



# The Society Page

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

December, 2019

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## Please Join Us for Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heritage Luncheon

You are invited to celebrate Gilroy's history with six seniors who helped shape it.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**Old City Hall Restaurant, 7400 Monterey Street**

**11:30 AM - No Host Social Hour**

**12 Noon - Lunch, followed by**

**Oral History Film Program by 152 West Productions**

**\$30 per person advance purchase only** (no paper tickets issued)

Look for your invitation in the mail before January 1st. If you did not receive an invitation in the mail please contact the society by January 18th to make your reservation.

**Special seniors** portrayed this year will be:



**Dr. Jim Ebaugh,**  
founder of Gilroy  
Veterinary Hospital



**Edith Edde,** City and  
County Planning  
Commissioner, fabric  
shop owner



**Don Gage,** Gilroy  
Councilman and  
Mayor, County  
Supervisor



**Ron Gurries,**  
businessman and  
building owner



**Estella Hoey,**  
ranching wife and  
caretaker of Ousley  
family history



**Betty Kelly,** lifetime  
telephone operator  
and supervisor

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## A Gift for Our Endowment Fund

It was a cause for a great Thanksgiving! In early November our Society received an anonymous gift of \$50,000 for our Museum Endowment Fund. We were all overwhelmed! This puts us MUCH closer to being able to hire a part time Museum Director/Curator, and just in the nick of time. Here are our balances at the Gilroy Foundation as of the end of September, 2019.

Our own Gilroy Museum Endowment Fund		\$267,109.68
Lindeleaf Fund	+	<u>\$106,644.32</u>
Total		\$373,754.00

The Lindeleaf Fund at the Gilroy Foundation was started by **Warren Lindeleaf** in honor of his parents, early Society members. Our own Museum Endowment Fund benefitted greatly from deceased board member **Linda Burnett's** bequests of \$75,000. The balance we earned through **YOUR** generous support and investment earnings from the Gilroy Foundation. Add this wonderful gift received in November and it puts us up to a grand total of \$423,754! That is enough to hire a part time person at \$20/hour in the next few months. We've been working toward this goal for ten years and it is exciting to see the possibility becoming REAL!

### Our Progress So Far...

For quite a while we've have been discussing HOW to hire a part time person. What do we need to know? What "rules" must we follow? The City's Human Resources Director suggested we consult the Gilroy Foundation or the Gilroy Downtown Business Association for advice. We felt the Downtown Business Association was most similar to our needs at the Museum and in September three of our board members met with **Gary Walton** and **John Teft** of the GDBA. They were most helpful and we learned a lot! In addition to their employee who works 30 hours/week they have a bookkeeper who does payroll and pays their invoices after approval by their board. This, of course, is an additional expense, but would be a very good plan for the Society also.

We now have a valuable sub-committee at work writing a job description for Wonder Woman (or Wonder Man). We do have information from other museums such as Healdsburg, Petaluma and San Luis Obispo. **Tom Howard** (current Master of the Museum) and **Cathy Mirelez** (former City supervisor of the Museum) and **Eileen Cavallaro** (Trusty Treasurer) of the Society comprise the sub-committee. Their recommendations will return to the Board for discussion and possible editing. Then we can begin to put the word out. In general, this person must be able to set priorities for the Museum, educate and supervise our valuable volunteers, and do administrative duties related to the Museum. This job will be approximately 20 hours/week.

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## Volunteers' Christmas Luncheon

Our Valuable Volunteers were honored at a Christmas luncheon at Old City Hall on December 4th. Board members also participated, bringing the number of guests to 29. **Barbara Biafore** brought beautiful red and white cyclamen plants for table decorations and Joanie Lewis furnished a huge cake. Everyone received a gift from the Museum, an enlarged copy of the 1885 Bird's Eye View of Gilroy engraving, suitable for framing.

After a delicious lunch **Tom Howard** (Master of the Museum) reviewed how many visitors, children's tours, walking tours, research requests and classroom visits have been made over the last almost eleven years since we began staffing the Museum in February of 2009. He also revealed that he and his wife Jenny plan to move to Petaluma, perhaps as early as March! His daughter, son-in-law and a new grandson are apparently a powerful lure. We gave him a farewell gift certificate at Old City Hall and will miss him a great deal. Now you can see why it is a good thing that we are able to hire a successor soon. At the end of the lunch we presented her daughter Wendy with a plaque of appreciation for restaurant owner **Fran Beaudet's** faithful support of the Society in many ways.

All our volunteers are important to the success of the Gilroy Museum. Several of them have special talents or interests. **Mark McPherson** is our Railroad History expert, **Robyn Houts** has almost finished the new Amah Mutsun exhibit, **Barbara Biafore** and **Cathy Mirelez** have created many attractive displays. **Betty Kelly** deserves special recognition for her service as a Lead every Tuesday since 2009. She retired in June and celebrated her 90th birthday at the end of August. It took a team of our most dedicated volunteers to replace her: **Joanne Fierro, Joe Robinson** and **Susan Voss**.



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## Our Sesquicentennial Is Coming Up – 1870 - 2020

Do you know that word? It means 150 years! The City's 150 Committee is chaired by **Amanda Rudeen** and is working on many plans for 2020. Other committee members are **Jane Howard** from Visit Gilroy, **Rachelle Bedell**, the City's civic engagement coordinator, **Shawna Freels**, our City Clerk, **Lindsay Hack**, Teachers' Assn. President, **Nancy Maciel** from Gilroy Downtown Business Assn., **Toby Echelberry**, City Historian, **Robert Weaver**, retired, **Victoria Wright**, Event Coordinator at the Chamber of Commerce, **Connie Rogers** from the Gilroy Historical Society and Mayor **Roland Velasco**.

When will we celebrate? All year long! How will we celebrate? Here is what we know so far:

- Last summer the Art and Culture Commission sponsored a contest to design a logo for the year. The winner was artist, native Gilroyan and Society member, Carol Peters.
- There will be a website at: [https://yourvoice.cityofgilroy.org/150th Celebration](https://yourvoice.cityofgilroy.org/150th%20Celebration). Among many other things it will have a link to our own Stories of Gilroy Heritage DVDs. You can also find the videos by visiting GilroyHistoricalSociety.org or on YouTube.com and entering Gilroy Historical Society in the search bar.
- Richard Young has offered to donate a banner with the logo to hang over the Museum door. Soon there will be a 150 banner across Monterey Street and banners on the light poles downtown and around the City. There may be an opportunity to sponsor a banner.
- The Museum will have a special exhibit depicting the years from 1870 to 2020. Cathy Mirelez and Susan Voss are working on it now.
- March 12, 2020 – will be the actual day of the anniversary. The Chamber Mixer will be held at Old City Hall upstairs with appetizers and a no-host bar. Speeches and formalities!
- A family activity 150th Day is planned for Saturday, March 14th.
- A time capsule to be stored at City Hall and opened in 50 years. Do you have a suggestion for the contents? Joe Robinson has already suggested a Gilroy Strong T-shirt!
- An El Camino Real bell has been suggested as a joint project with the Clampers, perhaps to be placed near the entrance to the Paseo on Monterey St.
- Gilroy Police are planning to have a special 150 badge and also a Challenge Coin.

The 150 Committee welcomes your suggestions. They are hoping that each club or organization in Gilroy will work the 150-year theme into events they are planning. The logo may be used by any group who wants to get into the spirit of the anniversary.

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## Train Station National Register Plaque Unveiling

It was such a feat getting our Southern Pacific Railroad Depot on the National Register of Historic Places that we thought we should make a Big Deal out of it. An unveiling ceremony will take place on Saturday, January 18th at 10 AM. The Chamber of Commerce will provide a ribbon cutting too. The plaque is very handsome and gives credit to the City of Gilroy for restoring the station in 1998. Therefore, we are inviting the Mayor and City Council and YOU to the occasion. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

The Society has a policy of providing National Register plaques to qualified buildings. So far, we have given them to Old City Hall, the Carnegie Library (Museum), old Wheeler Hospital and the Holloway House. The train station will be our fifth plaque. We'd like to give one to the Christian Church across the street from the Museum, but they haven't said OK. Of course, we want to give one to the Miller Red Barn but are waiting until the restoration is complete. Our Cedar Tree Row on Hecker Pass is on the National Register, but we may need to complete a separate application for a California Landmark in order for CalTrans to allow and provide tan highway markers.

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### Memorial Gift Received

Board Member Dave Matuszak has given us a large donation in memory of his wife, **Linda Rousseau Matuszak**, who died last year.

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## Potpourri

\*\*We have beautiful new tote bags for sale at the Museum. They are blue, have an outside pocket and sport our Old City Hall logo. All for the same \$5 price as the last bags. Start 2020 right!

\*\*Following the very successful Hall of Fame luncheon (93 guests!) on October 26th **Joanie Lewis** and **Connie Rogers** met with the Hall of Fame Committee, **Kurt Michielssen**, **Donna Pray**, **Annie Tomasello**, **Joe Filice**, **Jay Baksa** and **Edith Edde** to debrief and learn what we need to do for the Society to take responsibility for this program next year.

\*\*Board Member **Maureen Hunter** has been researching how we could offer a less expensive plaque to the Architectural Award Winners. At our November board meeting she brought a lot of good information which was well organized to help us make decisions. We'll consider it again and probably make a final choice at our next board meeting.



**\*\*The City's updated Historic Resources Inventory is due out in early 2020. Buildings over 50 years old were surveyed, some in groups. We can't wait and sincerely hope that it will facilitate restoration of our historic downtown buildings! The new Inventory will be another good way to honor our past while planning for our future.**

**\*\*Remember to use [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) when you order! You can bookmark it and it will come up automatically when you order. It works exactly the same as the regular Amazon site, except that we get .5% of your order. Over the years the Society has received \$114.32 from Amazon!**

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