



Nicasio Historical Society

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Volume XX

Number 2

Fall 2023

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Letter from the President

New Board Member

We warmly welcome Robin Allen, the newest member of our Board of Directors. We are delighted to have her on board.

Twentieth Anniversary Event



Mikki McIntyre & Barbara Snekkivik

Lamb Shank, NY
Steak, Salmon and
Eggplant Parmesan.

After dinner, I welcomed our 103 guests, including a special "Welcome Home" to Coast Miwoks Joe Sanchez and Dean Hoaglin, who recently purchased a small portion of their ancestral Nicasio homeland.



Dewey & Kerry Livingston



We held our Twentieth Anniversary Celebration at Rancho Nicasio on Thursday September 14. It was a balmy late summer evening when guests began to arrive on the Rancho patio. Sipping drinks served by Nasso at the outdoor bar, they enjoyed chatting with neighbors and friends.



Amy Morse & Sue Loar

Cocktails and convivial conversations were followed by dinner indoors. The delicious Rancho selections were



Jason & Monica Snell

Our video presentation, *A Brief History of Nicasio in the Words of Its People*, was the next thrill. It depicts Nicasio's history with 250 photographs paired with narration excerpted from interviews and some published works.

We sincerely thank our Nicasio Historical Society members and the 103 guests at our anniversary celebration, many of whom included donations with their RSVPs, for their continued and generous support.



Susan Crosby, Cia Donahue, Judi Bauerlein, John Littleton & Elaine Doss

“Looking at Nicasio today, who would have realized what a large, vibrant community of farmers, towns people and Miwoks once co-inhabited the valley. We, like many in Marin, had no idea of what was lost with the construction of the Nicasio Reservoir in the early 1960s. Kudos to the Historical Society for documenting the history in pictures and words.”

Tom Hecht of San Rafael

“The historical society event was historic in its own right, such interesting information, illuminating photographs, unexpectedly delicious food and an audience completely immersed in the dream of your beautiful part of the world. Thank you!”

Susan Crosby of Napa



Dean Hoaglin with Pamela & Joe Sanchez



Kathy & Tom Hecht with Dean Hoaglin & Pamela Sanchez

“The slide show you put together was excellent – very informative and entertaining – and showed a huge amount of work on your part. Thank you!”

Stephen Lewis



Videographer Elani Ferri & Dan Breaux



Katherine Holm Drady 1941-2023

Kathy Drady was a founding board member and secretary of the Nicasio Historical Society. She passed away peacefully on May 31, 2023 at her home in Petaluma with her family by her side. Kathy was born in 1941, grew up in Santa Venetia and moved to Nicasio in 1968 with her husband “Spike” Drady to raise her family. She became an enthusiastic and active supporter of her new community. Kathy was an amazing mom to her three children, Dorothy, Tony and Angela. And she was so proud

of her granddaughters, Nicole and Alexandra. In addition to her devotion to the Nicasio School Parent Club, she became involved and gave tirelessly to many of the volunteer organizations in Nicasio: Saint Mary’s Church, Nicasio 4H and the Nicasio Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. If there was an event being held in Nicasio, Kathy was there: in the kitchen at Palm Sunday Brunch, working the door at Fire Department fundraisers, taking notes as Secretary of Ladies Auxiliary at meetings... Kathy was the embodiment of a good neighbor and trusted friend.

From Jody Cooper Martin: Kathy Drady was my neighbor on Old Rancheria Road. When we first moved in 48 years ago, Kathy welcomed us and made sure we were invited to events such as the NVFD BBQ and Ladies Auxiliary meetings. She helped our boys sign up for Red Sox baseball and then 4H and our whole family became involved in all that this lovely community of Nicasio has to offer. Dorothy and Angela became trusted babysitters, as two more boys were born. And through the years, we were comforted to know that Kathy was nearby as back up to her babysitting daughters!

From Arden Wood: A cherished memory for me is that Kathy made sure that her granddaughter Nicole, for the whole nine years that she was at Nicasio School, attended every single after-school Art class that I taught. She was so appreciative and full of encouragement for me throughout my time as Art teacher at Nicasio School. She was a very loving and kind grandmother and always so proud of her granddaughters. Kathy was an example for us all!

From Grace Rogers: I remember gatherings at the Drady house for pumpkin carving when our kids (in their 40's and 50's now!) were at Nicasio School. There was always such an atmosphere of fun and energy. The feeling was devotion to children and the creation of joyful memories for them. And as a member of the Nicasio Volunteer Fire Department, I remember Kathy providing sandwiches and hot coffee to all the volunteers fighting the historic Lafranchi barn fire. She was one of those rare souls who is always there for their community.

From Liz Bourne: When I think of Kathy Drady, I immediately see her bright blue eyes and her ear to ear, warm and welcoming smile, an attribute that I will always remember. I first met Kathy at St. Mary's Church when I moved to Nicasio in 1991. She was so kind to my family, making space for us to volunteer and become a larger part of the Church community. At that time, Gloria Lafranchi and I had some new ideas we were hoping to implement, which could be challenging at times, but Kathy gave us the opportunity to try new things and work together. We eventually gained her confidence, and a wonderful team was born!

As most people reading this will know, when you are a part of the Nicasio Community, your volunteer efforts cross many lines... from St. Mary's, to the school, Ladies Auxiliary, Fire Department, Land Owners Association, Historical Society and more.

Through my volunteer efforts in quite a few of these organizations, I saw first-hand how dedicated Kathy was to our community. She attended every meeting and was always first to volunteer where needed, whether it be working the door at Palm Sunday Brunch, serving food at the

Ladies Auxiliary BBQ, or hosting Fire Department Board meetings at her home. She wasn't afraid to let you know if she had a better idea or if she disagreed with you as well, and that's because she really cared. Wherever or whenever I saw her, that smile was always the first thing to greet me, with a loud "Hi Liz!" heard before I even walked through the door. She loved having people in her home, serving coffee and cake to the attendees and even if you just popped in to drop something off or pick something up, there she was, offering a cup of cheer. I feel so blessed to have known her so intimately and to have learned so much from her about what it means to truly be a part of something. She was a big part of Nicasio, and Nicasio was a big part of her.

She was beloved by everyone who knew her and her legacy to our community will always be remembered. Rest in glory my dear friend... and thank you for everything I learned from you.

From Amy Morse: When I first moved to Nicasio in 1985, I was invited to join the Nicasio Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Such luck! As a 30-year-old and soon to be young mother, here was an amazing group of

community-minded, wise women. And Kathy was an excellent mentor.

I was new to volunteering, and I thought it was me that was giving of myself to the community. But what I learned from Kathy is that volunteering is a gift to oneself, and it is an opportunity to form friendships with remarkable neighbors. Kathy was fun to work with, quick to laugh and she always made time for a chat in her kitchen.

Kathy attended all the Nicasio School functions long after her own kids

had grown up and moved on. She helped to make our community fabric strong. She showed up and with caring attention helped out in whatever way was needed. I miss her.



Ann Lafranchi, Mary Lafranchi,
Kathy Drady & Grace Farley