



The Cats' Tale

History Club of Los Gatos

Summer, 2025

Volume 29

Issue 10

A women's philanthropic and social organization since 1897

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President's Message

All in the Family

From Jamie Schwarzfeld

I cut my State of the Club presentation short due to time constraints. There was one extremely important message I failed to mention. The History Club of Los Gatos could not accomplish all we do or do it as well without the help and support of people behind the scenes. I want to acknowledge them and their fabulous contributions. This is in no order-only as people pop into my head. I am sure I will forget to mention someone important. Please accept my apologies and do realize the Club does appreciate their silent contributions also.

Jose Zaragosa (Dora Romero's husband) helps his wife in all things clubhouse related, and he volunteers his plumbing and irrigation system expertise as needed (which has been too often).

Andy Miller (Mary Grace Miller's husband and Toni Blackstock's son) negotiated a very attractive settlement with a vender who consistently billed us for an unpaid balance which we were not going to pay, because his mistake had caused us a large overcharge with our ramp construction. Thanks to Andy the \$3,000 bill was reduced to nothing.

Warren Way (Therese Wiese's husband). Most of us have never met Warren. He accompanies Therese to the Clubhouse every Friday with his toolbox in hand, fixing, adjusting, or hanging whatever needs doing. This longstanding tradition is followed by a trip to the Post Office to check the Club PO box and then a quest for an outstanding lunch.

Don Weller (Diana Pleasant's partner) is someone we have all met. He is often Diana's guest for our programs. His piano performances have entertained us again and again. When we learned that the LGHS Women's Choral Group

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was running late, Don got to the Club in 5 minutes and played Christmas carols until they arrived. He is also the one who climbs a ladder to fix ceiling tiles and repair the vertical blinds. Don organized and received the meals provided by Live Oak when Diana was recovering from surgery several years ago.

Troy Jaramillo (Jubie's husband) is well known to us as one of the bartenders, a frequent Field Trip adventurer, a constant participant at Community Outreach projects. This year he stuffed backpacks at AAUW's Gift for Teens and helped load and unload the truck for the Savers' Project.

John Wenzel (Diane Dinardi's husband), in essence, was the co-chair of our Holiday Boutique. The planning, schlepping, and organizing were masterminded by him. He is also responsible for introducing Rebecca White, one of our vibrant and talented newer members to the Club. They have been in a painting group together for years. His outstanding personality and organizational talent have served us well! He and Diane are a wonderful team.

Shannon Burnett and her mom, Joanne Rodgers, are another dynamic duo! Shannon's landscaping and decorating expertise is the foundation for our fabulous exterior renovations and garden improvements. She has generously donated her time, talent, and materials to our ongoing beautification project. When Joanne is on vacation, Shannon attends Board meetings. We stay informed and the Rodgers gals don't miss a beat. Shannon is spreading the word of our Brick Fundraiser to the Los Gatos community by featuring flyers in her husband's orthodontic office.

There are several non-members who have made great contributions to HCLG out of the goodness of their hearts- **Sue Monahan**, **Debbie Donlon** and **Maryann Wisnewski**. Sue Monahan is Jan Gleason's friend who played the piano during the Christmas Boutique. Debby Donlon (Jean Stroud's daughter) is a prior member who worked tirelessly all 3 days of the blanket making workshops. Both industrious women enjoyed the activity and our company well enough to have since become members. Pat Baker's friend, Maryann Wisnewski, also sewed during these Community Outreach days and knit caps for Cancer CAREpoint but can never attend Wednesday meetings. This is our loss, but I am sure we will see her again when sewing and knitting opportunities arise.

Bob Donohue (Maired's husband), **John Baker** (Pat's husband), **Andy Miller** (Mary Grace's husband), **Troy Jaramillo** (Jubie's husband) and **Phil Beltran** (Cathy's husband) have all served well as our bartenders at dinners.

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President's Message (continued)

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Phil Beltran also gets a special shout out for stepping in as our speaker on Security and Safety when Cathy had a program cancellation. He also consistently picks up catering orders for events.

Vincent and Orissa Petrino (Tenly's son and daughter-in-law) helped greatly with The Savers' Project. They loaded and unloaded the behemoth truck used to transport 2,986 pounds of our donations to Savers. Vincent was the brave truck driver.

One person I do know I forgot to mention is my deceased husband, **Neal**. He was responsible for my decision to become VP and now President of The History Club. He facetiously encouraged me to serve "in order to keep out of his hair," but he had been extremely civic minded in our New York hometown of Pelham. He served on the Board of Education, the Board of Directors of Pelham Children's Services, as President of the Pelham Jewish Center, as Village Attorney, then as a Village trustee filling the posts of both Fire and Police commissioners. I had supported his dedication to volunteerism and learned how important it is for us to give back to our community. However, this work is only possible with the help and support of our loved ones. Thank you, all!

Jamie





Calendars

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					


July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

3	11:00am	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
4	10:00am	Board of Directors Meeting - Old and New Boards with Lunch (at the Clubhouse)
9	3:00pm	SIG: Chatty Cats (via Zoom) NEW/NEW TIME
11	1:00pm	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse) Cancelled
13	7:00pm	Fundraiser: San Jose Giants
14		Flag Day
15		Father's Day
16	3:00pm	SIG: TV, Movie, and Book Zoom (via Zoom) NEW TIME
19	3:00pm	SIG: TED Talks (via Zoom)

July

4		Independence Day
14	3:00pm	SIG: Chatty Cats (via Zoom)
17	3:00pm	SIG: TED Talks (via Zoom)
21	3:00pm	SIG: TV, Movie, and Book Zoom (via Zoom)
30	10:00am-12:00pm	Activity Day - Games (at the Clubhouse)
30	12:30-2:00pm	Activity Day - Book Discussion Group (at the Clubhouse)

August

5	11:00am	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)
6	10:00am	Summer Planning/HC Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
11	3:00pm	SIG: Chatty Cats (via Zoom)
14	3:00pm	SIG: TED Talks (via Zoom)
18	3:00pm	SIG: TV, Movie, and Book Zoom (via Zoom)

Inspiration from Jubie Jaramillo

The happiest people don't have the best of everything,
they just make the best of everything.

—Anonymous

Upcoming Events

The Ways and Means committee would like to thank everyone for supporting and contributing to all the fundraisers we have held so far this year. All of our fundraising money is directed towards upgrading our clubhouse, which in turn will increase the number of times our clubhouse is rented. This also means we can increase our philanthropic donations to support women and children in the community.

Our current fundraiser is a San Jose Giants baseball game on June 13th at 7:00pm. If you order tickets online, they are \$21.00 or if you call the box office tickets are \$18.00. Our goal is to sell 100 tickets so we can receive 30% of our sales. See our flyer below with all the details.

This is a fun and inexpensive event for families with children as the San Jose Giants get the children involved in games on the field during the inning breaks. The food is also very good so you can come early and enjoy dinner at the ballpark. There will also be fireworks after the game. We will have our own seating section, and the History Club will be highlighted and hopefully this will help people become more familiar with our club and what we are about.

So, please invite neighbors and friends to join in the Friday Night Fun!

See you at the ballpark!

—Diane Dinardi

For questions contact Diane Dinardi
ddinardi@comcast.net

HISTORY CLUB OF LOS GATOS PARK PACKER

WHEN:

Friday, June 13th, 2025, at 7:00 PM (main gates open at 6:00 PM)

WHERE:

Excite Ballpark, 588 E Alma Ave., San Jose, CA 95112

Purchase:

Purchase your tickets for the History Club of Los Gatos Park Packer Fundraiser by scanning this QR Code!

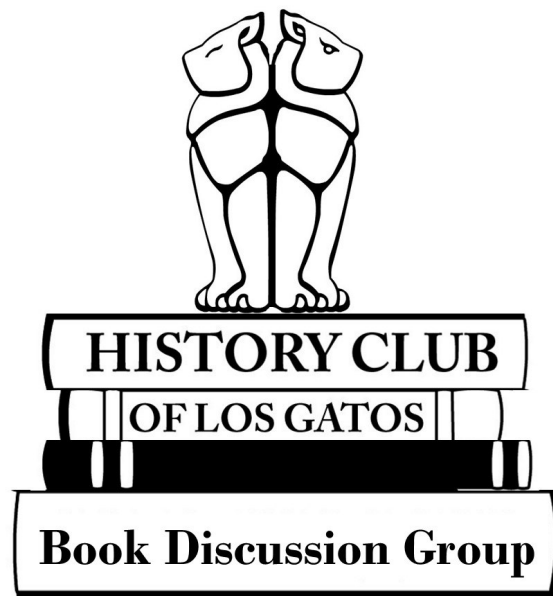


CODE: HCLG



Any questions, please contact hcortestorres@sjgiants.com or contact the San Jose Giants main box office at (408) 297-1435

Upcoming Events



By Therese Wiese

We have some fun summer reading planned for everyone - our **July 30, 2025** meeting will be two books -*Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan, and, *A Wilder Shore - the Romantic Odyssey of Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson* by Camille Peri. Read one, or read both. Jamie Schwarzfeld will moderate. On **October 29, 2025** we will be reading *James* by Percival Everett. Moderator will be Mary Daily.

Our discussion will begin at 12:30pm. Come at 10am for the Activity Day Games in the foyer 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.



Member News



SUMMER

June		July		August	
Linda Hoffman	6/4	Joan Cowan	7/4	Karen Lorenz	8/3
Mary Alden	6/5	Rebecca White	7/4	Margaret Meute	8/6
Phyllis Hardin	6/7	Diane Dinardi	7/8	Jubie Jaramillo	8/6
Mary Daily	6/22	Karen Logan	7/8	Jean Libante	8/16
Pauline Ferrito	6/23	Betty Ulrich	7/10	Trish Sporleder	8/22
		Michelle Paganini	7/10	Debbie Donlon	8/26
		Judy Kennedy	7/20		
		Kathy Mlinarich	7/30		

Welcome Back Returning Member

- Pauline Ferrito and Mairead Donohue



Welcome Back, Debbie Donlon!

Debbie paused her membership to help with family care, and now she's back with us. You have probably met Debbie recently at meetings and volunteer events, as she joined her mom, HC member Jean Stroud, to lend a hand and renew acquaintances. Debbie has a Home Ec degree from Fresno State. She was a stay-at-home mom; worked at the county assessor's office, and volunteered at various non profits benefiting children. She's married with a son, a daughter and a granddaughter. She loves reading, and helping people simplify and donate their belongings. Returning to the History Club, Debbie expects to find community and lots of activities with her mom.

Member News

Diana Pleasant *Senior of Distinction*

Nominated by the History Club of Los Gatos



The Terraces
of Los Gatos



The History Club is excited to have two of our members honored during the annual Terraces of Los Gatos

Seniors of Distinction awards. This was the Terraces' 25th year. In the beginning, they only awarded one honoree each year, but in 2015 they began inviting the various service clubs in Los Gatos and Monte Sereno to nominate individuals, highlighting service to the community. This year, the History Club nominated Diana Pleasant. In addition to her work at the History Club, as President, Fashion Show chair, Foundation Board member, "AV guru," and currently Recording Secretary. Diana has a rich background in the community benefiting music and the arts. And, exciting for the History Club, another one of our members, Toni Blackstock, was nominated by the Friends of the Los Gatos Library for all her contributions. She has been with the Friends of the Library since 2007, serving in various capacities. Toni is also former Chairman of the Town Community Services Commission. It was so great seeing two members of the History Club up on stage being honored for their contributions. Congratulations to Diana and Toni!

Since 2015, the History Club has had seven recipients:-

- 2015 Jubie Jaramillo
- 2016 Rosalie Thimann
- 2017 Maryon Hicks
- 2018 Jean Krcik
- 2019 Joanne Brice
- 2023 Vikki Pearce
- 2025 Diana Pleasant

note: no ceremony in 2024 due to the Terraces' remodeling. No ceremony in 2020, 2021, or 2022 due to the Pandemic

Recipients must reside in Los Gatos or Monte Sereno.

—Written by Therese Wiese

Club Business

The History Club of Los Gatos

2025 -2026 Programs

September 17, 2025, Coffee

Rob Moore, Vice Mayor of Los Gatos will speak to the HCLG members about current programs and issues that effect Los Gatos: Housing, traffic, passing a balanced budget and supporting youth in town.

October 15, 2025, Dinner

William Kennedy will be speaking about the fact that Los Gatos is going to establish its own 4H Chapter. Los Gatos boys and girls have been a part of the Saratoga/San Jose Chapter and now there is enough interest to start a local community Chapter which will meet at the Los Gatos Lexington School. The 4H structure is for the young members to be 100% in charge with adult supervision as needed.

November 19, 2025, 10:30 AM

Holiday Cookie Exchange. Watch for details in our October Cat's Tale.

December 10, 2025, Holiday Luncheon

TBD

January 21, 2026, 10:30 Coffee

Cordelia Willis, Criminalist, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory, will present DNA Advances: New Ways to Solve Old Crimes.

February 18, 2026, Luncheon

A day to honor our Past Presidents. We will also hear from several of our Philanthropy recipients.

March 18, 2026, Coffee

Michelle Paganini, a current HCLG member will speak to us about her change in career from the Medical Device field and Regulatory Compliance to become an entrepreneur in the fashion field of Up-cycling.

April 2026 TBD

Community Outreach

May 20, 2026, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Dessert

State of the Club and Installation of New Officers.

Community Outreach

Bill Wilson Center

Like me, many of you were raised in households where everything found a new use. Balls of rubber bands. Saved aluminum foil. Old worn towels were cut into smaller old worn towels! So for those of you who volunteered in April for our Cancer CAREpoint blanket making days (or for anyone who has made those blankets at home), one of the by-products are tons of 3 and 4 inch squares, cut during the blanket process. But what to do with them? Too nice to throw away. Too small to be helpful.



Thank you to our new member Debbie Donlon. She collected all of the squares and took them to a friend. Her friend sorted them by color and stitched them together to make eight baby quilts, in coordinating colors. And guess what - Mairead Donohue took them to be donated to the Bill Wilson Center. A win all around! Thank you Debbie and Mairead!



By Therese Wiese



Then on Friday, May 16, members of the History Club of Los Gatos volunteered to help make floral centerpieces for the dinner tables at the Bill Wilson Gala!



Margaret Schu, Karen Hirano, Mairead Donohue, Anne Fisher, Vikki Pearce and Lorraine Leipold

Club Activities—New Members Coffee

After the May Board of Directors Meeting, the Board and our Admissions Chairs, Pauline Ferrito and Mairead Donohue, hosted a Coffee to celebrate our new members. New members were introduced by their mentors, board members and committee chairs were introduced and Vikki Pearce gave a brief presentation on the history of the club. Vikki also taught everyone how to install an icon on their phones to access our website.



Club Activities—May Meeting

Our final Membership Meeting of this Club Calendar year was Spring Sweets, a dessert with lots of goodies. The incoming Board Members were installed, incoming committee chairs and appointees were introduced and our President gave a presentation on the State of the Club. Tenly Petrino was honored as Member of the Year for her outstanding work on our Savers Fundraising project. A very successful event to end our club meetings for the year.



Editor's Corner

By Joy Silveira

As I thought about what I should write about in this final issue of my time as Editor of the Cats' Tale, it felt as if my overwhelming emotion is gratitude.

It has been a distinct privilege and great pleasure for me to spearhead this publication for the club these last six years. I certainly didn't do it alone.

Thanks, first and foremost, to my partner and creative genius, LeAnn Clinton. It has been lots of fun and very rewarding to work with her all these years. It was always easier to produce every issue because she was so supportive, organized, and steady. I am happy to say that we will still be working together next year on the website.

Thanks to the four club presidents who I worked with: Diana Pleasant, Vikki Pearce, Diana Crawford, and Jamie Schwarzfeld, for their support.

Thank you to each and every one of you who wrote articles and took photos each month. There are too many of you to name, but you know who you are, and I am very grateful for your support. You made my job easier.

Thank you to Therese Wiese and Vikki Pearce for making us look good every month. They proofed each article, every issue, found our mistakes, and helped us to correct them.

Last, but not least, thanks to Mary Grace Miller for stepping up to take on this position. I hope you will give her the support you have given me and help her to continue The Cats' Tale as the flagship of the club's communications.

I look forward to new and different responsibilities with the club in the future.

