food Pantry at San Jose State University. Our goal is to help stock the Pantry so it's ready to welcome students for the fall semester.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Pantry served 3,412 unique students and provided 32,336 assistance visits. Over 320,000 food items were distributed thanks to Second Harvest and generous donors. Toiletries remain the most requested items.

Suggested items:

We are happy to collect the following to support Spartan Food Pantry - Toiletries, Tampons, bar soap, cleaning supplies, granola bars, dried fruit, nuts, breakfast bars trail mix snack packs, microwaveable macaroni and cheese, microwaveable soup.

Ways to contribute to the Red Basket Beneficiary:

Bring a check or cash to the September Event (9/17/25).

PayPal: use the address "foundation@historyclublogosgatos.org" and designation "SFP"

Check: make payable to HCLG Foundation (use SFP in our memo line)

Therese Wiese 6206 Lean Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123



In keeping with our core values, the History Club is committed to supporting our community. Here is an overview of the organizations we will support this year. Keep your eyes out for the Red Basket at events.

- Spartan Pantry (September)
- 4H Club (October)
- Family Giving Tree (November)
- Sleeping in Heavenly Peace (January)
- Bill Wilson Center (February)
- Shine Together (March)
- Turning Wheels (April)



Community Outreach

We are so happy to have been able to support Pacific Clinics again this year for their annual School Backpack Project. Thank you to our volunteers Jubie Jaramillo, Rebecca Yates, Lorraine Leipold, Krissy Wilson, Denise Ramon Herrera, Trish Sporleder, Hazie Campsey, Kathy Cerrito, Mary Grace Miller, Linda Hoffman, Therese Wiese, Celeste Martin Melehan and Orla MacLean. Over the last few years, we only provided volunteers for their annual project. We are so proud to say that we also donated \$585 from our Galentine's Day fundraiser in February 2025 to help them purchase supplies. What an amazing effort!

Please check out the History Club of Los Gatos Facebook page. Not only is there a 360 view video of our volunteers from this year, there is also a cute video of what items go into the backpacks, plus there are videos from several of our previous years volunteering. If you have volunteered for any of our recent years, you might find your face in the pictures! We are also thankful to Pacific Clinics for posting links on their blog and mentioning us by name! www.pacificclinics.org/news/backpacks-2025/.



We have some fun Community Outreach planned for our upcoming year - some things we have done before, and some new events. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for our recent Pacific Clinics back to school event!

- September 13 - AAUW Gifts for Teens
- November - Family Giving Tree holiday program
- December 6 - the Los Gatos Children Holiday Parade
- January 2 - Red Cross Blood Drive
- April - we are still working on our Community Outreach event in April.

Watch the Cats' Tale and Cats' Scratch for more information. Remember, we need everyone to participate in at least one Community Outreach event each fiscal year. If you have any suggestions for future Community Outreach, please let Celeste or Therese know.



Ways and Means

June Fundraiser Recap: San Jose Giants Game

Thank you to everyone who supported our June fundraising event with the San Jose Giants! We sold 103 tickets and earned 30% of ticket sales, plus an additional donation—bringing our total to \$606.00.

Our president, Jamie, bravely threw out the first pitch, and our Club was featured on the stadium video board. The post-game fireworks were spectacular and made the evening truly festive. If you enjoyed this event, let the Ways and Means Committee know—we'd love to schedule another game next season!

October Pumpkin Sale: Get Ready to Decorate!

Our first fundraiser of the new Club year will be the Pumpkin Sale on October 11 & 12, held in front of the clubhouse. Once pumpkins arrive, we'll begin decorating them with succulents.

Last year, Trader Joe's generously donated pumpkins, and we're hoping for their support again. If you know of other potential donors, please reach out to anyone on the Ways and Means Committee—it helps us keep costs low.

We'll also need succulent cuttings! Thanks to generous member donations last year, we didn't need to purchase any. Let's keep those succulents growing and share the bounty again this season.

Everyone loves turning pumpkins into works of art. Last year's creations were spectacular, and the decorating sessions were filled with laughter and camaraderie. If you'd like to help this year, sign up at our Back to Club Coffee or contact a committee member. We'll notify you as soon as the pumpkins arrive and decorating dates are set.

Coming in November: See's Candy Holiday Fundraiser

Our See's Candy online store will open in November for holiday orders. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event!

Got Fundraising Ideas?

We're always looking for fresh ways to raise money for clubhouse upgrades that make our space more appealing to renters. If you have a creative idea or know of a fun opportunity, please share it with the Ways and Means Committee. We would love to hear from you!



Club Activity

Whether you're a new member or a longtime friend of the History Club, we would love to have you join us for upcoming activities! If you're curious or ready to participate, feel free to reach out—we are here to help you get connected.

Below are the chair members for more information or to join a group. Event dates and details are listed on the Club calendar - page (page 2).

- SIG: The Chatty Cats – Mary Daily
- SIG: The Crafty Group – Vikki Pearce
- SIG: TV, Movie & Book – Mary Daily
- Field Trips – Cathy Beltran
- SIG: TED Talks – Mary Daily
- Book Club – Therese Wiese (more below)

Missed Our July Gathering?

If you couldn't join us in July, you missed a fascinating presentation by Jamie Schwarzfeld on Robert Louis Stevenson—along with some truly delicious pie! (Thank you, Jamie!) Eleven members braved the summer heat to enjoy morning games at 10:00 AM, followed by a lively book discussion at 12:30 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

Below are our next three gatherings. *Note:* December 30 falls on a Tuesday, not our usual Wed.

Activity Day & Book Discussion

Join us at 10:00 AM for Activity Day games in the foyer with Mary Daily. Then stay for our book discussion at 12:30 PM. Don't forget your brown bag lunch—and feel free to bring a friend! If you're new to the History Club, here's a quick intro: Activity Day happens four times a year, during months with five Wednesdays. We play board games like Rummikub and Dominoes, and you're welcome to bring a favorite game to share. Never played before? No worries—we'll teach you!

Love to Read?

Are you on Therese's book discussion email list? If not, reach out to her at theresewiese@gmail.com to be added.

October 29 2025	James by Percival Everett, Moderator Mary Daily
December 30 2025 (note, this is a Tuesday)	Mother Daughter Murder Night by Nina Simon. Moderator Pat Baker
April 29 2026	Darker Than the Sky by Matt Tracy. Moderator Mairead Donohue
July 29 2026	TBD



Editor's Corner

Dear History Club Friends,

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter!

It is my first time taking on this kind of project, and I am excited to give it my best. I truly welcome your feedback—what resonates, what could be improved, and anything in between.

My goal is to keep you informed and inspired with all things History Club of Los Gatos. If anyone feels called to lend a hand, I would love the company—after all, teamwork makes the dream work.

- Mary Grace Miller

PS – For all of you that helped and encouraged me get this one out - correctly and informatively - (you know you) thank you from the bottom of my heart! That includes my hubby or better known as Toni's son. It always takes a village.

INSPIRATION FROM JUBIE JARAMILLO

SILENT & SMILE



are two powerful tools. **Smile** is the way to solve many problems & **Silence** is the way to avoid many problems.

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR BRICK OR SHARE WITH FRIENDS... OR GET ANOTHER

BRICK FUNDRAISER



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