



The Society Page

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

March, 2019

Do You Have A Nomination For Our 2019 ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS?

Have you noticed an historic building that is “looking good” this year? We want to honor people who have invested in the preservation and beautification of their home or building, a significant effort that makes Gilroy a better place. You can easily nominate a building for the 2019 Architectural Awards to be presented at the Society’s Annual Meeting in June. Send your nomination by March 31st using any of these methods:

E-mail: Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org

Mail: Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth St., Gilroy, CA 95020

Phone: the Gilroy Museum at 408-846-0446

Please include your name; the street address of the nominee, and a brief explanation of why you think the building or residence deserves an award in one of these categories:

1. **Historic Design Award** – for a new building in the downtown area that complements the original historic buildings or enhances the Downtown Historic District area
2. **Historic Commercial Building Award** – for a building at least 50 years old in the downtown Historic District or on an Historic Site that restores, retains or preserves the building’s historical, cultural or architectural values.
3. **Historic House Award** – for a home that is at least 50 years old that is an outstanding example of restoration and renovation. Exterior only.
4. **Certificate of Commendation** – for residential, commercial or “other”. This could be for new construction, restoration, renovation, additions, landscaping, painting or significant improvement.

Here are a few of our past winners to inspire you.....







WHO DO WE APPRECIATE? OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

We continue to make steady progress in building the Museum Endowment Fund at the Gilroy Foundation. When combined with the Lindeleaf Fund there, as of 12-31-18 we have \$343,000 towards our goal of \$500,000. These 2018 donations totaled \$7025.

GOLD LEVEL - \$500 and up

Pete Lombardi

Angelo Benassi

Katherine Tsujimoto

SILVER LEVEL – up to \$250

Phyllis Armenta

Barbara Biafore

Mario and Eileen Cavallaro

Tom Fischer
Habing Family Funeral Home
Bernard Habing
Lenore Hailstone
Bill Hart
Ric Heinzen
John and Dolores Kent
Kent Construction
R. Scott Lynch
Moe and Kathy McHenry
Marian Niiyama
Mike Salewske
Dave and Mary Sturla
Gary Walton
Linda White

BRONZE LEVEL – up to \$100

Charles and Alice Anderson	Kelly Larsen
Articulate Solutions	Ed and Elaine Maier
Jay and Vicki Baksa	David Matuszak
Dick and Elizabeth Barratt	Anita Moeller
Howard and June Bell	George Nichol
Barbara Bottini	Ben and Loretta Pappani
Trudie Conrotto	Alan Porcella
Donald Culver	Reimal Family
Don and Mia DeLorenzo	Rick Santos
Barbara Drewitz	Roland Velasco
Margaret Enger	Shirley Willard
Bill and Terri Faus	Russell and Terry Wolfe
Bunny Filice	Beth Wyman
Jeanne Filice	

EVENTS COMING UP... Mark your calendars and join us!

OUR ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON

Saturday, March 23rd at 2:00 PM at historic Gilroy Bowl It's fun, it's crazy and we laugh a lot at our unskilled endeavors. There are delicious snacks, fine prizes and good company. Get some pledges from your friends and let **Linda White** or **Connie Rogers** know if you can participate. See the flyer and pledge sheet at the end of this newsletter.

FIELD TRIP TO HISTORIC MOUNT UMUNHUM...

A joint excursion with Morgan Hill Society members has been arranged by **Beth Wyman** for Saturday, April 27th. Her friend, Basim Jaber, the man who spearheaded the preservation of the landmark cold war radar tower there, will lead a group of not more than 18 people. Reserve your spot by emailing **Connie Rogers** at jrogers@garlic.com

WE'VE BEEN BUSY! Recent Accomplishments:

Heritage Luncheon and Oral History Films - Our second annual luncheon and viewing of oral history films took place on Sunday, January 20th at Old City Hall. Thanks to **Joanie Lewis**, who shepherded the project, and 152 West Film Productions it was another big success. Mineko Sakai, Angelo Benassi, Don Christopher, Bill Spendlove and Mike Casares were all fascinating subjects for different reasons. We're already planning for next year's film. Our friends at Express Media Graphics were able to make us copies of the DVD. They are available for \$10 at the Museum.

City Agreement Signed – The formal agreement between the City of Gilroy and the Gilroy Historical Society for staffing the museum with city-vetted volunteers has finally been signed by approved by the City Attorney and signed by Gabe Gonzalez, the City Administrator on Feb. 25, 2019. Either party may review it annually, but runs for four years until Dec. 31, 2022. The City will continue supplying the Museum with utilities, wifi, computer service linked to the city, custodial and landscape maintenance and other services, as the Museum is part of the Recreation Department. The Society agreed to provide liability insurance, which will no doubt be needed when we are able to hire a part time Museum Curator.

Gilroy Train Station National Register Application was submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation in December. The 35-page application was painstakingly detailed in every respect. We had to submit additional recent photos along with a revised sketch map. Applicants should be held to a high standard, right? It was formally accepted a month later and has now been scheduled for

presentation to the State Historic Resources Commission on May 8th in Palm Springs. Who wants to go with us??

Rotary Grant for Amah Mutsun Exhibit – Robyn Houts and Connie Rogers attended the Tuesday noon Rotary club on January 29th. The Society received a \$500 grant from Rotary to support the revised Amah Mutsun exhibit, which Robyn is creating at the Museum. We hope to have a Grand Opening when it is ready for viewing!

Education Committee Visits Classrooms –We are so fortunate to have Maureen Hunter, Robyn Houts and Joe Robinson, all experienced teachers on our Education Committee, and have been giving them a workout. They made ten classroom visits in January to Eliot, Glenview and DelBuono Schools.

Programs at the Gilroy Library – On February 16th we co-sponsored a program with the library featuring Jan Adkins, the author of Black Americans in Santa Clara County. She presented an interesting power point and included two Gilroy residents, Ivie Anderson and Sam MacDonald.

On March 2nd the library sponsored a program related to Silicon Valley Reads, which this year is about finding your roots. Gilroy resident Shay Azevedo took it a step further with a dramatized presentation about the Horace Willson family, pioneers in San Ysidro. Shay is not only a Willson descendent but also a history lover and actress. She charmed a large audience with her portrayal of Horace's daughter commenting on historic events of the era. Several of our members and more Willson descendents enjoyed the presentation.



Shay Azevedo as Horace Willson's daughter. Photo by Phill Laursen.

PROJECTS IN PROCESS

The City's current Historic Resource Inventory (HRI) was completed in 1986 and is a catalog of 385 historic buildings. Not only is it out of date, but many buildings are not listed. Last spring the City contracted with the Dudek firm to update the inventory. They completed the fieldwork last fall, walking the streets with iPads taking photos and recording data. On February 26th they presented the draft Context Statement to the City's Historic Heritage Committee. This is an abbreviated history of our city, divided into periods of development. Our buildings will be evaluated for their significance against this background. The final result is due late next summer when it will go back to the Historic Heritage Committee, the Planning Commission and City Council for their action.

Looking Ahead to Gilroy's 150th Year

In 2020 (right around the corner) Gilroy will be 150 years old! We were incorporated as a charter city on March 12, 1870. We are the third oldest city in Santa Clara County, right after San Jose and Santa Clara. The Society has been considering how to observe and contribute to this milestone celebration. We are talking about possibly producing a book showing a timeline of our progress through photographs. Mayor Roland Velasco has also called together a group of community members to discuss a broader celebration, not only marking the day but continuing to commemorate it throughout the year. Stay tuned!

New Renewal Date and Dues Structure

During our retreat meeting in August it was decided to change the renewal process for membership in order to avoid confusion. Sometimes our rotating membership year with no set renewal date was difficult to remember. So we decided to have all members renew on July 1 of each year, unless you are already a Life Member. We hope this will be easier for all of us to remember! It's simple, JULY 1ST FOR ALL RENEWALS. So don't pay anything until next July 1st, 2019.

At the same time, we adjusted our dues to reflect the following:

- Seniors - \$25,
- Individuals - \$35
- Family - \$50
- Life and Corporate Memberships - \$500

From the American Alliance of Museums.....

Museums play an essential role in cultural and social life across the US. They tell our stories, preserve our heritage, interpret the past, and explore the future. In this way, museums enrich our lives daily—feeding a hunger for knowledge and igniting our imaginations. But beyond this cultural

impact, the museum sector is also essential to the national economy of the United States—generating GDP, stimulating jobs, and contributing taxes.

Researched in partnership with Oxford Economics with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a report quantifies the economic benefit of museums, including jobs, direct spending, and supply-chain effects. The numbers tell an indisputable story about museums as true economic engines for their communities, supporting jobs and wages that are vital to the health of their hometowns.

All About the Bowl-a-Thon

(see below)

The flyer and pledge form below contain all you need to know about our 9th Annual Bowl-a-Thon. The flyer and pledge form are also available on our web site (GilroyHistoricalSociety.org). We hope to see you there!

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

9th Annual Museum Bowlathon



Saturday, March 23, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m.
Gilroy Bowl, 7554 Monterey Street

\$25 entry

3 GAMES, SHOES, SNACKS

Awards for Top Scores

Awards for Pledges

Raffle Prizes

Submit Entry fee by March 8th to:

***Linda White, Connie Rogers, or
The Gilroy Museum, 195 5th Street***

***Bring your pledge form to the
Bowlathon***

For more information

Contact:

Linda White @ 408-847-2861

linda104@charter.net

The Society is incorporated as a 501c3 educational organization and may receive tax deductible donations.

