



Old Gilroy City Hall - 1905

The Society Page

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

February, 2020

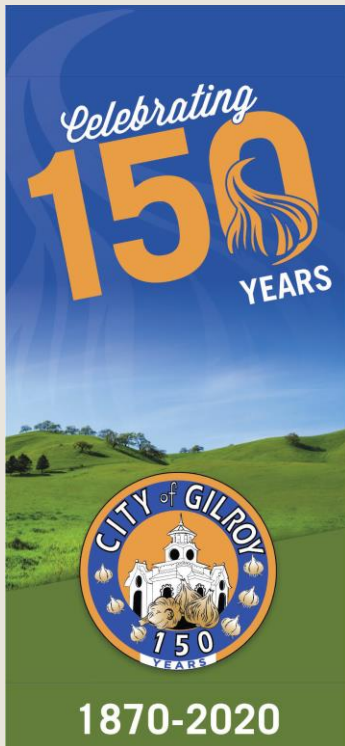
Our City's Birthday is March 12, 1870

Celebrate with us at the Gilroy Museum

Saturday, March 14th

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Come and see our special exhibit of 150 years of Gilroy's history with an explanatory brochure.
- We also have a new authentic Amah Mutsun exhibit by archeologist **Robyn Houts** and a new cannery and railroad exhibits by **Cathy Mirelez**.
- Take the Downtown History Quiz (by walking on Monterey Street) and win a copy of the Old City Hall book!
- Walking tours of Monterey Street, including the Paseo, the Milias Restaurant, the Neon Exchange and Old City Hall offered at 11 AM and 1:00 PM starting at the Museum.



- Did you know our 150 logo was designed by artist **Carol Peters**, a member of the Society?

Actually, two celebrations are planned:

Thursday, March 12th (actual anniversary of Gilroy becoming a charter city)

- The Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Old City Hall Restaurant, 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The event is free, but space is limited so rsvp by calling the Chamber of Commerce at 408-842-6437

Saturday March 14th 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Family Fun Day in the grassy area between the Library and Wheeler Auditorium
- Displays by City Departments
- City Vehicles – Fire Engines, Police Cars and the Society’s bright red antique fire hose cart
- Society’s three Oral History Films playing continuously in the Council Chambers
- Games by the Parks and Recreation Department
- Book Sale by Friends of the Library

Visit Gilroy150.org for more details of this celebration.

ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR 2020!

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 2020 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...





WE WILL MISS TOM HOWARD

Tom has been the Mainstay of the Museum as a volunteer for eleven years! Before that he was an employee until budget cuts changed his status. He is definitely the guy who knows the most about the Gilroy Museum. And his knowledge of Gilroy history will be impossible to replace. But his new calling as a grandfather to Max in Petaluma is luring him away from his Gilroy roots. **Tom** and Jenny are still looking for a house to buy in Petaluma, but they hope to move there this spring after selling their house here. We certainly wish them a wonderful new chapter to their lives. **Tom** says he's going to volunteer at the Petaluma Museum, also in a Carnegie Library that is much larger than ours.



Tom with his wife Jenny and sister Diane at the Castro Valley Ranch with Don Gage too.



Tomfoolery at our Christmas Luncheon a few years ago.

THE HUNT FOR TOM'S SUCCESSOR

Very fortunately **Tom's** impending departure coincided with the Society's Endowment Fund reaching to over \$443,000 at the end of December. Thanks to the rise in the stock market in 2019 and our unexpected anonymous donation we now have enough to use the 5% annual interest to pay a half time Museum Manager \$20/hour. We gratefully thank our generous donors over many years and hope to publish our 2019 donors in our next issue. We plan to have our new Museum Manager work along with **Tom** until he leaves. Below is the job announcement we placed in several locations.

Opening for Gilroy Museum Manager

The Gilroy Museum Manager is responsible for the day to day operation of the Gilroy Museum. This includes development and creation of exhibits, acting as the registrar (identifying and recording of donated artifacts), arranging for conservation of artifacts, organizing loans, handling inquiries from patrons and supervising and collaborating with a volunteer staff in areas such as conservation, education, design and marketing.

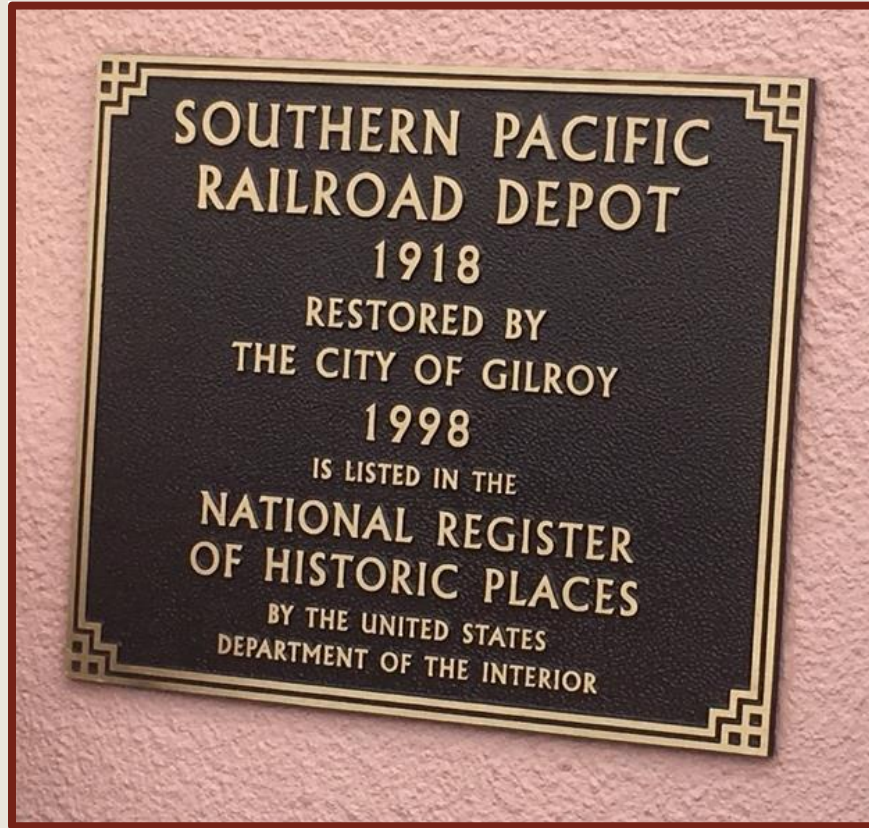
The ideal candidate will have a Bachelor's degree in Museum Studies, Business Administration, History, Library Science or a related field. Prior experience in museum or library management is preferable. The successful candidate will possess excellent communication, research and IT skills, and thrive in collaborative situations. This position allows 20 hours per week at \$20 per hour including a presence during Museum operating hours. If offered a position, a regular work schedule will be finalized.

For job responsibilities and qualifications visit www.GilroyHistoricalSociety.org

By the filing deadline of February 7th there were six good applicants which we hope to interview before the end of the month. Members of the interview panel are members **Barbara Biafore, Eileen Cavallaro, Cathy Mirelez** and **Connie Rogers**. Stay tuned...

IT'S BEEN A BUSY MONTH

On Saturday January 18th we held an unveiling of the beautiful new National Register Plaque at the Gilroy Southern Pacific Rail Depot. **Mark Turner** and members of the Chamber of Commerce helped make the occasion special by doing an official Ribbon Cutting. **Mayor Roland Velasco** pointed out how the train station's restoration and use was made possible by many collaborations going back to 1986. The station earned the honor by being one of the few remaining stations built by Southern Pacific. It was built in 1918 after local citizens went to the State Railroad Commission to demand a larger, more modern station. About 30 attended the event and enjoyed coffee and doughnuts from the snack shop at the station.



Connie Rogers and Mayor Velasco

photo taken by Mark McPherson

HERITAGE LUNCHEON AND DVD

A week later on January 26th the Society held its third annual luncheon and premiere of our 2020 Oral History Film. Vice President **Joanie Lewis** was in charge of the entire program and also acted as Mistress of Ceremonies for the 115 guests. Honorees this year were **Dr. Jim Ebaugh, Edith Edde, Don Gage, Ron Gurries, Estella Hoey** and **Betty Kelly**. **Nils Myers** of 152 West Productions and his wife **Mattie Scariot** conducted the interviews. **Nils** did a masterful job of weaving their stories together and creating a composite DVD lasting about 45 minutes. Each honoree received an uncut DVD of their own interview and one of the composite DVDs. Several people ordered copies of the DVD for \$10 and you may order one too by calling the Museum.

RETIREMENT ALLOWS BOARD MEMBER TO BE MORE ACTIVE

We are very fortunate that **Lucy Solorzano, Jr.** has retired at the end of last year and will be able to participate more actively. Lucy was the Coordinator of the Museum for a few years and in the capacity created an index for our paper files and performed many other valuable services. Later, while working full time, she continued to help the Society by formatting our quarterly newsletter. She knows Gilroy history well and is a highly organized person with many talents. Now she can attend our board meetings and take a more active role.

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Meeting and presentation of the 2020 Architectural Awards will take place on Sunday, June 28th at noon at the Neon Exchange!

BOWL-A-THON

Like to have fun, whatever your bowling skill? Join us on Saturday, March 7th at 2:00 PM for our 10th annual Bowl-a-thon at Gilroy Bowl. The entry fee of \$25 gets you 3 games, shoes and plentiful snacks. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please get pledges, either per pin or a flat amount! We have great prizes from Costco, Nob Hill, Lowes, Pizza Factory and much, much more. Submit your entry fee by Feb. 29th to Linda White or Connie Rogers or leave it at the Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth Street or mail it to our PO Box 1621, Gilroy, Ca 95021. For more info contact Linda White at 408-847-2861 or linda104@charter.net.

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

10th Annual Bowlathon



Saturday, March 7, 2020 @ 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 February 29 to:

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

Or Mail to:

**P.O. Box 1621
Gilroy, CA 95021**

For more information

Contact:

Linda White @ 408-847-2861

linda104@charter.net

10th ANNUAL GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOWLATHON

March 7, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

- Ask your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to sponsor you. Turn in a copy of your pledge form at the Bowlathon.
- Return your original pledge form with your collected pledges to Linda White, Connie Rogers, or the Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth Street.

To my sponsors: I am participating in the Gilroy Historical Society Bowlathon, where all proceeds will be used for programs or projects of the Society and/or Museum. I will bowl three games; you can sponsor me for an amount per pin or a flat amount of your choice. After the Bowlathon, I will return to tell you how many pins I knocked down and collect your contribution.

**Please make checks payable to Gilroy Historical Society.
All contributions are tax-deductible.***

SPONSOR NAME	PLEDGE AMOUNT	TOTAL COLLECTED

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

**Our Members Are the Best!!
Thank you for your support.**

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