



Cupertino Historical Society & Museum presents the **Cornerstone**

Winter 2015

Volume 25, Issue 2

CHINESE HISTORY IN SANTA CLARA VALLEY

By Gail Fretwell-Hugger Chair, Museum Collection Committee

It's the New Year, 2015, and Cupertino Museum has a new exhibit. In conjunction with our annual International Night event, February 21, 2015 and the Chinese New Year, February 19, 2015, we are happy to present

"Pioneering the Valley" - Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley.

The large, informational panels of this traveling exhibit have been generously loaned to our museum from the Chinese Historical and Cultural Preservation Society.



We also have a beautiful new display case, made for us by



Eagle Scout Sujay Patwardhan and his team troop #476 in Cupertino. The case contains artifacts from New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum that show early objects used by the Chinese workers at New Almaden Mine in the late 1800's and early 1900's.



We are fortunate to have some exhibit items from our own collection. Former Cupertino resident, Nicol Lea donated

two lovely hand painted screens and a stunning red traditional wedding outfit laden with silver and gold ornamentation. Nicol Lea and her family owned the well-known China House restaurant on De Anza Blvd. for many years some decades ago.



Please come in and view this new and highly educational exhibit. The museum has also retained the flower growers exhibit to go along with the "Pioneering the

Valley" exhibit. Both exhibits will be on display at the museum from February through late spring 2015.



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.

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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

So many exciting things are happening! We set up our new exhibit on the history of the Chinese in the Santa Clara Valley. The Eagle Scouts completed a show case for the museum which will exhibit some Chinese artifacts.



We are also getting ready for another terrific International Night with food and dancing and music.

This will be at Quinlan on February 21st, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. It will be truly an eclectic event with people of all ages and cultures sharing. History is fun if you do it right and International Night is the right way to celebrate history.

While Cupertino is evolving and changing somethings we hope will stay the same. We love the Stevens Creek Corridor through McClellan, Blackberry and Stockmeir. Many of us think the park should be preserved for plants and animals and reflect the rich history that took place there. Several of us from the board have participated in the signage meetings, the overall plan for the park in study sessions and parks and recreation meetings. We come to the final stretch at the City Council level on February 3rd. We will keep you posted in future newsletters.



I met with Lou Mariani who took me through his parent's house on the corner of Homestead and Canary. It was their ranch house where four generations lived amongst flourishing orchards. All that land is now part of Apple and new housing. So one more landmark will be lost to seven

brand new homes. I'm glad I got to see it.

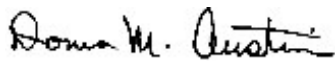
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And speaking of houses, one of our board members, Sean Sullivan got a company to come up to Snyder Hammond House to clear the brush and rototill the land. We have a daily watchman keeping an eye on the property. It is well cared for but still inaccessible because the railroad owns the right of way and will let only the owners through the gate.

Please feel free to visit our museum, volunteer to help, or call with questions or ideas anytime. All of us love hearing from you.

"To me, history ought to be a source of pleasure. It isn't just part of our civic responsibility. To me, it's an enlargement of the experience of being alive, just the way literature or art or music is." David McCullough



Donna Austin
President

Historic Celebrations

By Sharon Bryan

On Saturday, October 18, CHS participated in not one but two historic celebrations. The Cupertino Library celebrated its 10th anniversary, while the Santa Clara County Library District was celebrating its 100th. We presented a well received table displaying many pictures from our archives related to the orchards, vineyards and farms of Cupertino, as well as our nearly life-sized portrait of Elijah Stephens. Throughout the day we ran our short video "From Apples to Apples", and visitors to our exhibit played 'Guess the Fruit' by reaching into a bag and guessing by shape the fruit in their hand. Prizes for the game included organic fruit candy and stickers. Libraries throughout time have been integral to keeping history available for each new generation, so we couldn't imagine a more perfect fit with the Cupertino Historical Society.



FROM THE EDITORS

By Sharon Bryan

Hello All!
As the newest editor of The Cornerstone, I am energized and looking to make this a meaningful publication for our members and our members to be.

I believe that there is a distinction between history and memories. History ultimately winds up in schoolrooms and textbooks and online sites. It's quoted and used as arguments for or against whatever is taking up space in the news of the day. It's accompanied by statistics and facts, photos and maps. History is very important, because it reminds us of where we came from; and without it we are, truly, doomed to repeat our mistakes.

But memories are more humble, more personal. They are part of the disappearing art of storytelling. When we share memories, we connect. Perhaps you grew up in the Midwest, but when I tell you about wading in Los Gatos Creek to catch tadpoles, you can share memories with me of some wonderful pond where you fished in August and skated in January. Every continent, every nation, city, village and neighborhood in the world has a creek or a pond, orchards or farms or ranches, parades and celebrations, the meanest teacher in the world and the teacher who inspired you to follow your dream. We are, especially in Cupertino, from all over the globe, but we have much in common.

So share with me how we can make The Cornerstone more relevant to you with both history and memories. We've had wonderful articles in the past that take on broad subjects of historical significance and we've had local memories as well. Perhaps you would like to see more photos from Cupertino's past? How about contests to identify locations of significance in "The Valley of Heart's Delight"? Should we include articles that tie this area to our national history? Why not perspectives about the impact of "American" events on residents from other places? I know where I was when Kennedy was shot, or how it felt to watch the first steps on the moon – but where were you and did it affect your life if you weren't living here? I want to know what would interest you, because I am sure it will interest others. To reach me by email, please put "Editor" in the subject line and send your thoughts to cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net, or my daytime number is 408.588.7214. I look forward to hearing from you.

CHS QUARTERLY SPEAKER PROGRAM

USING THE HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLASSROOM TO CONNECT ACADEMIC, PUBLIC, AND PERSONAL HISTORIES

presented by Bonnie Belshe

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. / Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino Room

10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino

Admission is Free

Bonnie will be speaking on using the high school survey course as a means of getting students to see beyond history as a list of dates and be able to connect themselves and their families to the history. By focusing on the primary sources, images, and oral histories as a tool of engagement she works to encourage the next generation of young historians.



Bonnie Belshe is a St. Louis native that has since migrated to the Bay Area. She graduated from Saint Louis University with her Bachelors, a Masters of Arts in Teaching from University of San Francisco, and a Masters of Arts in History from San Jose State University. Bonnie teaches US History and AP US History at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino. She was named the 2014 California History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

TIPS FOR RECORDING OR WRITING YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY

From CHSM Archives

Recording or writing your family's history can be a long and overwhelming task. To make the process a little easier (and more fun), the following are some helpful hints:



1. Start with what you know best and that comes most easily to mind. That might be your immediate family, a favorite aunt or uncle, or a parent or grandparent.
2. At first writing or recording, its alright to write or talk freely, and by association. Don't try to limit your information at first. What might, at first glance, seem rambling and unconnected, is really more orderly than you think... and is a great exercise in recall.
3. Make notes of things you would like to cover - they can be as broad as occupation and education or as specific as an important "life event" or an accomplishment of a family member.
4. Accuracy on names and dates is very important. If you are unsure of a specific date and /or name and /or sequence of events - just say so.
5. Try to capture the essence of what life was like for your ancestors, so any detail on day to day living would be appropriate. Examples include, cost of

clothing, food, transportation ... role family played in community ... games and toys the children played ... role of religion in the family... etc.

6. Any supplemental information (diaries, letters, etc.) or photos might have on your family will enhance your written/recorded history.



Join us for an entertaining evening
to celebrate different cultures!!

- ✦ Culinary Tastings from America, China, India, Italy...
 - ✦ Multicultural Entertainment
 - ✦ Fantastic gift drawings
- 

Cupertino Historical Society & Museum proudly presents

International Night 2015!

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Registration: 6:00 p.m. Dinner : 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment: 7:00 p.m.

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

Tickets: \$25

For tickets please call **408.973.1495** or email **cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net**

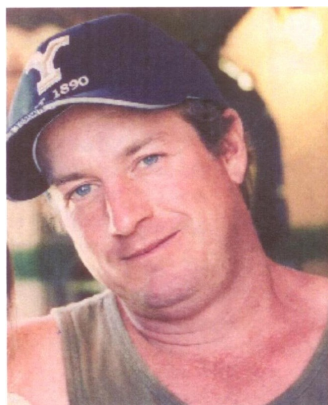


Cupertino Historical Society & Museum 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. www.cupertinohistoricalsociety.org
All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. CHS&M Federal tax ID # 94-2694547

IN MEMORIAM

David "Dave" Matthew Dixon

September 25, 1963 - December 27, 2014



Dave passed away on December 27, 2014 while vacationing with family in Angels Camp. He was 51 years old. Dave was preceded in death by his loving parents Maxine and Donald Dixon of Cupertino.

The Dixons are one of Santa Clara Valley's pioneer families. At the

turn of the last century and for several years the Dixons ran the Cupertino Store at the CrossRoads.

Through Aunt Florence's involvement with the Cupertino Historical Society, Dave was introduced to future wife Corinna Schoenfelder in 2000 when she was researching the Dixon family history.

Dave was devoted to his friends and family. Friendships were made easily and truly treasured. His kindness extended to animals. He doted upon his rescued Rottweilers Romel and Monda and recently transitioned his devotion from mega-dog to adoring cat companion Spacey.

Dave is survived by his wife Corinna Dixon of San Jose, CA; sister Amy Dixon Radakovich and family of Oswego, IL; birth-mother Patricia Halpin of Watford, England; birth-father Tom Pulley of Orange, CA; birth-sister Carol Richardson and family of Angels Camp, CA; and birth-sister Susan Barton and family of Hemel Hemstead, England.

Robert Anton Saich

September 2, 1959 - November 28, 2014

He was 55. Robert grew up on the family apricot ranch in Cupertino. He spent all his life in fruit farming. He is survived by his wife Donelle.

Norman M. Damico

March 4, 1928 - December 18, 2014

Born and raised in Cupertino, served in the US Army 54-56. He had a 38 Year career with Paul Masson. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Virginia.

Hector Picchetti

January 14, 1917- November 26, 2014

Hector Charles Picchetti passed away peacefully at his home in Cupertino on November 26, 2014. Born January 14, 1917 at the Picchetti Ranch where he and



his two brothers and four cousins grew up amongst the orchards and vineyards of their family's homestead.

Hector was the patriarch of a large family that extended through the Santa Clara Valley and beyond. He was the devoted husband of

Zorka Vlaovich Picchetti for 50 years and loving father to daughter, Nita and son, Michael. He raised his family in Cupertino, not far from the rolling hills of Monte Bello where he was born. He lovingly nurtured eleven grandchildren and sixteen great children. A skilled inventor and handyman, he was employed for many years at Richard Woelffel Cannery as superintendent and later worked at Stapleton and Spence. He taught his family through his actions, guidance and hard work and inspired others with his creativity and imagination. He personified the wonderful work ethic and commitment to family that we all admired and desperately seek to discover in our increasingly complex world. He was generous and kind to all he knew and was exceptionally humble and quiet about his good deeds. As he aged, he became a "loud" voice but only because of hearing loss. He kept his sense of humor and independence to the end and his family is happy to know he is free from a weak and aging body.

CUPERTINO PICCHETTI RANCH BLACK PANTHER HISTORY



On the left is a photo of 97 year old Hector Picchetti holding the model 1884 45-70 Winchester from the Picchetti Ranch. Hector, who was born in the yellow house on the winery grounds last remembers firing this rifle when he was 12 years old. He shot at a black panther that had escaped from the Zigler Ranch across from the Stevens Creek Dam. He believes the Zigler family brought the panther from a San Francisco zoo. He relates that the smoke from the black powder was so thick he couldn't see to take a second shot.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THE TRAVELING TRUNK

The Traveling Trunk Educational Program offers a unique opportunity to share your love of Cupertino history with children and adults in schools and senior centers. Our show-and-tell program teaches the history of many items used in homes and orchards around 1900 to young audiences in local schools and adults in senior centers. Our presentations are always warmly received and it is so rewarding to open up that bygone era to a new generation. The children are amazed at what life was like before electricity and how dressy the clothes were.

If you think you might like to volunteer with this program, please contact Ragini Sangameswara at the CHS office at cuphistsociety@sbcglobal.net for additional information. Feel free to "shadow" us to see if this is a good fit for you.

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

NOVEMBER 2014 thru JANUARY 2015

RENEWING MEMBERS

Steve and Suzi Andrews
Rosalny Frolich
Marshall and Roberta Holliman
Gail Fretwell-Hugger
Violet Humphrey
Gail and Howard Jensen
Wendell and Shari Kerr
Janet London
Bob and Janet Meyers

NEW MEMBER

Sharon Bryan
Cupertino Chamber of Commerce
Beverly Lenihan



Thank you Annual Fund Drive Donors

Thank you to supporters of the Cupertino Historical Society who so graciously supported this year's Annual Fund Drive 2014-15. CHS raised a total of \$ 3745 towards ensuring our mission to preserve and illuminate Cupertino's past.



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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IN THIS ISSUE

The Cornerstone

Cupertino Historical Society & Museum

The Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley
By Gail Fretwell-Hugger
President's Corner
By Donna Austin
From The Editors
By Sharon Bryan
Historic Celebrations
By Sharon Bryan
Tips for recording or writing your family's history
From CHSM Archives

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.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2015. 5:30 p.m., Conference Room, QCC
Wednesday, March 18, 2015. 5:30 p.m., Conference Room, QCC
Wednesday, April 15, 2015. 5:30 p.m., Conference Room, QCC

Holidays: QCC closed

Monday, February 16, 2015. President's Day

CHS Quarterly Speaker Program

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WWW.CUPERTINOHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG