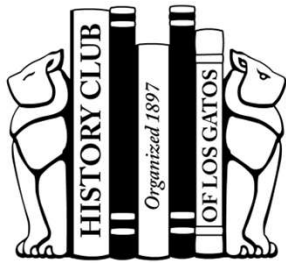


History Club of Los Gatos

A women's philanthropic and social organization since 1897



Community • Social • Philanthropy

President's Message from Jamie Schwarzfeld Life Altering HCLG Cookie Exchange

In prior years, my cookie contribution has been simple-green and red Rice Krispie treats. Feeling some guilt, I decided to do better this year! My Grandmother made an unusual cookie I loved and remember to this day. I went to my garage to find her wooden recipe box. Seeking her treasured family recipes only frustrated me and made a mess of my garage. Google research for her "Chocolate Jumbos (or Jumbles)" was very enlightening. The chocolate-ginger donut shaped frosted cookie is unique to upstate New York Fulton and Schoharie Counties. I contacted my relatives and several college friends with connections to this area. I did luck out when a friend I met 55 years ago found a recipe in a 1920's church cookbook. I took aspects from the internet and her source and baked for our cookie exchange. One HCLG member loved them, and I was only too willing to share my hybrid recipe. She baked them for her family and neighbors and they wanted the recipe. I was pleased to bring my Grandmother's treat back to life!

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Since this triumph, I have been remembering other taste treats from my childhood. This process has brought long gone ancestors back into my awareness. My Dad made fried cornmeal mush from what we think of "polenta" or Southerners call "grits". I replicated it, and it was nothing special. I probably loved it as a kid, because it was something to drown in delicious Vermont maple syrup. My Mom made a strawberry-rhubarb compote which I could make once I realized I would never find fresh rhubarb in December. With fresh berries and frozen rhubarb, I was able to bring my mom's memory, and this taste treat back to life. Sunday, our big meal was mid-day. My Grandfather had a knack of making a supper out of Saltines with a variety of toppings: sardines, cream cheese and olives, peanut butter and onions, cooked chicken livers and egg salad. As I recently replicated these, I took myself back to Sunday nights listening to Gunsmoke on the radio with my grandparents. Tasting favorite foods from the past brought vivid memories of my deceased relatives to my present. I also have resolved to clean my garage in 2026!

This endeavor has been inspired by the yeomen work done by our intrepid group of HCLG cleaners. Needles ARE found in haystacks! The deeds to our Clubhouse and other properties have been misplaced for decades. The January purge brought them to light, along with other historically valuable documents. I know I will find my Grandmother's precious recipe box.

Jamie

Calendars



3	11:00 AM	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)
4	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	HC Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
9	3:00 PM	SIG: Chatty Cats (via Zoom)
11	1:00 PM	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
13	6:00 - 9:00 PM	Galentine Event (at the Clubhouse)
15	2:00 - 4:00 PM	HCLG Brick Dedication (at the Clubhouse)
16	3:00 PM	SIG: TV, Movie & Book (via Zoom)
18	12:00 - 2:00 PM	General Membership Lunch (at the Clubhouse)
19	3:00 PM	SIG: TED Talk (via Zoom)
25	9:00 AM	Field Trip (more information to follow)



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19	3:00 PM	SIG: TED Talk (via Zoom)
21	1:00 - 3:00 PM	AAUW/SJSU Celebrating Women's History
24	10:00 AM	Meet the Author Book Signing (at the Clubhouse)
25	9:00 AM	Field Trip (more information to follow)
31	11:00 AM	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)

Call for Assistance

Dear Club Members,

We're getting ready to celebrate our new Brick Garden and would love a few volunteers to help make the ribbon cutting event a success! With well over 100 members and guests expected, an extra set of hands will make a big difference.

The event is scheduled for **February 15**. We're hoping members can contribute small bites and assist with a few other simple tasks. If you still need to complete your community outreach, this is a great chance to do so!

If you'd like to help, please email **Celeste** at cmartinmel@gmail.com
Thank you for considering – we appreciate you!



Upcoming Events

HCLG Galentine Night Celebration - February 13th from 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Join Us for a Special Evening

It is such an exciting time for the HCLG! Let's keep the celebration going with our upcoming HCLG Galentine Night on February 13th. This is the perfect opportunity to gather with fellow club members and invite your friends to join us as guests. The evening will feature delicious food, drinks, dinner, and a fun gift exchange—what more could you ask for?

Gift Exchange Details

To participate in the gift exchange, please bring a gift valued at \$25. Enjoy the chance to share and receive thoughtful presents with amazing women in our community.

Event Information

Dinner, drinks, and sweets will be provided.

Cost: \$45 per person. Check made payable to HCLG

Friends are welcome!

Net proceeds of this event will be donated to the Bill Wilson Center

February Hostess Event - February 18th at 12:00 PM

Please join us for our February event as we honor our members, past presidents, and philanthropies! As we know, February is a month filled with hearts – from Valentine's Day and Galentine's Day to the American Heart Association's Heart Health Awareness Month. The word *heart* carries many meanings: being **big-hearted**, as demonstrated through the financial support and hands-on service we provide our community; and being **lion-hearted**, as shown by our Presidents, both past and present, who lead our club with courage and dedication.

February is also a timely reminder to care for our own hearts and to raise awareness of heart health in our community.

Guests are encouraged to "Have a Heart" – and if you are so inclined, please wear **Red!** Our Red Basket Beneficiary for February is the **Bill Wilson Center**.

We are pleased to welcome two guest speakers:

- **Ed Donlon**, representing *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*, a local nonprofit
- **Crescencia Sanchez**, on behalf of the *Bill Wilson Center*



February Birthdays

Amy Alden Bolander	2/4	Mary Raecker	2/16
Denise Ramon Herrera	2/7	Vikki Pearce	2/17
Sue Lassetter	2/10	Lydia Norcia	2/24

January Brunch at the History Club of Los Gatos

Members gathered for a delightful brunch featuring our very own Michelle Paganini, who shared her passion for upcycling clothing. Michelle, the creative force behind *Paganoonoo*, captivated attendees with her innovative approach to sustainable fashion.

The clubhouse was adorned with upcycled décor—proof that sustainability can elevate a space as well as a wardrobe. Guests enjoyed a spread of homemade breakfast favorites while learning about Michelle’s creative process, design philosophy, and how upcycling can bring new life to garments.

The fashion portion of the event highlighted beautiful pieces modeled by fellow History Club of Los Gatos members, adding both charm and camaraderie to the morning. With a fantastic turnout and lively discussion, the event showcased the creativity and talent within our own community.

What a wonderful morning together!



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Thank you for considering – we appreciate you!



Community Outreach

Thank you everyone who helped make our Second Annual Red Cross Blood Drive a success! Our Community Outreach volunteers included Cindy Gjers, Hazie Campsey, Val Andrews, Diane Dinardi, Pauline Ferrito, Lynne Dahms, Michelle Paganini, Joy Silverira, Jubie Jarmillo, Jamie Schwarzfeld, Denise Ramon Herrera, Mairead Donohue, Lorraine Leipold and Therese Wiese. Including four member donors and a lot of donors who were actually our neighbors, we were able to generate 36 units of blood - exceeding the goal the Red Cross had set for us of 28 units! Fun to note - 17% of our donors were first timers!

Every Blood Drive is important - blood has a limited shelf life - only 42 days for whole blood, and five days for platelets, so the demand is ongoing. Nationwide, an average of 5% of the population donates blood. In places like Santa Clara County, San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles, only 3% of the population on average donates!

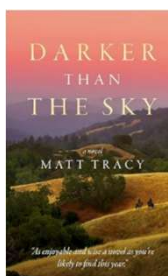
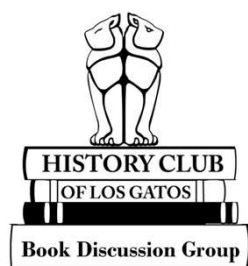
Last year, our drive was held on a day the high school was in session. This year we got wise and chose a day they were still out for the holiday break. So much smoother in terms of parking. So, we have already secured a date for our Third annual Red Cross Blood Drive - Tuesday December 29, 2026. Mark your calendar - we will be looking for volunteers AND donors in late November! Also, a fun note - our Red Cross volunteer who was our trainer that day, Vanessa, had so much fun with us, she stayed twice the length of her shift. And, at the January coffee, she attended as Pauline's guest!

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) to add you.



Ways and Means

The Ways and Means Committee would like to thank all club members for supporting our efforts to raise money for the clubhouse. Many of you helped by publicizing our events to family, friends, and the larger community, which significantly contributed to our success. These funds have enabled us to update and modernize the clubhouse in the hopes of attracting more renters.

In November, we held the final two fundraisers for 2025. We raised **\$329.77** from sales at the Los Gatos Willow Street Restaurant and **\$417.55** from our See's Candy online store. This brought our **2025 fundraising total to \$6,441.00**. Added to our previous fundraising balance, we were able to gain History Club Board approval to spend up to **\$8,000.00** of Ways and Means funds toward construction of the new patio bar.

Looking ahead, the committee is already working on several new ideas for 2026. Details will be announced in upcoming issues of the Cats' Tale. Thank you again for supporting our efforts – we couldn't have done it without you!

If you have ideas for new fundraising opportunities, please share them with the Ways and Means Committee. We are always looking for creative ways to involve the broader community in our fundraising.

Inspiration - *by Jubie Jaramillo*

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”

By Princess Diana

Brick Fundraiser

Our brick fundraiser is still open for business! If you've thought of a tribute or gift idea, please go to www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/hcolg And mark your calendars for a Brick Unveiling on February 15th.

