



Old Gilroy City Hall - 1905

THE SOCIETY PAGE

Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

January 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

7th Annual Heritage Luncheon



Board of Directors / Museum Shop



MUSEUM NEWS

Working Together We Make A Difference.



Thank You

Gilroy Garlic Festival Association



GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY -
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO!

- Volunteer Christmas Luncheon
- Butterfield Overland Stage
- Gilroy Hot Springs - New Book by Ian Sanders
- We Need your Help!
- Museum Volunteer Photos
- Veterans Day Parade



Traveling Trunks at the Gilroy Museum



2024 Museum Walking Tours



Membership Application

GILROY MUSEUM

195 5th Street • Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 846-0446

HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10AM - 4PM

First and Second Saturdays
10AM - 2PM

Email the museum at:
Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org



YOU'RE INVITED

to

Gilroy Historical Society's 7TH ANNUAL HERITAGE LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Old City Hall Restaurant
7400 Monterey Street, Gilroy, California

11:30 Social Hour – 12 Noon Lunch

Followed by

152 West Productions Presents:
SENIORS WHO SHAPED GILROY

\$30.00 per person – ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY – RSVP by January 26

Invitations will be mailed the first week of January.

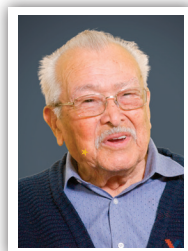
If you did not receive one, RSVP to **Joanie Lewis** at 408-202-2204



Ron Howson



Larry Scettrini



Xavair Sanchez



Bette Thomas



Carolyn Tognetti



Loretta Ventura

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

www.gilroyhistoricalsociety.org (Follow the link on our website to reach our Facebook page)

- Connie Rogers, *Co-President* Jrogers@garlic.com (408) 842-8494
- Joanie M. Lewis, *Co-President and Heritage Films* JoanieMLewis@charter.net. (408) 842-8698
- Lucy Solórzano, *Secretary* lcsjr31@garlic.com (408) 607-7722
- Eileen Cavallaro, *Treasurer* Etcavall@hotmail.com (408) 848-3084
- Maureen Hunter, *Education Committee* MaureenHunter8@yahoo.com (503) 550-7668
- Barbara Biafore, *Volunteer Schedules* budbiafore@gmail.com (408) 842-7515
- Linda White, *Fund Raising Coordinator* linda104@charter.net (408) 847-2861
- Elizabeth Barratt, *Emeritus* hrhandqe3@gmail.com (831) 241-6927
- Karen Pedigo, *Education Chair* karenpedigo10@aol.com (408) 499-7460
- Dave Matuszak, *Outreach* dmatuszak2@aol.com (408) 781-0497

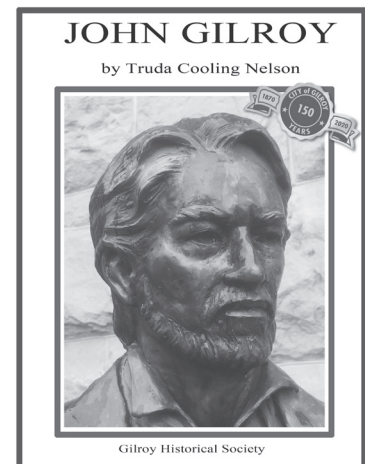
Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 AM at the Museum.
Let us know if you would like to attend to share ideas.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

846-0446 ♦ gilroy.museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us

The following items are for sale with the proceeds going to benefit the Museum.

- GHS Historical Footage DVD **\$ 5.00**
- GHS Gilroy 1950 DVD (55 mins.) **\$ 5.00**
- GHS Gilroy Museum Tour DVD **\$ 12.00**
- GHS Oral Histories DVD **\$ 10.00**
- Old City Hall Collector Spoon **\$ 10.00**
- Walking Tour Booklets **\$ 1.00**
- Packet Historical Homes Notecards **\$ 10.00**
- Single Historical Homes Notecards **\$ 1.00**
- Postcards **\$ 1.00**
- Souvenir Pencil **\$.25**
- Gilroy Museum Mouse Pad **\$ 10.00**
- Historic Home Prints by R. McGinnis **\$ 10.00/15.00**
- Tote Bags **\$ 5.00**
- Juan Bautista De Anza Booklet **\$ 5.00**
- A Country Doctor in the Valley of Hearts Delight* by E. Barratt ... **\$ 5.00**
- A Hundred Years of Gilroy Hot Springs* by I. Sanders **\$ 25.00**
- John Gilroy* by Truda Cooling Nelson **\$ 15.00**
- Gilroy's Old City Hall* by Woollacott, Pursell and Myer **\$ 5.00**
- Images of Gilroy* by Claudia Salewske **\$ 20.00**
- San Martin Then and Now* by D. Brodsky **\$ 20.00**



**Proceeds from Sales Directly
Support the Gilroy Museum.**

WORKING TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Susan Voss, Museum Manager



Happy New Year Gilroy Historical Society Members! January is the traditional month for reflecting on the old year and its blessings, and then thinking ahead and considering what the new year might bring. At the Gilroy Museum, there are many things to celebrate, and the first and foremost are six new volunteers! While all the new volunteers have been very helpful, the museum could easily accommodate six more! If you are thinking about volunteering, please make it part of your New Year's resolutions and then contact Susan Voss at the Gilroy Museum.

The Gilroy Museum keeps annual statistics on its programs and visitations, and 2023 marked an uptick in visitors and program participants. Teachers were once again signing out the museum's Traveling Trunks and taking advantage of museum tours. The Amah Mutsun and the Children's 1890's themed trunks reached 413 children. These children, as well as adult groups, participated in museum tours, and this program segment accounted for 661 museum visitors. Saturday walking tours continued to be popular and together with the school walking tours, they reached 718 people. These programs in addition to filled research requests and daily visitors accounted for 2,621 program participants!

Volunteers were an integral part of the museum's success, as they gave school tours, assisted visitors, worked on displays, and answered research requests. Volunteers also inventoried the museum's Objects Collection, served on the Collection Committee, accessioned new artifacts, and worked on the framed works project. Gilroy Historical Society Board members contributed time through walking tours, Museum Management meetings, updating the traveling trunks, and Facebook publicity. Total hours for volunteer participation numbered 2,760. The City of Gilroy provided new computers, and the Society's membership continued its generous support. Your contributions, aided by the City of Gilroy and a Gilroy Rotary Club grant made possible the important purchases of a framed works storage cabinet and fireproof files.

Looking ahead to 2024, the museum will continue to offer its established outreach programs. Volunteers will be finishing the framed works project, verifying the computer audit of museum objects, and tackling the organization of the more than 9,000 artifacts in the museum's Archives Collection. As Gilroy Historical Society members your 2024 support of time and treasure are vital to the museum's ability to house the collection safely and budget for daily operations. Together with the efforts of the hard-working Board of Directors and the support of our partner the City of Gilroy, it will be a busy new year. Please join us, volunteer, and make your own history at the Gilroy Museum!

For further information on volunteering please contact Susan Voss, Museum Manager, 408-846-0446 or email Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org.

THANK YOU GILROY GARLIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Thank You to the Gilroy Garlic Festival Association. On Dec. 5th they awarded us a \$5000 grant towards the cost of our heritage film program. What a terrific Christmas gift!

We are embarking on a long-awaited revamp of our website at Gilroyhistoricalsociety.org After receiving bids from three different companies we chose Metro.Agency in San Jose, which is loosely affiliated with The Gilroy Dispatch and New SV Media.

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

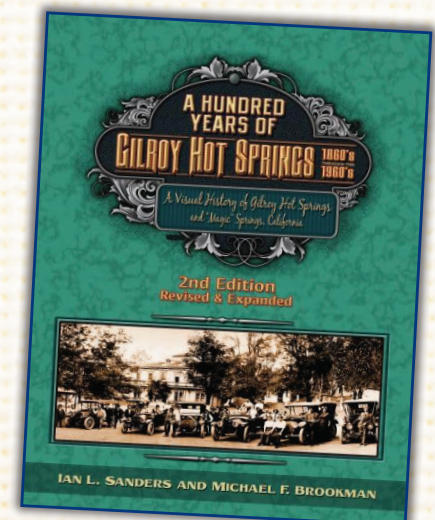
We held a wonderful **Christmas luncheon on December 6th at Old City Hall** to thank all of our Museum Volunteers. It is the ONE time in the year when all of us on the Museum Team are together. Usually only 2 volunteers (sometimes up to 4) are on duty at the Museum at a time. And they have different types of jobs. So this is the one time when Susan gets to present the Big Picture about our goals and plans. We actually introduced ourselves to each other and told what we work on. Susan involved us all in reporting on the progress made. We also presented her with flowers and a Christmas gift. Lovely cyclamen table decorations provided by **Barbara Biafore** went home with several volunteers.



Have you heard of the **Butterfield Overland Stage** route? It runs from Arkansas through the southwest, up the central valley and through Gilroy to San Francisco! In 1985 the Clampers even placed a monument to it on the corner of Monterey St. and Hornlein Court. We've been contacted by historians in southern California and asked to round up interested parties to form a support group for the National Park service to mark the Trail. An in-person meeting with the National Park Service is slated to be held at History San Jose in February to plan for local involvement. The Butterfield Trail would be similar to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail which we have on both sides of the Santa Clara Valley. There is a Facebook group (of course) called California Chapter Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Association.

For more information, email Connie Rogers, jrogers@garlic.com.

Gilroy Hot Springs is actually part of Coe State Park, which is now in a different state park district. The volunteer group Gilroy Hot Springs Conservancy needs help! They have restored two of the original cabins and hope to create camp grounds so the site can be used for camping and soaking. All of this will require Board leadership, relationship building with state parks and both funding and labor. If you are interested, go to <https://www.gilroyhotspringsconservancy.org> or contact staff at Coe Park to see what can be done to move this forward. **Ian Sanders**, Local author, has published a new book about Gilroy Hot Springs available at the Museum.



- WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need your help with the revamp of our website. We would like to have a person who could post items as needed. Metro.Agency has said they would help train this person to use Square Space administrative privileges. Could this be you? We need help for other areas too, such as maintaining our membership and distribution lists. Another need is for members who are able to sit (with a partner) at our beautiful new blue tent for 2-4 hours at public events. How about writing grant applications? We have hired **MA Bowe** to handle our payroll needs. Now she is working on transitioning our financial records to Quick Books. Is that in your skill set? Our hard-working board is spread thin now and would love to involve more members in specific jobs. **Call Connie Rogers if you can help, 408-842-8494.**



Children view the Alta California exhibit.



Volunteer Babs Holiday explains an early toaster.



Volunteer Robyn Houts talks about acorns as food.

The Veteran's Day Parade on Nov. 11th included our beautiful 1900s-era fire engine red hose cart for the second year. Thank you to **Dave Matuszak** for transporting the cart and helping to pull it, along with his neighbor **Brian Martini** and **Joanie Lewis's grandsons, Jacob and Anthony Lewis**. **Joanie Lewis** and **Connie Rogers** proudly carried our banner in front of the cart. Also, thanks to **Phill Laursen**, the hose cart was in the Gilroy Christmas Parade on Dec. 5th. Member **Scott Lynch** deserves special thanks for furnishing free storage at his **Excel Body Shop**. The hose cart is the only thing we own. It is fun to bring out for special occasions. Let us know if you can help transport it with a car trailer or volunteer to pull it.



TRAVELING TRUNKS AT THE GILROY MUSEUM

By Maureen Hunter, Society Board Member and credentialed teacher

Imagine trying to teach today's third graders what life was like for Gilroy's children in 1900 or the native Amah Mutsun (Ohlone) before the arrival of the Spanish? How can we help bridge the gap between today's world and that of our ancestors? Experience is the precursor to understanding and learning.

When I started the Education Committee we used two large wicker traveling trunks for classroom presentations. One had items about local Ohlone -- the Amah Mutsun. The other had items about children's life in 1900. These trunks were lent out to teachers for use in their classrooms. These trunks held many resource and reference books with some hands-on materials, but not enough. **Karen Pedigo** joined the committee. We sent out letters to all of the 3rd and 4th grade teachers in Gilroy schools. We also completed the fingerprinting and Department of Justice screening process, a requirement for all volunteers in public school classrooms.

We developed lesson plans based on the California standards and what the teachers wanted us to bring to the classroom. After each session we reviewed and recorded what worked and what we wanted to change for the next presentation. In some schools we met with a single classroom, in others we met with larger groups where we had multi-stations in a larger room or outside. For the larger groups we recruited additional volunteers. **Joe Robinson** and **Robin Houts** helped on several visits. For some groups we were able to show the Gilroy Museum 30-minute video to provide the students with an overview of what is in the Museum.

In addition to the trunk-based activities we brought in unique hands-on programs: making butter, grinding acorns, using the imagination through a visualization activity, and using their own creativity to solve current problems. As the program became more popular -- we met with almost every 3rd and 4th grade class in the district. We needed more artifacts and hands-on materials so that more students could benefit. The trunks were awkward and heavy to move from the museum to a car then to the classroom. We decided to transfer the items to wheeled suitcases. This proved to be a good choice-- they were easy to load and move and held enough material for one classroom. I brought things from home to add to the trunks. During several cross country trips I often stopped at local museums and purchased additional items.

What's in the trunks?

Everything in the trunks is authentic yet durable to handle. They are facsimiles and reproductions designed to be used and appreciated. The Ohlone trunks have arrowheads, Central California sea shells, tule grass duck decoys, tanned animal hides/fur, shell necklaces, acorns, feathers, animal track castings, and games of chance with the directions. The 1900's trunks have clothing for both boys and girls that students can try on and toys from that era such as jacks and tops.

Specialized Trunks

We saw that we needed to expand our collections and tailor them to different user-groups. Our primary group is the public school teacher and classroom. Our secondary audience is the Home School Tutor. Our third group is the Museum and Historical Society staff who may use a trunk in the Museum or take to an outreach event or group presentation. The schools usually check out the trunks for at least one week, sometimes two or three weeks if they are going to share between several classrooms. Having a trunk just for museum use ensures that this important resource will be available at all times.

The Society funded the expansion of these trunks to a total of six -- two for Public Schools, two for Home Schools, and two for the Museum. Each user group has a Native American trunk and a Turn of the Century trunk. Each trunk has a reference binder and an inventory list with photos of all the artifacts to make check-in and check-out quicker. Now we have the ability to allow these trunks to be used more often and with a wider audience. We've added more reference materials from California State Indian Museums to each trunk. The Home Schoolers trunks have activities that may take more time or more adult supervision to complete. The Public School trunks have multiples of many of the artifacts to allow more children to touch and learn. The traveling trunks are now one of the most used resources in the Gilroy Museum. They are checked out regularly by teachers, home school parents and staff.

Join the
 Gilroy Historical Society for
**Monthly
 Walking Tours**

**FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
 10:00 AM - NOON (approximately)**

2024 Schedule

*Meet in front of the Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth Street
 unless otherwise specified*

- January 6** MONTEREY STREET
- February 3** BUNGALOWS
- March 2** WOMEN'S HISTORY TOUR
- April 6** OLD GILROY I (*Railroad and Alexander Streets*)
- May 4** OLD GILROY II (*Forest and Chestnut Streets*)
- June 1** GAVILAN HILLS MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY
(Meet at the cemetery, 1000 First Street)
- July 6** NO TOUR
- August 3** FIFTH STREET
- September 7** NO TOUR
- October 5** WILLIAM WEEKS BUILDINGS
- November 2** OLD ST. MARY CEMETERY
(Meet in front of St. Joseph Family Center, 7950 Church Street)
- December 7** NO TOUR



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
 CALL THE GILROY MUSEUM AT (408) 846-0446**



GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1621
Gilroy, CA 95021

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Old Gilroy City Hall (1905)

Thank You for your Membership!

*...Honoring the integrity of Gilroy Community History
Your membership or gift membership includes a subscription to The Society Page.*

Gilroy Historical Society, P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021-1621

MAIL TO:

Individual \$35 Senior \$25 Family \$50 Business/Corporate \$500 Life \$500

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Address _____

Name _____

Date _____

**GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**