



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum
presents

the Cornerstone

Spring 2013

Volume 23, Issue 3



The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum is holding its Annual Summer Fundraiser
Please join us for BBQ Dinner, Live auction and Winery tour

A Sip of History

STARS AND STRIPES

Picchetti Winery

13100 Montebello Road, Cupertino

Sunday, June 30, 2013

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Wine tasting and Tour

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner and Live auction



Tickets: \$50 per person / \$10 for children under 12

Please respond by June 17, 2013

For further information, please contact the
Cupertino Historical Society at 408.973.1495 or visit
www.cupertinohistoricalsociety.org

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
CHS Federal tax ID #94-2694547



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum

Mission Statement

We preserve and illuminate Cupertino's past to inspire youth, strengthen the sense of community, and shape a better future by making Cupertino history relevant and available to all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark McKenna | *VP - Fund Development*
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Ragini Sangameswara | *Designer*

The Cornerstone is published quarterly by the Cupertino Historical Society, a private, non-profit organization.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Donna Austin, President



These are exciting times for the Cupertino Historical Society because we are involved in so many historical things happening and evolving in our community.

Thanks to funding provided by the City of Cupertino, CHS will be working to install signs commemorating events of historical significance that took place along the Stevens Creek trail that runs

through McClellan Ranch, Blackberry Farm, and the Stockmeir property.

CHS was pleased to see so many guests, almost 300, attend our Winter Speaker Program in February. Brian Liddicoat presented a fascinating historical overview of "The Lost Railroad Tunnels of the Santa Cruz Mountains".

We also had a very successful "International Night" in March that celebrated the vibrant diversity in Cupertino. Over 200 guests attended the event and enjoyed an evening of music and food. Vice-mayor, Gilbert Wong, presented CHS with a proclamation for promoting Cupertino's cultural history. The performers were outstanding, and the food was a tasting experience across the continents.

In April the Santa Clara Valley History Collaborative (a partnership of the Cupertino Historical Society, the Cupertino Library Foundation, the Cupertino Library, and the California History Center at De Anza College) arranged for oral histories to be recorded by CreaTV at the Quinlan Community Center. The purpose of this project was to gather the memories and personal stories of local people who have lived in Cupertino and the Santa Clara Valley. By bringing the past to life through video, these memories will serve as a source of information for future generations.

CHS looks forward to our Annual Meeting on May 1 when society members will meet our board of directors and vote on the slate of officers for the 2013-2014 term. Also, Doug McNeil will speak about the history of Monte Sereno, "the serene mountain", and much more.

Best of all, on June 30 we will host our Annual Summer Fundraiser entitled "A Sip of History" at the Picchetti Winery. The theme will be "Stars and Stripes". This will be a celebration of our country with good food, great wine, and wonderful music. I hope to see many of you there.

The Cupertino Historical Society board works very hard to make history come alive. It is people's stories that make history real to all of us. Forget the guns and battles and dates and remember the people who lived and loved, recited poetry and sang and danced in their lives. That is what history is really all about!

Donna M. Austin

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

By **Donna Austin**, President

International Night was a wonderful celebration of people's stories and history in the making. There were more than 200 guests in attendance. Reno DiBono began the evening by playing patriotic American songs on his accordion as he mingled among the tables. Melody and Ramona Wang, a mother and daughter duet, sang a moving rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Steve Ting gave an inspirational talk about the history of the Cupertino Historical Society and listed recent CHS accomplishments. The Chiffon Music School performed on zengs, long zither like instruments, which were amazingly beautiful sounding. Monta Vista High School Bhangra team in colorful costumes danced in a swirl of rhythm and sound. There were beautifully dressed performers from the Srikrupa Dance Company and the Chinese Performing Arts of America. Everyone enjoyed the variety of music and talent.

Don Sun and Gail Fretwell Hugger were co-masters of ceremony and kept the program at a varied and even pace. Vice-mayor Gilbert Wong, on behalf of the mayor, presented CHS with a proclamation for our work to promote cultural history in Cupertino.

The food was wonderful and a varied tasting experience. Armadillo Willy's provided the best ribs in Cupertino and Peacock Indian Cuisine provided tasty fish, chicken and vegetarian dishes. The Chinese and Japanese food was also plentiful and delicious and no one went home hungry.

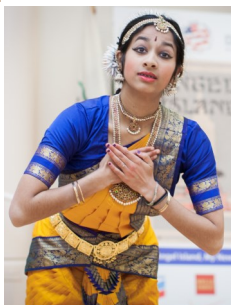
We thank numerous volunteers and our International Night committee: Don Sun, Mahesh Nihilani, Gail Fretwell Hugger, Darcy Paul, Donna Austin, and Ragini Sangamwara for executing this vibrant celebration of Cupertino's cultures. We look forward to next year when we will share more wonderful talent, food, and stories from our community.

Uihgur Dance Performance,
by a dancer from CPAA



The Zeng, A traditional
Chinese string instrument,
being played by a young
student of the Chiffon
Music School

Bharatanatyam -
classical Indian
dance performance
by a student of
Srikrupa Dance
Company



Thank You for Your Support

Gold Sponsor \$500

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Jim Walker

Apple

Donna Austin

Kapil Bhatnagar, Carlton Pace Risk Management

Don Sun, Sierra Tea

State Bank of India

Steve Ting, Shin Shin Education

Special Consideration

Ann Woo, CPAA

Chiffon Music School

Melody Wang, Ramona Wang

MVHS Bhangra group

Reno Di Bono

Sri Krupa Dance Company

Cupertino Chamber of Commerce

Armadillo Willy's

Hokkaido Seafood

Hu Catering Service

Peacock Indian Cuisine

Decorations

Aparna's Collections

Loretta Bassman

Joanne Longoria

CHS ANNUAL MEETING AND QUARTERLY SPEAKER PROGRAM



Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino Room
10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Refreshments - 6:30 p.m.

Election of Board - 7:00 p.m.

Presentation - 7:10 p.m.

Admission is FREE

Early photo in the Billy Jones orchard,
Winchester Blvd. and Daves Ave., Los Gatos.

THE BATTLE FOR PEACEFUL MOUNTAIN: THE LITTLE CITY THAT COULD

presented by **Doug McNeil**

Dough McNeil will entertain us with a history of the City of Monte Sereno. He is a Native Californian, born and raised in the Santa Clara Valley. Through Mr. McNeil's narrative we will learn what attraction brought celebrities Walt Disney and John Steinbeck to visit peaceful Monte Sereno. Other colorful stories include Billy Jones and his "Wildcat Railroad" and the connection between residents George and William Hitt with the largest fireworks factory west of Mississippi.

CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA MUSEUMS MAY IS CALIFORNIA MUSEUMS MONTH

This is an annual state event that celebrates the positive impact museums make on communities. And we have over 1,500 museums statewide! Here is a list of just some of the museums in our area.

Campbell Historical Museum & Ainsley House
(408) 866-2119 / www.ci.campbell.ca.us/museum

Los Altos History Museum
(650) 948-9427 / www.losaltoshistory.org

The History Museum in Forbes Mill Annex (Los Gatos)
(408) 395-7375 / www.museumsoflosgatos.org

Moffett Field Museum (Moffett Field)
(650) 964-4024 /

Morgan Hill Museum
(408) 779-5755 / www.mhhistoricalsociety.org

History San Jose
(408) 287-2290 / www.historysanjose.org

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles
(408) 971-0323 / www.sjqUILTmuseum.org

The Museum of Art And History (Santa Cruz)
(831) 429-1964 / www.santacruzmah.org

Saratoga Historical Foundation
(408) 867-4311 / www.saratogahistory.com

Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum
(408) 749-0220 /
www.heritageparkmuseum.org

Computer History Museum (Mountain View)
(650) 810-1010 / www.computerhistory.org

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum (San Jose)
(408) 947-3635 / www.egyptianmuseum.org

San Jose Museum of Art
(408) 271-6840 / www.sjmusart.org

The Tech Museum (San Jose)
(408) 294-8324 / www.thetech.org

THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY HISTORY COLLABORATIVE

By Helene Davis

The Santa Clara Valley History Collaborative* held our **Silicon Valley Stories Video History Project** on April 7, 2013, at the Cupertino Quinlan Center. We gathered memories and personal stories of community members in Cupertino and the greater Santa Clara Valley. The goal of the project was to bring the past to life. It is hoped that these memories will serve as a source of information and entertainment for the community at large.

CreaTV filmed the histories in 20-minute segments. A range of individuals was interviewed. There were youth from our local high schools, former and current civic leaders, and Cupertino Historical Society Board members. A close family member, friend or colleague conducted the interviews. The idea was to achieve a more personal touch in the interview. A DVD copy of the interviews will be catalogued and stored at the Cupertino Library, as part of its California, Western, Americana (CWA) collection and at the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum. Additionally, selected interviews may be included on the Library's website or the Cupertino Library Foundation's YouTube channel. Stay tuned . . .

Please visit the History Collaborative web page at <http://cupertinolibraryfoundation.org/santa-clara-valley-history-collaborative/>

* The Santa Clara Valley History Collaborative: the Cupertino Library, the Cupertino Library Foundation, the Cupertino Historical Society, and the California History Center at De Anza College.

HISTORIC SIGNAGE ALONG THE STEVENS CREEK TRAIL

By Darryl Stow

A key goal of the Cupertino Historical Society for many years has been to create a "Historic Walk" from McClellan Ranch Preserve to the Stockmeir property along the City of Cupertino's Stevens Creek Trail. The concept is to provide and install signs with historic text and photos along the trail to mark historic sites such as the Doyle Winery, Native American encampments, the Elisha Stephens home site, the Stockmeir farm house, and others.

To that end, CHS has been working with the City of Cupertino's Parks and Recreation Commission for approval to move forward with the project and with community groups, such as Cupertino Rotary and the Friends of Stevens Creek, for partnerships and funding.

While pursuing our goal, CHS became aware that as a result of the City's McClellan Ranch Master Plan process, the city staff was asked to address a process whereby signage along the Stevens Creek Trail would be upgraded, consistent in format and theme based (historical, agricultural or environmental). We also learned that the City's Capital Improvement Program budget for the current fiscal year contains an item of \$75,000 for use by the Public Works Department for this project. The City plans to hire a consultant for this project by June 30, 2013. The process would be as follows: Develop a theme; Decide location of signs; Design the sign format; Produce the signs; Install the signs.

It is the intention of the City to request input for the planning and design process from CHS and other interested community groups.

For the Cupertino Historical Society, we are delighted that the City has taken on this task and has the funding to implement it. We have on our Board one of Cupertino's historical experts in Gail Fretwell-Hugger (who writes the monthly "Roots" column for the Cupertino Scene). We are sure that she, along with other members, will be able to provide valuable input to the City on the selection of historical sites to be recognized and the placement of the appropriate signage.

IN MEMORIAM

Harlan Ray Bortner **September 18, 1934 – February 28, 2013**

Harlan Ray Bortner passed away February 28, 2013 after 78 glorious years. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Eleanor, and their sons, John and Matthew. Born in York, Pennsylvania, to Henry and Anna (Senft), Ray grew up in York and attended William Penn High School, York Junior College, and Michigan State University.

Ray arrived in California in June 1955 for a brief summer vacation and instead settled there. While living in Menlo Park, he met Eleanor Davis, the love of his life, and was married to her in 1962 by his uncle, Pastor Kenneth Senft, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Redwood City. Ray and Ellie lived in Sunnyvale before his job took them to Cape Elizabeth, Maine. After two years, they returned to California in late 1966 and moved into the Cupertino home they've shared ever since. Ray started a career in electronics at Lenkurt Electric before beginning a 32-year tenure at Fairchild Semiconductor in 1961. He finished his career at Flextronics, retiring shortly before his 70th birthday. Ray was part of the high-tech industry from the beginning and remained interested in it long after his retirement.

Ray volunteered at and served on the boards of West Valley Community Services and the Cupertino Historical Society. He was also a docent at the Stanford Athletics Hall of Fame.

A sports fan who was devoted to Stanford athletics – especially men's baseball and football, and women's volleyball – Ray also coached youth sports, served with YMCA Indian Guides, and was active at Immanuel Lutheran Church. He enjoyed gardening, big band music, barbecuing for friends and family, and family reunions in Pennsylvania.

Excerpts and photo from memorial service brochure.



FENCES TO BENCHES

To honor Ray Bortner and his dedication to the Cupertino Historical Society, a memorial park bench will soon be placed along the Stevens Creek Trail. The construction will be undertaken by Cupertino Rotary.

The bench design replicates historical fruit boxes and includes fruit label artwork from early local orchards as provided by the Cupertino Historical Society.

To make a donation towards Ray's memorial bench, please contact the CHS office at 408-973-1495.



WINTER QUARTERLY SPEAKER PROGRAM

By Donna Austin, President



Brian Liddicoat presents

On Tuesday, February 26, 2013, The Cupertino Historical Society held their Winter Quarterly Speaker Program. Brian Liddicoat gave a dynamic talk on the photographic history of the South Pacific Coast railroad line that once ran through the Santa Cruz Mountains from Los Gatos to Santa Cruz. He took us through the line's amazing construction in the 1870's and showed us with a photo presentation, what remains of the tracks and the great tunnels that are under Highway 17 and Summit Road.

He spoke to a very full house of almost 300 people at Quinlan. Many other historical organizations attended including Clampers from E Clampus Vitus of the Mountain Charlie Chapter. This is a colorful group with a sense of humor that believes in preserving California History in Santa Clara County. One example was when they built a monument to Elisha Stephens a true Clamper at heart.

Many lovers of trains or those who just had memories of the days the Santa Clara Valley had trains everywhere, came to hear Brian Liddicoat. I remember my family taking the train called the "Sunshine Special" from San Jose to Santa Cruz for 75 cents round trip. The train dropped us off at the boardwalk by the Carousel and near the roller coaster. His talk brought back all those memories.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THE TRAVELING TRUNK

Looking for a Unique Experience? Have you ever worked in a classroom as an aide, volunteer or teacher? If so, the Traveling Trunk Educational Program may just be the volunteer experience you have been looking for. Our show-and-tell program teaches the history of many items used in homes and orchards around 1900 to young audiences in local schools. Knowing you have reached out to children and adults who want to learn is a very **rewarding experience**.

Please contact Ragini Sangameswara at the CHS office at cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net for additional information.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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 help show off Cupertino's past and present.

Our volunteers help keep our museum open!

If you are available to volunteer for a two-hour shift, **Wednesday through Saturday** between the hours of **10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, please contact the Cupertino Historical Museum at **408-973-1495** or email us at cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBERSHIP GIFTS

Memberships to the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum provide a base of support for programs, services and general operating costs. We appreciate the support and generosity of new and renewing members.

The benefits of being a member of the Cupertino Historical Society & Museum are many:

- Store discounts
- Quarterly Speaker Program
- Quarterly newsletter
- Special events invitation
- Access to museum library

FEBRUARY thru APRIL 2013

RENEWING MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jim and Jane Asher | Paul and Wanda Mikulaco |
| Diane and Gino Benedetti | Kathy Nellis |
| Patricia Bustamante | Anne Ng |
| Rev. Roy Dunn | Hector Picchetti |
| Mary R. Eade | Inge Roberts |
| Ray Epstein | Pat and Barbara Rogers |
| Patricia and Welko Gasich | Dolly and Ed Sandoval |
| Eleanor Holt | George Sousa |
| Morris and Louise Hosoda | Darryl and Dorothy Stow |
| Jim and Pat Jackson | Steve and Jeannie Ting |
| Francis and Margaret Keeler | Irvin Webster |
| Orrin and Carolyn Mahoney | Bill and Judy Wilson |
| Eva Martin-Long | Chris and Kim Worrall |
| Bill and Mercedes McCarty | |

NEW MEMBER

William Mannion



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum Membership Application

☐ New Member

☐ Renewing Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ Individual \$35 ☐ Patron \$125 ☐ Director's Circle \$500
☐ Family \$50 ☐ Sponsor \$250 ☐ Benefactor's Circle \$1000

Please make checks payable to
The Cupertino Historical Society & Museum
10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014
If you would like to charge your membership fee to your credit card, please contact the museum at 408.973.1495 with your credit card information. We accept Master Card, VISA.
The CHS&M Federal ID is 94-2694547



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum

Quinlan Community Center
10185 North Stelling Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
Telephone: (408)973-1495
E-mail: cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net

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CHS Annual Meeting and Speaker Program Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino Room
10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino

THE BATTLE FOR PEACEFUL MOUNTAIN THE LITTLE CITY THAT COULD presented by Doug McNeil



Refreshments - 6:30 p.m.
Election of Board - 7:00 p.m.
Presentation at 7:00 p.m.
Admission is FREE



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BULLETIN BOARD

Museum Hours:

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

Annual Meeting / Spring Quarterly Speaker Program:

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

5:30 p.m., Quinlan, Cupertino Room

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

5:30 p.m., CHS

Holidays: QCC closed

Monday, May 27, 2013

President's Day



A Ship of History STARS AND STRIPES

Sunday, June 30, 2013

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Wine tasting and Tour

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner and Live auction

Picchetti Winery

13100 Montebello Road, Cupertino

WWW.CUPERTINOHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG