

Join us for

GILROY'S TELEPHONE HISTORY

Saturday, January 28th at 2:00 PM

At the Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth Street



Betty Kelly, lead volunteer at the Gilroy Museum, was a telephone operator in Gilroy for 40 years! She'll show us how operators used switchboards similar to this antique one at the Museum. Betty has authentic equipment to demonstrate and will tell us why the operators knew what was going on in town all the time. Remember when VInewood was the prefix for all of Gilroy? And there were small phone books with the addresses of each family with a telephone plus ads for local businesses? We'll learn a lot of Gilroy history from Betty!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and Welcome! 2016 was a very busy one again for your Society. So busy in fact that we weren't able to produce our usual fall issue of the Society Page, for which I profusely apologize. We were busy trying to pull the pieces together for the Telephone History program and waiting for an essential piece of historic equipment to be located. In the meantime other events, like the Paseo opening, were also delayed and we just ran out of time. Mea culpa. This issue will try to make up for it. We have a raft of events scheduled for this winter that I hope to let you know about in our next issue soon.

In the meantime we want you to know how much we value our members. You keep us inspired to do more to insure Gilroy's wonderful history is preserved and educates us. Your ideas, news and communication help us make the Society relevant to your needs and are always welcome.

Sincerely, Connie Rogers

QUILT RAFFLE WINNER CHOSEN

With great anticipation the winning ticket drawn at our Christmas luncheon for the Museum Volunteers on December 7th. We're so pleased one of our best supporters, member **Bunny Filice** bought the ticket in the name of her granddaughter, Erin McKinley!

The quilt raffle fundraiser for the Museum was the brainchild of volunteer June Bell at last year's luncheon. During the winter and spring June Bell and volunteers Linda Elia, Edith Edde and Nancy Alford put a border on the antique quilt top donated by Carol Dotson. Linda Williams donated the backing and displayed the quilt at her shop, The Nimble Thimble, in downtown Gilroy. Barbara Heno machine quilted it and the quilt was displayed at both the AAUW Quilt Show in May and the Arts Alliance Quilt Show in December. The pattern didn't live up to its name, Wild Goose Chase, as ticket sales raised over \$500 for the Museum. Thank you all who helped with this rewarding effort.

Bunny's photo was taken by Phill Laursen

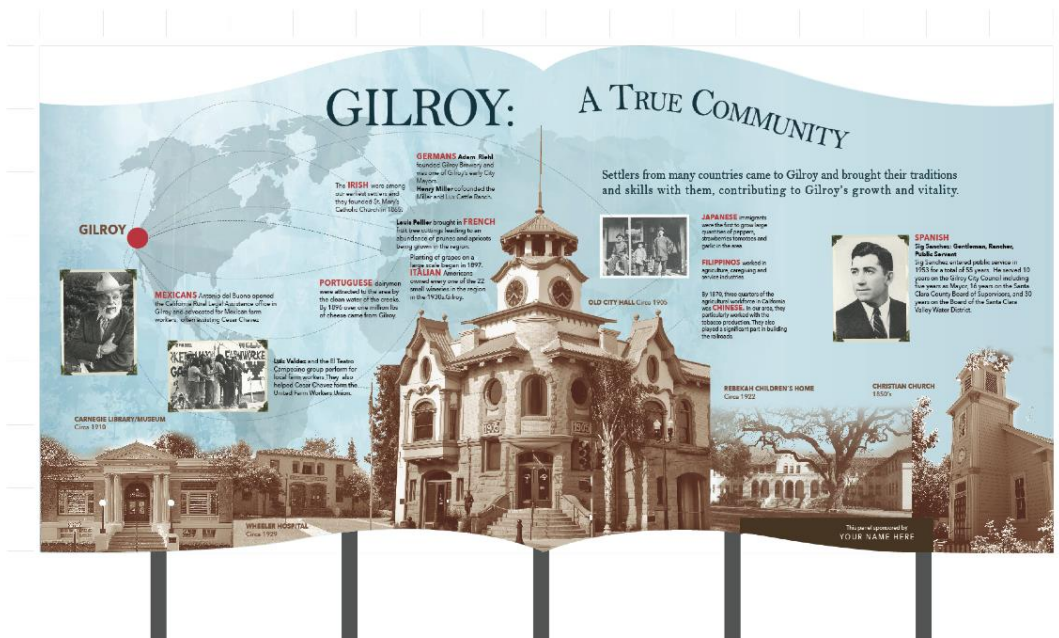


GILROY'S NEW HISTORIC PASEO

An important project taking more than two years has finally been completed! The artwork for the new Paseo between 7451 and 7455 Monterey Street has been installed with the help of **Greg Bozzo of GB Landscaping** and is beautiful! The seven large panels depict Gilroy history under the topics of Agriculture, Business, Early Settlers, Volunteers and Celebrations, Garlic, Our Cowboy Era, and Gilroy: A True Community. They include many photos of citizens, early maps, and four of our National Register buildings.

Joan Buchanan headed the committee to select the topics and photos, with help from **Roberta Hughan, Carol Peters, Mattie Scariot, Trudie Conrotto, Karen Aitken, Arline Silva, Shirley Willard, Claudia Salewske and Connie Rogers**. The final products were put together under the skillful direction of Articulate Solutions. Another committee chaired by **Al Pinheiro** raised the funds from generous donors and the Gilroy Foundation acted as the fiscal agent. Phase two will include the installation of engraved bricks along the edges of the sidewalks, purchased by many residents and groups as part of the fundraising program.

Landscaping will be next along with a couple possible surprises. Stay tuned for the ribbon cutting celebration date ... early spring? Meanwhile, go downtown to admire it!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

So many generous people are helping us to reach our goal of \$500,000 with the Gilroy Foundation! We are well over halfway towards being able to hire a Director/Curator on a half time basis. Volunteers will always be needed and appreciated, but having a professional to train them and direct their work will ensure that the Gilroy Museum will continue to be a valuable asset to the community.

Endowment Donors for 2016 (up till press time) are:

Charles & Alice Anderson

Phyllis Armenta

Richard and Barbara Armenta

Articulate Solutions

Elizabeth Barratt

David and Liliias Barton

Howard and June Bell

Angelo Benassi

Barbara Bottini

John Blaettler

Phil and Joan Buchanan

Linda Burnett Trust

Mario and Eileen Cavallaro

Don and Karen Christopher

Trudie Conrotto

Donald Culver

Barbara Curtis

Barbara Drewitz

Kathleen Earnshaw

James Ebaugh

Horace Fabing

Bill and Terri Faus

Joseph and Jeanne Filice

Timothy Filice

Tom and Becky Fischer

George and Nancy Fohner

Julia Gimenez

Bernard Habing

Habing Family Funeral Home

Lenore Hailstone

Bill and Ruby Hart

Ric Heinzen

Heinzen LLC

John Kent

Kai and Libby Lai

Tom and Joanie Lewis

Scott Lynch

David and Linda Matuszak

Moe and Kathy McHenry

Danny and Nita Mitchell

Marian Niiyama

James Oates

Ben and Loretta Pappani

Carol Peters

Alan Porcella

Michael and Claudia Salewske

Barbara Petersen Shurtz

Chris and Debby Stuker

Judith Stutheit

Gary Walton

Linda White

Shirley Willard

Terri Wolfe

Bess Yoshikawa



photo by Larry Mickartz

HONORING CLAUDIA KENDALL SALEWSKE

We're very sad to report the unexpected death of Claudia Salewske on Christmas Day. Claudia was a friend and mentor to many and a "pillar" of the Gilroy Historical Society and the Gilroy Museum. She wrote two books about Gilroy history, Pieces of the Past (1982) and Gilroy (2003), as part of Arcadia Publishing's series, Images of America. In addition Claudia developed the third grade local history curriculum, including a teachers' manual. Claudia was a perfectionist in her research, always double-checking and cross-checking her sources. She also went to original sources like the late Jack Sturla, with whom she became a good friend.

For the last seven years Claudia has volunteered at the Gilroy Museum twice a month, continuing her research and working to update a short history of Gilroy. Most recently Claudia was invaluable in helping to select the photos for our new Paseo downtown. She was a member of the historic FRFG Book and Study Club, begun in 1898. Both Claudia and her husband Mike were active members of the Gilroy Methodist Church. She taught English at Gilroy High School for several years, later at San Jose State. Her students remember that Mrs. Salewske had very high standards but was always positive and encouraged them to be their best. She had many, many friends who will remember her always. We mourn the loss of such a contributor to our community and will try to let her memory inspire us all.

Here's a link to the very nice memorial site her daughter Cassie set up:
<http://www.forevermissed.com/claudia-kendall-salewske#about>.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Laughter, merriment and celebration echoed through the Willey House on December 7th as almost all of our valuable Museum Volunteers shared a delicious lunch. The winning quilt ticket was picked, **Tom Howard** gave a report on museum accomplishments in 2016 and **Betty**

Kelly was presented with a gift in honor of her dedication to the Museum and its' volunteers.

Lucy - All these photos at and after the lunch were by **Phill Laursen**.



Left to right: Carol DeSantis, Claudia Salewske, Bill Faus, Joanne Fierro and Linda Elia



Left to right: Roberta Hughan, Karen Pedigo, Edith Edde, Maureen Hunter, Robyn Houts and Mark McPherson

Below: Betty Kelly with her gift, a wooden box with a photo of the museum





Volunteers on the steps of the Gilroy Museum

NEW LANDSCAPING FOR THE GILROY MUSEUM

This is very exciting news! For years the Museum has had occasional problems with water coming into the basement. Definitely a big problem at a museum! Even though the sprinklers close to the building had been shut off, during periods of heavy rain water still collected next to the building. Tom Howard dug drainage pathways, but they weren't always enough. Last fall we learned that the City had received two grants to complete drought resistant landscaping at the Chestnut Fire Station and the Museum.

During discussion with the landscape architect and grounds crew in November we found they loved the idea of using our huge cast iron soap kettle and our two millstones as part of the new landscaping. We were all quite excited about that! The soap kettle will be displayed in the center of the east lawn and the millstones in the middle of the west lawn. There will be plants on all sides of the displays (to protect them from vandalism) and interpretive signage.

The first phase was completed in early December when members of the Conservation Corps removed the lawn and re-graded the front lawn away from the building. Planting will happen in phase two, in March. We're really looking forward to this new look, keeping the basement dry and being able to display our outdoor artifacts.

2016 ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

Late, but not forgotten! These award-winning buildings were honored at our Annual Meeting last June. Here are the pictures taken by professional architectural photographer, Kris Knutson:



The Holloway House, Queen Anne Victorian, 1903
7539 Egleberry St., restored National Register home,



The Chesbro House, Queen Anne "cottage" 1890, 7541 Church Street



Neoclassic Row House, 1907, 366 Fifth Street



Pioneer style, circa 1885, 7751 Rosanna Street



7311 Alexander Street, pioneer style moved in from a ranch east of town



7471 and 7473 Monterey St., commendation for stylish updating downtown

MILLER RED BARN MAKES THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

On July 28, 2016 the Miller Red Barn Committee traveled to Woodland for the quarterly meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission. They considered a dozen properties, including our Miller Red Barn, and approved them all without questions! A few months later an official letter was received from the National Park Service confirming that the MRB is now listed on the National Register. Thank you **Carol DeSantis** for persevering with this application!

The MRB Committee is very close to achieving their own tax-exempt 501c3 status as a non-profit organization, a huge step for them. Now the work begins to envision future uses of the barn as part of Christmas Hill Park and restore it in a way that will make those uses possible. Past fund-raising will enable the committee to either repair or replace the barn roof soon. Local architect Reid Lerner has agreed to draw pro bono “as built” plans which are needed in order to ask the City for permits to work on the structure of the barn. They really need and would like new board and committee members to help them carry out this process. If you’d like to be involved, contact **Gary Walton at 408-847-8197 or gary@custom-1.com or Kathy Chavez, 408-847-0807, teacherKathych@hotmail.com.**



THANK YOU TO OUR GARLIC FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

The Festival did not hire as many volunteers in 2016 and our assignment was modified. We manned a separate booth near the cook-off stage and sold cookbooks, aprons and food products. It was a good job and we have ideas how to do it even better next year. We made \$440 that will be very helpful in meeting our newsletter expenses. These are the faithful volunteers who helped:

Claudia Salewske, Eileen Cavallaro, Kathy Laursen, Louise Fortin, Barbara Biafore, Chris Wheeler, Connie Rogers, Jim Rogers, Robyn Houts and Phyllis Armenta.

IN OTHER SOCIETY AND MUSEUM NEWS

Oral History Film Project - The Society has embarked on an oral history film project with our friends, 152 West Productions. We've filmed three of our important seniors this year, asking them questions about their lives and careers. In 2017 we plan to interview three or four more and make them into DVDs for a future program.

Society Website - We're working on improving our website. Lori van Meter has been working with Linda White and Eileen Cavallaro on this project. You'll be the first to know when we're ready to unveil it.

Outstanding Service Award – We nominated **Margene Peterson** for this award from the Chamber of Commerce for her incredible help with our Bowl-a-thon fundraising. She also helps many other non-profits and worthy projects. We are so fortunate to have Margene on our team with her enthusiasm and energy. She received this award at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast in October.

Archives Crawl – the Martin Luther King Library sponsored this event to raise the visibility of the many museums in our county. About 13, including the Gilroy Museum, were open on Saturday, October 22nd. Even though we are located miles away from most of the others, we did receive several visitors and were happy to participate.

Fire Department Display – Our newest display at in the center corridor at City Hall is about the proud history of the Gilroy Fire Department. Last year we received a donation of several years of records from that department, but the display goes back even further. **Barbara Biafore and Deanna Goodrich** change these displays several times a year and then return them to the Museum for a few months more of exposure and enjoyment. Be sure to stop by and take a look!