

# THE CATS' TALE

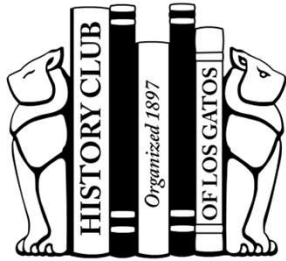
March 2026

Volume 30

Issue 7

## History Club of Los Gatos

*A women's philanthropic and social organization since 1897*



Community • Social • Philanthropy

### President's Message from Jamie Schwarzfeld

The HCLG Brick Garden dedication and ribbon cutting happened between raindrops Feb. 15, 2026. I missed it due to the tragic death of a great niece back east. Vikki Pearce, past president and longtime active member graciously presided in my absence. Sea Cadets provide patriotism and pageantry. Local dignitaries, brick donors, club members, merchants and Los Gatos residents braved the threat of rain to attend. Brick Project co-chairs Celeste Martin Melehan and Joanne Rodgers thanked attendees, explained the purpose of the endeavor and hosted an elegant reception. Mother Nature cooperated by pausing the rain until the conclusion of the ceremony. Wine was graciously donated by Family House Vineyards. Hors d'oeuvres and sweets were provided by HCLG members. It was a wonderful and poignant event.

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Memorials serve as a focal point for memory, reflection, joy and grief. They are tributes to help process loss, share milestones/ accomplishments and preserve history. Our HCLG Brick Garden is the beginning of an ongoing memorial in the heart of Los Gatos. The Club was founded in 1897. Its focus is philanthropy, friendship and community enrichment. There are 128 commemorative bricks in place, 8 queued to be installed and room for 300 more.

One of the nation's most iconic memorials is *The Man at the Wheel* in America's oldest fishing port, Gloucester, Massachusetts. It was erected in 1923 to celebrate the city's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary and honor the lives of its many bold fishermen who were lost at sea. Our great niece, Jada Mairin Samitt, will be the first woman whose name is inscribed upon this memorial wall. Jada's mother made this statement at her daughter's funeral, "Jada told me many times that she loved sleeping on the boat on the ocean and that she had the best dreams at sea and felt so held and safe."

The HCLG Brick Garden is far from Gloucester, but my love for Jada is always within me, and when I glance upon her brick, she will come back. Think of those you honor and buy a brick.

*Jamie*



**JADA MAIRIN SAMITT**  
**5/21/03-1/30/2026**  
**DREAMING AT SEA**

# Calendars



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		★	★			
			★			
	★		★			★
			★			
		★				

3	11:00 AM	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)
4	10:00 - 12:00 PM	HC Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
11	1:00 PM	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
16	3:00 PM	SIG: TV, Movie & Book (via Zoom)
18	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	General Membership Brunch (at the Clubhouse)
21	1:00 - 3:00 PM	AAUW/SJSU Celebrating Women's History*
25	10:15 AM	Field Trip - Tour of SharksIce at San Jose
31	11:00 AM	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	★ 1	2	3	
5	6	7	★ 8	9	10	
12	★ 13	★ 14	15	★ 16	17	
19	★ 20	21	★ 22	23	24	
26	27	★ 28	★ 29	30	1	

1	10:00 - 12:00 PM	HC Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
8	1:00 PM	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
13	9:00 AM	Community Outreach - Shine Together
14	9:00 AM	Community Outreach - Shine Together
16	9:00 AM	Community Outreach - Shine Together
20	3:00 PM	SIG: TV, Movie and Book (via Zoom)
22	TBD	Field Trip (more information to follow)
28	10:00 AM	Meet the Author Book Signing (at the Clubhouse)*
29	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Activity Day (at the Clubhouse)
29	12:30 - 2:00 PM	Book Club Discussion Group (at the Clubhouse)

\* Club Supported Events

## Upcoming Events

### HCLG March Brunch - Women Who Lead the Way - March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Please join us for our **March Brunch at the Club** – a warm morning of community, conversation, and inspiration as we celebrate the contributions of California women across generations.

Our featured speaker will be **Ms. Cordelia Willis**, Criminalist with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office Crime Laboratory, presenting *DNA Advances: New Ways to Solve Old Crimes*

Our Red Basket collection will benefit Shine Together, which empowers young mothers to complete high school, pursue higher education, and nurture their children's positive development.

#### Ways to Give:

- Bring cash or check to the event
  - PayPal: [foundation@historyclubblogatos.org](mailto:foundation@historyclubblogatos.org) (designate "Shine")
  - Mail check payable to HCLG Charitable Foundation (memo: Shine)
- Therese Wiese - 6206 Lean Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123



# AAUW Celebrating Women History

American Association of University Women, San José  
Free Community Event

EXPERT PANEL  
**Our Stories,  
Our Future**

Special Speaker  
**Jamie Schwarzfeld**  
Member, History Club of Los Gatos



Join our program to hear directly from 5 different women leaders in philanthropy and academia working for decades to ensure stories of women are heard and amplified

Saturday, March 21  
1-3PM (doors open 12:30PM)  
Willow Glen United Methodist Church



Register by 03/15



American Association of University Women, San José  
Free Community Event

EXPERT PANEL  
**Our Stories,  
Our Future**

Special Speaker  
**Mairead Donohue**  
VP of Programs, History Club of Los Gatos



Join our program to hear directly from 5 different women leaders in philanthropy and academia working for decades to ensure stories of women are heard and amplified

Saturday, March 21  
1-3PM (doors open 12:30PM)  
Willow Glen United Methodist Church



Register by 03/15



**Celebrating Women's History - HCLG in the Spotlight - March 21 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM**  
In celebration of Women's History Month, American Association of University Women (AAUW) is honoring and recognizing the contributions of women throughout history – and HCLG has been invited to be part of the conversation. What an incredible spotlight on our Club!

We have been asked to join the AAUW panel to share the story of HCLG – who we are, what we do, and how we continue to support philanthropy, friendship, and community enrichment. Representing our Club as special guest panelists will be Jamie and Mairead. We would love for you to join us and show your support. RSVP by March 15<sup>th</sup> ([form.jotform.com/260176204993157](http://form.jotform.com/260176204993157))

The two QR codes provided will allow you to register and attend in support of our very own Jamie and Mairead as they represent HCLG at this special event. Let's show up and celebrate women's history – and our Club's important place within it.

## Field Trip

**Behind-the-Scenes Tour of SharksIce San Jose - March 25, 2026**  
Join us for a special behind-the-scenes tour of **SharksIce at San Jose!**

This impressive facility serves as the official practice home of the **San Jose Sharks** and home ice for the **San Jose Barracuda**. It is also the largest six-sheet recreational ice facility in the area, offering youth and adult hockey, figure skating, curling, and much more.

We will meet at HCLG at **10:15 a.m.** before heading to the arena. Following the tour, we will enjoy lunch together at **Stanley's Sports Bar**.

To join this exciting outing, please sign up at the March Brunch or contact Cathy Beltran at **408-772-2111**.

We hope you will join us for this unique and fun local experience!



## March Birthdays

Celeste Martin Melehan	March 2
Cindy Rasp	March 5
Nina Grayson	March 7
Hazie Campsey	March 10
Jamie Schwarzfeld	March 14
Susan Monahan	March 18
Susan Agnoletti	March 22
Sandee Jacobs	March 26
Donna Miller	March 29



[HCLG Brick Dedication](#) - Mercury News Article

### Brick Garden Dedication - February 15, 2026

Something truly special took place at the HCLG Clubhouse on February 15, 2026, as we gathered to celebrate the dedication of our beautiful Brick Garden. As Jamie so thoughtfully shared, the ceremony marked an important milestone for our Club and community.

Though rain threatened, the weather graciously held off, allowing more than 100 members, donors, dignitaries, and guests to attend the ribbon-cutting celebration. The Sea Cadets brought a sense of pride and pageantry to the afternoon and kindly assisted in serving hors d'oeuvres to our guests.

The Brick Garden is more than a collection of engraved names – it is a lasting tribute to friendship, philanthropy, and the rich history of the History Club of Los Gatos. Each brick represents a story, a memory, and a meaningful connection to our community.

The afternoon was filled with heartfelt remarks, warm fellowship, and a shared sense of accomplishment. It was a memorable day that beautifully reflected the spirit of HCLG and the power of coming together to create something lasting.

### Inspiration - by Jubie Jaramillo

Not everything blossoms at once, but March teaches us that patience will always be rewarded.

- Anonymous



# February Events

## HCLG Galentine Night 2026

HCLG Galentine Night was an unforgettable evening that beautifully embodied the spirit of friendship, generosity, and celebration of our remarkable members.

From the moment guests arrived, the clubhouse radiated warmth and elegance. Crystal vases filled with vibrant tulips adorned the tables, while soft ambient lighting created an inviting and intimate atmosphere. The setting provided the perfect backdrop for members and guests to gather, reconnect, and celebrate together.

Dinner, thoughtfully prepared by Dora, was both delicious and beautifully presented. White wine was generously donated by Mary Grace, and cider, red wine, and coffee were graciously provided by Catalina, adding to the evening's hospitality. Desserts, artfully arranged by Raven on tiered trays, offered an array of sweet selections for guests to enjoy throughout the night.

The \$25 gift exchange brought energy and laughter to the room. The spirited exchange fostered lively conversation and joyful moments, as longtime members and first-time guests alike embraced the fun. Raven's carefully curated selection of books, thoughtfully placed throughout the space, added an engaging and distinctive touch to the evening's table discussions.

The silent auction, skillfully led by Tin Tin, added another memorable dimension to the celebration. Guests enthusiastically participated in friendly bidding, proudly supporting **Bill Wilson Center**. Donors of the auction items – both guests and HCLG members – were warmly recognized for their generosity and commitment to the cause.

Most meaningful of all was the unmistakable sense of women's camaraderie and the intentional creation of a welcoming, supportive space. Galentine Night was more than a social gathering; it was a celebration of connection, shared stories, generosity of spirit, and enduring friendships. Heartfelt thanks are extended to everyone who contributed to the evening's success.

HCLG continues to unite our community in thoughtful and inspiring ways, and Galentine Night 2026 stands as a shining example of that tradition.



# February Events

## “Have a Heart” February Luncheon

The History Club of Los Gatos gathered for a heartfelt and meaningful “Have a Heart” February Luncheon honoring our members, past presidents, and the philanthropies that define our mission. The clubhouse was filled with warmth and hand made potted herbs. Members enjoyed a delightful baked potato buffet complete with all the toppings – including delicious homemade chili.

We were honored to welcome Ed Donlon, speaking on behalf of **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, who shared the organization’s inspiring work building and delivering beds to children in need. His remarks highlighted how something as simple as a bed can profoundly impact a child’s well-being and sense of dignity.

Crescencia Sanchez also addressed the Club on behalf of **Bill Wilson Center**, sharing powerful insights into the Center’s work supporting youth and families experiencing homelessness and crisis. Her presentation reminded us of the vital role community partnerships play in transforming lives.

Our Designated Dollar “Red Basket” collection benefited the Bill Wilson Center, and members responded with characteristic generosity. Contributions will help further the Center’s mission of providing housing, education, counseling, and advocacy services to vulnerable youth and families.

The luncheon was a beautiful reflection of HCLG’s enduring commitment to philanthropy, friendship, and community enrichment. It was a day to celebrate not only those who have led and served our Club, but also the organizations that extend our impact far beyond our clubhouse walls.



# Community Outreach

Community Outreach Project for Shine Together

*shine*

April 13, 14 and 16, 2026

Have you ever picked up an apple or a piece of silver and polished it until it gleamed? The apple and the silver already had value – the polishing simply revealed their shine and enhanced what was already there. At Shine Together, a local non-profit, the mission is much the same. It is two-fold:

First, to teach, nurture, and encourage young mothers as they develop new skills and grow in confidence. Those skills - and that confidence - help them discover their own "shine." In turn, they are better equipped to nurture their own children in the same way.

Second, to support and motivate these young women to graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. It is work that strengthens not only one life, but two generations at once.

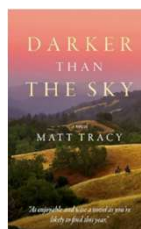
We have a meaningful opportunity to be part of this important work. Through our financial support - and through our active participation in this year's Community Outreach with Shine Together - we can help guide young women toward confident, capable, and successful futures. More information will follow next month and by email blast. We will have the opportunity to meet with 20 of the moms currently participating in Shine Together's program, on Thursday April 16 at their location in San Jose on Santee Drive. There will be two shifts - 10am to noon, and 4pm to 6pm, where we will show the moms how to tie blankets. In addition, we will have two days where we actually create 20 blankets that we will be giving to the moms. Those work days are Monday and Tuesday April 13 and 14. Mark your calendar for one – or all – of the dates! If you have not completed your Community Outreach hours this year, this is a wonderful 'seated job' opportunity.

## Activity Day

Thank you to our moderator Pat Baker for leading the discussion of Mother Daughter Murder Night by Nina Simon in December. Lots of good discussion themes! We had thirteen participants for our discussion, and six participants for Games at 10am.

Our next book will be *Darker than the Sky* by Matt Tracy on **April 29, 2026**. Our moderator will be Mairead Donohue. So, in December we talked about mother-daughter dynamics, and in April we will tackle father-son dynamics!

Our discussion will begin at 12:30 PM. Come at 10:00 AM for the Activity Day Games with Mary Daily. And of course, bring a brown bag lunch! And bring a friend! For any of you new to the History Club, Activity Day occurs four times a year, in the months with five Wednesdays. We play board games such as Rummikub and Dominoes, or you can bring a game suggestion to add. Don't know how to play? We will teach you! Love to read? Are you on Therese's book discussion email? If not, let her know ([theresewiese@gmail.com](mailto:theresewiese@gmail.com)) to add you.



# Ways and Means

## Ways & Means Announces Special Art Fundraiser

Ways & Means is excited to announce a new fundraiser for our Club. Member Rebecca White has generously donated two large paintings created by her late husband, **Nick White**.

Nick was a prominent, highly talented, and well-known artist in Los Gatos. He was a member of the **Los Gatos Art Association** and founded the Plein Air painting group. His work beautifully captures the spirit and history of our town.

Two of his paintings will be on exhibit and available for purchase during March and April at **Los Gatos Coffee Roasting Company**:  
*Enjoying Lunch at the Purple Onion on Main Street*  
*Children Playing at Los Gatos Town Park after the Grand Opening in 2002*

A biography of Nick is displayed with the paintings, along with contact information for those interested in purchasing either piece. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support the remodeling of the Ladies' Restroom at our Club.

Please encourage your friends to stop by Los Gatos Coffee Roasting Company, enjoy a cup of coffee, and view these spectacular works of art – true pieces of Los Gatos history.

## Brick Fundraiser

Our brick fundraiser is still open for business! February 15<sup>th</sup> showed off the beauty of our Brick Garden. Share this opportunity with family and friends.  
[Bricksrus.com/donorsite/hcolg](http://Bricksrus.com/donorsite/hcolg)

