



The Cats' Tale

History Club of Los Gatos

A women's philanthropic and social organization since 1897

February, 2025

Volume 29

Issue 7

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President's Message

From Jamie Schwarzfeld

The Evolution of The History Club of Los Gatos

The women of HCLG have been meeting and changing with the times since 1897. Change is difficult to accept, but it is inevitable, nurturing, and necessary for healthy evolution. The original members lived in a world new to the telephone (1876), household electricity (1882), and the automobile (1888). They most likely discussed the invention of radio (1901), flight (1903), and television (1927). The technology of the 21st century has far surpassed anything our founding members could have imagined, and we are committed to keeping up with the times. Our state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment enhances our experience, and our well-designed, user-friendly website makes information easily accessible. The **Cats' Tale** monthly newsletter has transitioned from a mailed hardcopy to a digital format, joining our **Cats' Scratch** weekly updates and Event Invitation system to form a robust and dynamic communication network. By embracing evolving communication methods, we ensure that our members receive timely and consistent updates.

What does the History Club of Los Gatos mean to you? Personally, I find a community, a sisterhood, and friendships. The philanthropic opportunities and the hands-on community outreach experiences fulfill my need to "give back." The hostess assignments and field trips are fun get-togethers and play dates. The recent Galentine Gathering was a good example of the vibrant energy of our members. The décor was creative and beautiful. There were three generations coming together for fun, food, festivity, fundraising, and friendship.

There is a grave reality facing The History Club of Los Gatos. Our future and viability, as we know it, is at risk. We have several resignations in

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President's Message (continued)

our current leadership. There is no Vice President/Program organizer for next year. Cathy Beltran's responsibilities with her three grandchildren's classrooms in Scotts Valley have been more time-consuming than she anticipated. She has done a wonderful job with this year's programs but continuing another year and then moving on to be President is more than she can do. She will continue to organize our field trips which have been wonderful and quite varied. Editor, Joy Silveira and Associate Editor, LeAnn Clinton, have molded The Cats' Tale into the outstanding publication we enjoy monthly. But they feel they have "nurtured their baby into adulthood" and are ready to serve the club in other capacities.

Joy has already started to fulfill her promise to serve by agreeing to chair the Nominating Committee. She has assembled a group of very capable members tasked with the duty of identifying the leaders we need to ensure our healthy evolution as an organization. The members are: Mairead Donohue, Kathy Cerrito, Marylyn Copper, and Catalina Madrigal Rupert. Please ask yourself what The History Club of Los Gatos means to you, and if now is the time to become a leader in this ever-evolving organization which has weathered constant change since 1897.

Fondly,

Jamie



VOLUNTEERS


NEEDED

We Need Your Help!

Calendars

March						
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					

March

4	11:00am	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)
5	10:00am	HCLG Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
9	2:00am	Daylight Savings Begins
10	1:00pm	SIG: Sports Talk (via Zoom)
12	11:00am	Community Outreach: Writing Notes of Encouragement for Cancer CAREpoint (at the Clubhouse)
12	1:00pm	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
17		St. Patrick's Day
17	2:30pm	SIG: TV, Movie, and Book Zoom (via Zoom)
19	6:00pm	Membership Meeting: Dinner with singer/songwriter Ren Geisick
20		First Day of Spring
20	3:00pm	SIG: TED Talks (via Zoom)
25		Deadline for submission of content for Cats' Tale
26	10:00am	Field Trip: Sustainability Program Tour at Santa Clara University with lunch at Mio Vicino (leave from HCLG parking lot)
30		Cats' Tale Published




April						
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		

April

1	11:00am	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
2	10:00am	Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
9	1:00pm	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
12		Passover
14	TBD	Community Outreach: Blanket tying for Cancer CAREpoint (at the Clubhouse)
14	1:00pm	SIG: Sports Talk (via Zoom)
15	TBD	Community Outreach: Blanket tying for Cancer CAREpoint (at the Clubhouse)
16	TBD	Community Outreach: Finish up activities for Cancer CAREpoint and assemble gift bags (at the Clubhouse)
17	3:00pm	SIG: TED Talks (via Zoom)
20		Easter
21	2:30pm	SIG: TV, Movie, and Book Zoom (via Zoom)
22		Earth Day
23	TBD	Field Trip: TBD
25		Deadline for submission of content for Cats' Tale
30		Cats' Tale Published
30	10:00am-12:00pm	Activity Day - Games (at the Clubhouse)
30	12:30-2:00pm	Activity Day - Book Discussion Group (at the Clubhouse)

May						
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

May

5		Cinco de Mayo
6	11:00am	HCLG Foundation Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
7	10:00am	Board of Directors Meeting (at the Clubhouse)
11		Mother's Day
12	1:00pm	SIG: Sports Talk (via Zoom)
14	1:00pm	SIG: The Crafty Group (at the Clubhouse)
15	3:00pm	SIG: TED Talks (via Zoom)
16	TBD	Community Outreach: Helping out with Annual Dinner Set Up at Bill Wilson Center
19	2:30pm	SIG: TV, Movie, and Book Zoom (via Zoom)
21	10:30am	Membership Meeting State of the Club and Installation of Officers (at the Clubhouse)
25		Deadline for submission of content for Cats' Tale
26		Memorial Day
28	TBD	Field Trip: Details TBD
30		Cats' Tale Published

Upcoming Events

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE HCLG MARCH DINNER

Music in the Air

WHEN: March 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM at History Club of Los Gatos (doors open at 5:30 PM)

PROGRAM: The History Club of Los Gatos will host a Dinner on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 showcasing Singer/ Songwriter Ren Geisick. Ren is a singer who borrows from jazz, blues, country and soul and delivers her own brand of Americana.

MENU: Pulled pork/pulled chicken on a slider roll with a variety of BBQ sauces, veggie BBQ beans, green salad, mashed potatoes, and key lime pie tartlet. Dinner cost is \$40.00. Wine will be available for a suggested \$5.00 donation.

RSVP: Please be sure to make your reservations by **March 5, 2025**.

Dinner cost is \$40.00 - check payable to HCLG and send to:

Pat Baker, 16661 Kennedy Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032.

If paying via PayPal, the vendor is treasurer@historyclublosgatos.org and note March Dinner.



The **Red Basket** recipient for March will be Cancer CAREpoint. (CCP)

Bring a check or cash to the March Music in the Air Dinner.

PayPal: use the address “treasurer@historyclublosgatos.org” and designation “CCP”

Check: make payable to HCLG (use CCP in our memo line)
16661 Kennedy Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032.

Thank you!



Upcoming Events

About Our March Speaker, Ren Geisick

By Cathy Beltran

Ren Geisick is a singer, songwriter, and band leader. She is a local girl who was raised in Los Gatos. Ren attended the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, California State University Long Beach, and received a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Vocal Performance in 2010.



She has been teaching Jazz Voice at San Jose State University since 2017. She is a band leader in three different projects: Ren Geisick, Band and Solo; the Anachronistics; and Dolce Musica. All three groups have performed at various local events and venues. Ren has been a band leader in all of her varied projects and says she has had a hand in shaping musical choices and communicating musical ideas while fostering a collaborative space to serve the music.

Ren's honors include:

- ◆ Belle Foundation Grant Recipient, 2021
- ◆ Jazz Search West Winner, 2015
- ◆ San Jose Jazz "Eye on the Scene" featured Artist
- ◆ Downtown Magazine's Student Music Awards Outstanding Jazz Vocalist for the Undergraduate Division, 2010
- ◆ Ella Fitzgerald Scholarship, Full Tuition, 2009-2010

We're looking forward to hearing from Ren at our March Membership Meeting!

Save the Date!—-> Friday, May 16, 2025 by Therese Wiese

Bill Wilson Center - Community Outreach

Mark your calendar for Friday, May 16, 2025 - we will be helping the Bill Wilson Center again with their annual dinner set up. Time and duties TBD, but you know it will be fun! More information to follow in a later Cats' Tale. Any questions? Check with Mairead Donohue maireaddo@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

Cancer CAREpoint Community Outreach/Philanthropic Event

by Therese Wiese, Jamie Schwarzfeld, Celeste Martin Melehan, and Anne Fisher

Community Outreach and the Philanthropic committees are happy to be doing another crossover project for Cancer CAREpoint. We last did this in 2023, and we all remember having a great time putting it together. Our goal is to make 50 blankets or lap blankets, 50 knit or crocheted caps, 50 seat belt cushions for port-a-caths, and 50 gift bags. To achieve this, we will be scheduling a variety of Community Outreach activities in March and April.

- On March 12 at 11AM at the Clubhouse, we need volunteers to help write notes of encouragement. We will have the cards, plus we will have wording you can use. And if you prefer to write your own sentiments, that is fine. Check in with Jamie Schwarzfeld.
- Do you knit or crochet? We would like to donate soft caps for the patients to Cancer CAREpoint. Make these at home watching TV, or we can organize a day at the History Club, sit and make caps. Check in with Therese Wiese.
- The March Philanthropic collection is for Cancer CAREpoint. For this month, donations need to go to the Club, not the Foundation, as we will primarily be using the funds to buy fleece for making blankets. If you would like to help shop for fleece, check in with Celeste Martin Melehan. Do you have spare blanket kits or fleece at home? Let Celeste know about that too.
- We are looking for donations of items to go into gift bags. It would be best if this could be done in multiples of 10, for example 20 chap sticks or 10 hand sanitizers. (Remember, we are aiming at 50 bags). Other donation ideas would be game books (like Sudoku, Search-a-Word, crossword puzzles, etc.), small boxes of crayons or colored pencils, boxes of tea (like mint, ginger, or chamomile), small packages of Kleenex. Another appreciated item for patients are soft fluffy socks. Please bring these items to the March 19 dinner, the April 2 Board meeting, or on Monday, April 14 to the History Club. The sooner we can get everything, the sooner we can confirm our plans. Check with Jamie if you have questions about fun things to add to the bags. Please also consider asking someone you do business with if they would consider donating "50 somethings."
- Monday, April 14 and Tuesday, April 15 we will be at the clubhouse in the main room tying blankets. Lunch will be provided. Time TBD. If you are interested, let Therese or Jamie know. These are great days to invite a friend!

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Upcoming Events

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- Those of you who volunteered in 2023 know we had volunteers who brought in their sewing machines, and we set up an assembly line to sew seat belt cushions for port-a-caths. We have three volunteers already to sew. We will do the Seat Belt cushions on Monday, April 14 and Tuesday, April 15 in the foyer, and will be back on Wednesday if we need more time. Also, we think we have enough fabric, but we probably need Velcro and synthetic batting, so let Therese know if you have either of those items to donate. Also, we will have small History Club name tags to sew into them.
- We need some volunteers for Wednesday, April 16. Our main task will be assembling the gift bags with the donated items. We will also finish up any remaining blankets, count and box the seat belt cushions, and count and box the caps. Let Therese know if you can volunteer that day.
- We will need a few volunteers with large capacity vehicles to help transport the blankets, caps, seat belt cushions, and gift bags from the Clubhouse to Cancer CAREpoint. Let Jamie know if you can help transport.

Thank you for your donation in March to help us buy fleece. At the March 19 dinner, you can donate cash or checks. Please make checks payable to the History Club of Los Gatos. You can also mail them to Pat Baker, 16661 Kennedy Road, Los Gatos 95032. If you use PayPal, please use treasurer@historyclubblosgatos.org and note Cancer CAREpoint.



Upcoming Events

Let's Put the FUN in Fundraising!

Dearest Club Members,

As you may know the upkeep of our club is very important to us as we use it as a rental for our income. It also takes a lot of time, energy, creativity, and cost to keep it in tip-top condition. The board, under the leadership of Joanne Rodgers, her highly capable daughter, Shannon, and our president, Jamie have taken the reins this year on some remarkable updates for our interior and exterior. Along those lines, we came up with a great way to help raise funds for some of these improvements.

In March, we are introducing our "BRICK FUNDRAISER"

Out in the front yard, where we will relocate our sign, the plan is to use some hardscape to beautify the space. And while we're at it, we can raise some much needed funds AND as a bonus, honor current and past club members, family members, and others.

We have partnered with Bricks R US (bricksrus.com), a nationally known company as a third party to assist us with the engraved bricks themselves as well as the logistical part of the fundraiser.

YOU can join in by easily ordering a brick engraved with a name or message. More details will be forthcoming. **EARLY BIRD special price for the 4" by 8" brick will be \$200. June 1 the price will go to \$250.** Your donation will cover the cost of the brick, installation, and club improvements. **Brick sales will begin in MARCH.**

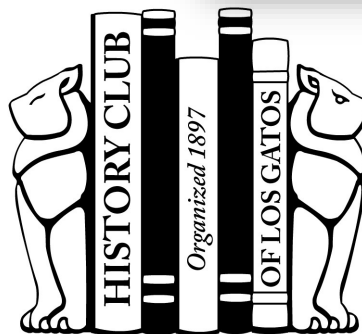
You will see the inscription of your choice honoring or memorializing people of your choice permanently engraved and featured prominently in the front of our club that will last a lifetime. We hope you will be enthusiastic in your response to this new and innovative plan!

Celeste Martin Melehan
Brick Project Co-Chair

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Upcoming Events

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Community • Social • Philanthropy

Member News



MARCH

Celeste Martin Melehan	3/2
Cindy Rasp	3/5
Nina Grayson	3/7
Susan Monahan	3/18
Hazie Campsey	3/10
Jamie Schwarzfeld	3/14
Susan Agnoletti	3/22
Sandee Jacobs	3/26
Donna Miller	3/29
Lisa Harris	3/30



Happy Club Anniversary

The following members are celebrating club anniversaries of 10-14 years this club year!

Rose Arnaudo	13 years
Kathy Mlinarich	12 years
Jean Stroud	12 years
LeAnn Clinton	10 years
Marylyn Copper	10 years
Sandee Jacobs	10 years
Donna Miller	10 years

**10-14
years**

Congratulations and thank you for making a difference!

Member News

Inspiration from Jubie Jaramillo

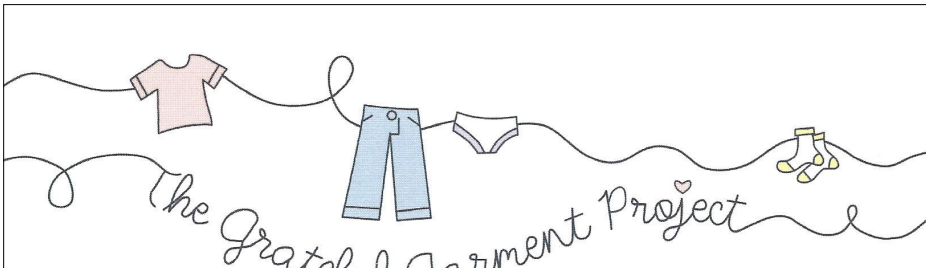
The greatest gift you can give someone is your time, because when you give your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get again!

—Anonymous

Philanthropy



Designated Dollars Thank you to everyone who donated in January to Good Karma Bikes. We raised \$822. Your generosity is much appreciated!



Dear The History Club of Los Gatos,
we are still breathless from your incredible
donations of \$54.85 and \$910.43 from your
Designated DOLLAR event.

Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Thank you for joining with us to help
restore dignity to victims of sexual
violence.

—The Grateful Garment Project Team—

Club Activities

You are cordially invited to the

Coffee Catch-up

When/Where: January 15, 2025 @ 10:30 – 12:30
at the History Club of Los Gatos

On Wednesday, January 15, 65 wonderful members and guests flocked to the Clubhouse for our first coffee morning of this year. We all enjoyed a talk delivered by Maggie Raye, the new owner of Icing on the Cake in Los Gatos. Maggie shared her background and how she went from employee to business owner, and was kind enough to answer many questions from our interested audience. We discovered that carrot cake is one of their most popular items, and that some of their bakers start work at midnight!

Our hostess committee really ran with the bakery theme, decorating each table individually with baking items brought from home - you may have spotted a beautiful gingerbread house cookie jar on one of our front tables. This was one of Lynne and Dick's wedding presents!

Of course, the committee provided a beautiful array of home-baked goods and a selection of fruit salads on our buffet table for everyone to enjoy. We received many compliments, but we were especially thrilled that Maggie was impressed with our baking efforts!

Our wonderful committee was Jan Amaral, Tenly Petrino, Judy Kennedy, Jean Stroud, and Linda Hoffman, and co-chaired by Lynne Dahms and Emma Jewell.

Emma & Lynne

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Club Activities

You are cordially invited to the
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Coffee Catch-up

When/Where: January 15, 2025 @ 10:30 – 12:30
at the History Club of Los Gatos



Club Activities

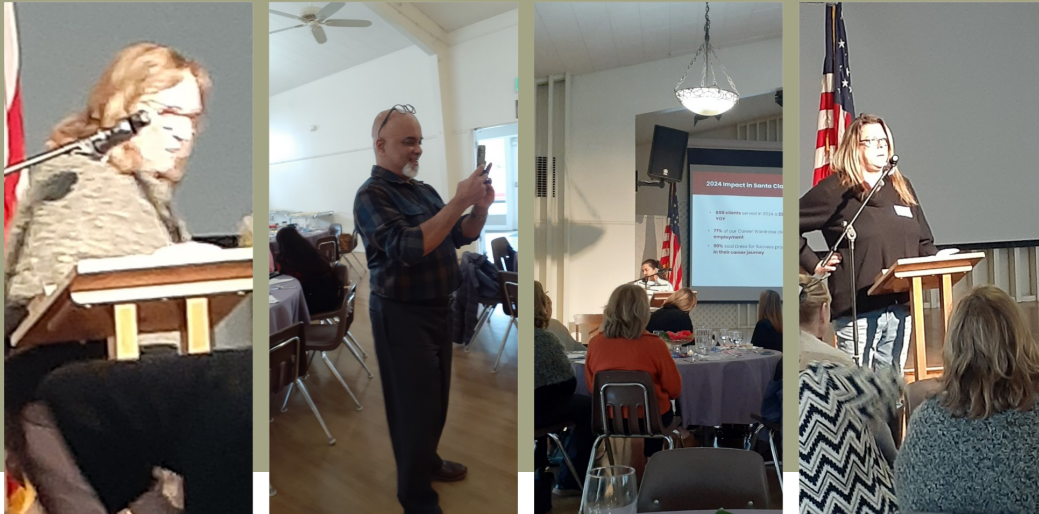
February Appreciation Luncheon



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Club Activities

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Activity Day – January 29, 2025



HISTORY CLUB

OF LOS GATOS

Book Discussion Group

In January, we had an Activity day FILLED with activity! We started out at 9:30am with our Saver's FUNdraiser crew of Mairead Donohue, Diane Dinardi, Pat Baker and Kathy Cerrito braving the cold to collect donations - lots of warm gloves involved! At 10AM, the Games began in the foyer. In addition to their normal round of Rummikub, they also played Left-Right-Center, and learned a new game called Slate.

At 12:30pm, we started the Book discussion - Anne Fisher moderated our book *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. We got very organized, and have our books and moderators for the next three Activity Days! LeAnn designed us a new Book Discussion logo, so we all got a sneak peek - thanks, LeAnn! If you would like to be on the book discussion email quarterly distribution,

contact Therese Wiese (theresewiese@gmail.com).

Fun group of 15 participated in games and the book discussion - Jubie Jaramillo, Karen Hirano, Toni Blackstock, Marylyn Copper, Mairead Donohue, Therese Wiese, Cathy Beltran, Mary Daily, Jamie Schwarzfeld, Anne Fisher, Vikki Pearce, Pat Baker, Kathy Cerrito, Pauline Ferrito, and Hazie Campbell.

April 30, 2025	<i>The Last Lighthouse Keeper</i> by Stuart McDowell. Moderator Cathy Beltran. Please note there are several books with this title. Be sure to choose the one by Stuart McDowell
July 30, 2025	We will do two books, <i>Under the Wide and Starry Sky</i> by Nancy Horan, and <i>A Wilder Shore - the Romantic Odyssey of Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson</i> by Camille Peri. Read one or read both. Jamie Schwarzfeld will moderate, but would like a co-moderator.
October 29, 2025	<i>James</i> by Percival Everett, Moderator Mary Daily

Editor's Corner

By Joy Silveira

The History Club of Los Gatos has been actively in existence since 1897.

That is an amazing fact, and it didn't just happen. Our club has endured and thrived throughout the years because of the hardworking women who have kept it alive. We stand on the shoulders of those women and are able to receive the benefits of membership today because of them.

Today, all members are encouraged to reflect on their role in shaping the future of our club. Its continued success depends on the contributions of today's members. By stepping up and sharing your talents in leadership roles, you help ensure that our club remains strong and thriving for future generations.

It is my privilege to serve as this year's Nominating Committee Chair. We have several openings for Officers and Appointees. They are:

Vice President/Programs

Editor, Cats' Tale

Hostess Coordinator

You may call me at any time, 408-674-5445, if you want to discuss any of these positions. You may also get a call from one of our committee members asking you to consider one of these positions. Please take the call and hear what they have to say. You will be amazed at the personal rewards of service for this club.

Make your shoulders the ones on which future members have stood.

