



CUPERTINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

# THE CORNERSTONE

Spring 2007

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## The Past Keeps CHS Moving Forward

By Mark McKenna

I'm now near the end of my two years as President, and boy, what a wild ride it has been! There were times when we scratched our heads and wondered if anyone paid attention to us. We have asked ourselves several times if the Cupertino Historical Society is relevant in Cupertino today. At my low point, I was given some sage advice that I will pass on to you.

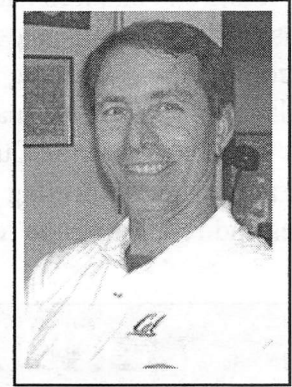
### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was sitting in my mother's hospital room minutes before our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner was to begin and wondering if I should stay or go to the dinner. Mom looked at me and knew that I had to be somewhere else (seldom do I visit my mom anytime in a suit). She said, "You have come to see that I'm alright, and I am. You need to go take care of business; I'll be here when you're finished." Somehow I made it through that evening, and Mom was there when I got back. And yes, she has fully recovered, and back to giving me hell for not visiting enough. So some things never change. But, that evening brought into focus why we need the Cupertino Historical Society.

We need to respect our past. Our past has formed who we are as a people, a city, a state, and a nation. To lose our past is to lose who we have become. That, ladies and gentlemen, is why the Cupertino Historical Society is relevant today. Our organization defines Cupertino by its history and by its willingness to change and move forward.

In the coming years, we will be putting together a team to work on the Stocklemeir property. Please give us a hand on this important project. Our incoming President, Helene Davis, will be very successful in leading us to the next level. She has already done a great job and will continue to do so in the future.

I would like to thank my board for the great support throughout my two years as President. You can think of me as the past, and remember what they say: The past may come back to haunt you.



## CHS Museum Manager's Report

By Nicole Rau



On January 9, 2007, our new exhibit had its gala opening, and several families featured in the exhibit graced us with their wonderful presence. Harsha Vaishnav and her family came to view her wedding sari on display from Gujarat (a state in the western part of India). Nicol Lea came out with several friends to view the gown of her mother, Cynthia Lee, from the 1950s, as well as her own wedding dress. She joined Donna Austin and me for

a lovely dim sum luncheon. And, descendants of early families of Cupertino came by to view dresses, top hats and photos from the 1900s.

On February 28, Hema Kundargi served as guest speaker at our "Gathering at the Crossroads" event and spoke about

### What's Inside

Members and Memorials.....	3
Volunteers Recognized.....	3
Exhibit Draws Praise.....	4
Getting Together with CHC.....	5

*Continued on page 2*

# CHS Manager's Report: A Busy Couple of Months!

*Continued from page 1*

Indian saris, styles and traditions. (Visit her website at [www.massala.com](http://www.massala.com).)

During the past two months, we have had over 600 visitors to the Museum to view the new exhibit and CHS has hosted several successful "Hands on History" events to accompany our new exhibit "East Meets West—Weddings and Cultures of Cupertino."

Adults and children had an opportunity to take home worksheets on the History of Valentine's Day and made cards for their friends and family. Also, the Year of the Pig began and we celebrated the Chinese New Year with the community by making lanterns. CHS also had a booth and offered "Hands on History" activities and displays at this year's Lunar New Year celebration.

In February, the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum and the California History Center Foundation held a joint board meeting to discuss our organizations and possible future projects, such as a joint speaker series and re-starting the recording of oral histories of early residents of Cupertino. Since both of our community

based groups share a common love of history, we left the meeting with enthusiastic anticipation of collaborating with each other on planning and sharing future projects.

Another organization that has begun to work closely with the CHS is the San Benito Historical Society. Starting in March, our historic and beloved Kelly Truck will be visiting their location on temporary loan, along with other objects from our collection, such as kerosene lanterns, ledgers, and small items to accompany a saloon display and the truck at their museum. It will be exciting to witness our truck in a new display and to be able to share it with a new audience. (Visit the San Benito Historical Society at: [www.sbchistoricalociety.org/](http://www.sbchistoricalociety.org/).)

I am both honored and excited to continue another spring with CHS and encourage everyone to stop by and see the new exhibit if you haven't already. Also, please join us at our next "Gathering at the Crossroads" event on May 30 as we host Louis Flood of Diablo Dance who will present "Pioneering Women—A History and Theatrical Presentation of the Life and Work of Isadora Duncan."

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Board Meetings

April 18 Social Room  
May 16 Social Room

### Volunteer Meeting

May 5  
9 a.m. at the museum

### Gathering at the Crossroads

May 30

### Annual Meeting

All members vote on slate of officers,  
new members and amended bylaws

### Potluck & Speaker Event

A theatrical presentation of the life and work of Isadora Duncan,  
Lois Ann Flood, Solo Dancer (Director/ Dancer with Diablo Dance)  
With a narrator/dance historian

### Hands on History Events

April 6, 1 to 3 p.m.

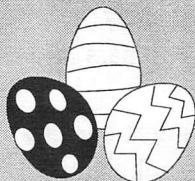
Celebrate Spring and Easter at the Museum

We will be pressing flowers, decorating Easter eggs  
and discussing how Easter and spring are enjoyed around the world

### Holidays

March is Women's History Month

April 8 Easter  
May 5 Cinco de Mayo  
May 13 Mother's Day





# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Membership gifts to the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum provide a base of support for programs, services and general operating. We appreciate the support and generosity of new members and continuing members.*

## Renewing Members

Jane Asher  
Ray and Ellie Bortner  
Audrey Butcher  
Charles and Kathleen Calhan  
De Anza Plumbing  
D. Michael Foulkes  
Hazel Fretwell  
Mark Mckenna  
Henry Mikulaco  
Mavis Smith  
Stevens Creek Quarry

## Memorial Contribution

CHS gratefully acknowledges a generous contribution from the Angelo (Cheet) Quintero Family (Linda, Nola, Faye, and Paula) in honor of Raymond Yonemura and Ann Zarko.

## Leave a Legacy

One way to have a lasting impact on your community is to help the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum preserve our history for future generations. We welcome an opportunity to talk with you about including the Society and Museum in your will or in other planned gifts.

Please contact Nicole Rau at (408) 973-1495 or via email at [cuphistorysoc@juno.com](mailto:cuphistorysoc@juno.com).

## A Call for Volunteers

*At the Cupertino Historical Museum, volunteers ARE the Museum!*

The time a volunteer spends at the Cupertino Historical Museum is often just as rewarding to him or her as it is to us.

If you have a love for the community, please join ours and help us show off Cupertino's past and present.

If you are available two Saturday afternoons a month, come down and interpret Cupertino history for our museum visitors and keep our Museum open!

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum should call 408-973-1495 or email us at [cuphistorysoc@juno.com](mailto:cuphistorysoc@juno.com).

## Volunteers Recognized at League Luncheon

Success for our museum is attributed to many things, but mostly to our group of wonderful volunteers. This year, our museum has nominated two volunteers, Loretta Bassman and Ray Bortner, for a special recognition luncheon hosted by the Junior League of San Jose.

The event is called "Compassion in Action." Our nominees will receive a framed Certificate of Appreciation and a Recognition Luncheon on Friday April 27, 2007 at the Santa Clara Marriott. Thank you Loretta and Ray for all of your hard work!

## Friends and Supporters Will Be Missed

Our heartfelt condolences to the families of these wonderful friends who have recently died.

### *Ann J. Zarko*

Passed away at home in Sunnyvale on Feb. 17. Ann, 96, was a native of Cupertino and a long-time member of the Cupertino Historical Society and the Sunnyvale Historical Society. Ann stored our Kelly Truck in her garage before it was moved to the Quinlan Community Center.

### *Cynthia Lee*

Passed away on Feb. 24. Cynthia had been a supporter of CHS and her daughter, Nicol Lea, is a member and a generous donor to our current exhibit. Cynthia's beautiful wedding dress is one of the gowns on display in our exhibit. She will be greatly missed.

### *Louis Mariani Sr.*

Died on Feb. 11. Mr. Mariani, 89, left behind a reputation as a sharp businessman, a record as a philanthropist, and a web of friendships among the valley's Slavic immigrants. Arriving from Croatia, he made a name for himself in the Silicon Valley and will be remembered as a special part of Cupertino's history by the CHS board and staff. He was born April 27, 1917.

# New Exhibit Draws Many Visitors, Much Praise

More than 600 people have come to the Quinlan Community Center to enjoy our current exhibit--proof positive of the appeal it has for much of our community. CHS has enhanced the display with several activities, too, all designed to shine the spotlight on the diverse cultures of our great little community!



## Thanks

We are grateful to the following individuals for their time and contributions to CHS:

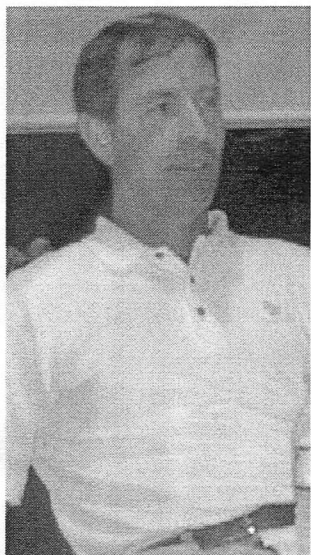
- ★ Paula Quinterno and Nola Quinterno for loaning the museum mannequins and supplies for the current exhibition.
- ★ Mike Mansch of Alotta's Deli and Whole Foods for providing us with delicious food and drinks for the Opening Reception
- ★ Hema Kundargi for speaking at our last potluck/ speaker event and offering CHS advice and information on Indian wedding saris.  
Visit her at her website: [www.massala.com](http://www.massala.com)
- ★ Corinne Rau for donating photo paper and printing.
- ★ Helene Davis, Ray Bortner, Donna Austin, Jessie Jaredi and Ram Sachs for helping with the installation and set-up of the exhibit.



*Nicol Lea with her Chinese wedding dress at exhibit, and wearing it in photo above. Group photo is of CHS supporters who were among the first to visit the display.*



## Joint Meeting Holds Promise for Partnerships



**Mark McKenna**

February's joint meeting between CHS and the California History Center (CHC) proved to be a fruitful one, leaving members from both organizations feeling enthusiastic about working together on future projects.

Each group shared some of the challenges it faces, with CHC focusing on civic education and statewide issues, while the scope of CHS's work is on programs and services within the city of Cupertino. Not surprisingly, each organization strives to maintain its value and relevancy within the community and both find that funding is always an issue.

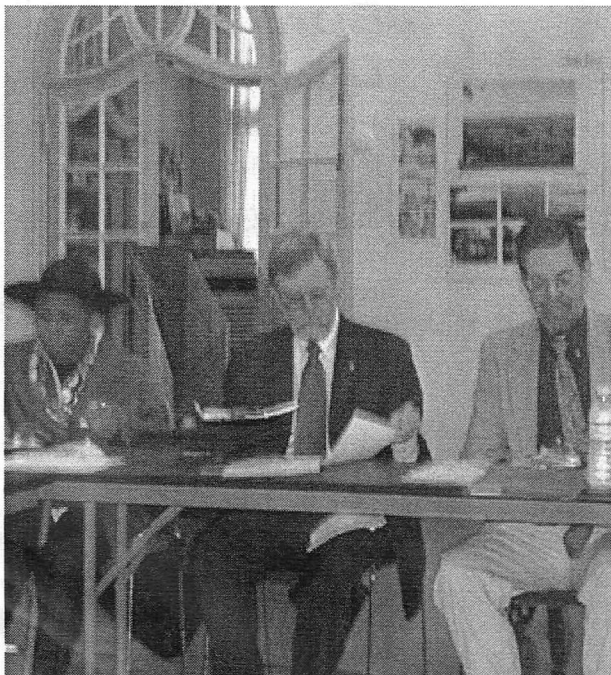
At the meeting, representatives of CHS and CHC participated in lively discussions about various opportunities to work together. President Mark McKenna suggested the formation of a westside historical group with surrounding cities, allowing for more extensive fund-raising and membership. A universal pass to all organizational events could be issued to each member, but each group would retain its own individuality.

Tom Izu, director of the CHC, said his group could work with CHS on small projects initially, such as guest speaker, oral history and archival programs. Ideas on how the two groups could join together on the Stockmeir house renovation were also discussed, including a suggestion to create an agricultural timeline. City Manager Dave Knapp explained that sewage on the property is an issue, but the city would be willing to offer some financial aid for the renovation if CHS could come up with about \$300,000.

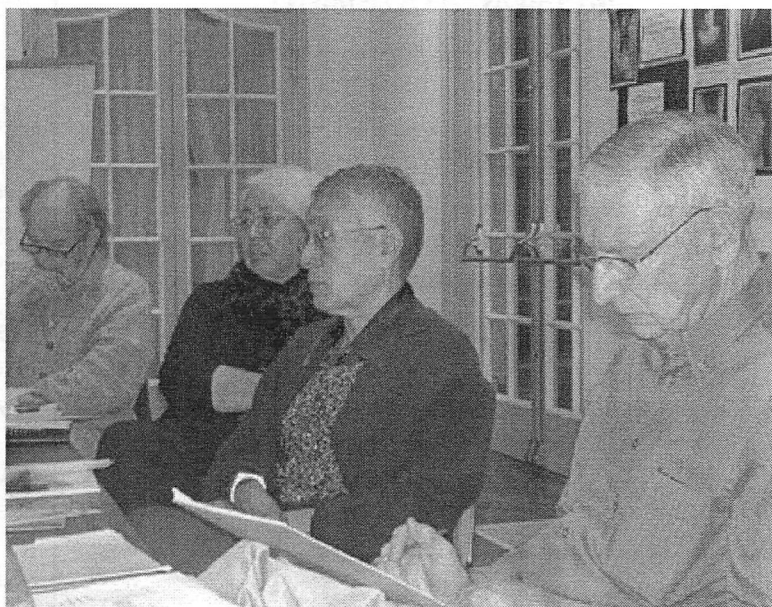
Both CHC and CHS see the benefit of involving De Anza College students in the historical aspects of the community. The two groups spoke about meeting quarterly and directors Nicole Rau and Tom Izu will get together to further discuss ideas for joint projects. In the meantime, a committee meeting with five representatives from CHC and CHS is planned in April.



**Thelma Epstein**



**Cozetta Guinn and Dave Knapp were among those who attended the meeting**



**Leslie Masunaga, Carol Wilkins Green and Darryl Stow participated in discussions by CHS and CHC members**

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cupertino Historical Society and Museum is to create a passion for lifelong learning, preserve a vanishing past and serve as a bridge to a shared future. We believe that reflecting a broad representation of experiences, perspectives and cultures encourages stewardship and interaction, honoring the past and enhancing the lives of current and future citizens.

### CUPERTINO HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Located in the Quinlan Community Center, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is free and open to the public.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Helene Davis  
Linda Walker  
Darryl Stow  
Donna Austin

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Museum Manager