



Old Gilroy City Hall - 1905

THE SOCIETY PAGE

Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

January 2022

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GILROY MUSEUM

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

HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10AM - 4PM

First Saturdays 10AM - 2PM

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

YOU'RE INVITED

to

Gilroy Historical Society's 5TH ANNUAL HERITAGE LUNCHEON



SUNDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 2022

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 15th

If you did not receive a mailed invitation, RSVP to

Joanie Lewis at 408-842-8698



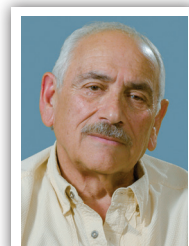
Barbara Dequin



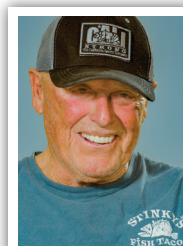
Bob Elia



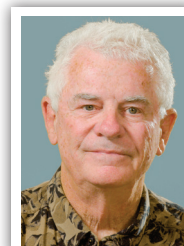
Dora Jean Enos



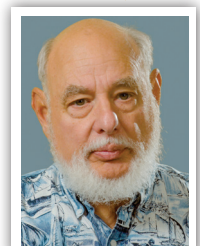
Tim Filice



Bobby Garcia



Joe Kline



Gary Rocchi

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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Maureen Hunter, <i>Secretary</i>	MaureenHunter8@yahoo.com	(503) 550-7668
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Dave Matuszak	dmatuszak2@aol.com	(408) 842-0681
Lucy Solórzano		(408) 607-7722

Board meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Museum, 195 Fifth Street, 1:00 p.m.
Members are always welcome to attend or share ideas with the board.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

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

Hours: Tues / Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

When ordering from Amazon use
smile.amazon.com,
and they will send the
Gilroy Historical Society a tiny
percentage of your purchase!

- \$ 5.00 Gilroy's Old City Hall book by Chuck Myer
- \$ 5.00 Juan Bautista de Anza Trail book
- \$ 5.00 Old City Hall Lapel Pin
- \$ 5.00 Reusable Bags blue bags with Old City Hall logo (15" x 12" x 9")
- \$ 5.00 DVD #1 includes Gymkhana, National Guard Camp at San Luis Obispo, Armistice Day Parade and 1911 GHS Championship Team
- \$ 5.00 DVD #2: Life in Gilroy 1950 a professionally made 50-minute film
- \$ 10.00 Mouse Pad with photo of Gilroy Museum
- \$ 10.00 Note Cards package of 8 with 4 different line drawings of historic homes
- \$ 12.00 Gilroy Museum DVD history of Gilroy's growth and development
- \$ 20.00 San Martin, Then and Now book by Donna Brodsky
- \$ 20.00 Views of Morgan Hill book by Ian Sanders
- \$ 20.00 A Country Doctor in the Valley of Hearts Delight: The Life and Times of Pioneer Gilroy Physician and Mayor, Heverland R. Chesbro, MD book by Elizabeth Barratt
- \$ 23.98 Gilroy, Images of America book autographed by author Claudia Salewske (includes tax)
- \$ 23.98 Wineries of Santa Clara Valley, Images of America book by Bev Stevehjem
- \$ 25.00 Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County book by Ian Sanders
- \$ 25.00 100 Years of Gilroy Hot Springs picture book by Ian Sanders and Michael Brookman



MUSEUM NEWS

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

The Gilroy Museum and Historical Society have received many generous donations this year and deeply appreciate them all. They enable us to expand our offerings and are a measure of our support and significance in the community. A complete list of donors will be published in our next Society Page.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS TOO!

On December first we inaugurated the holiday season by thanking our faithful volunteers with a festive lunch at Old City Hall Restaurant. Lovely centerpieces created and donated by **Barbara Biafore** decorated the tables in our private room upstairs. Twenty-three volunteers and board members enjoyed a wonderful meal of green salad, chicken and pasta followed by salted caramel ice cream. **Fran Beaudet** always gives the Society special treatment! **Museum Manager, Susan Voss** reported on our accomplishments of the past year and we all enjoyed the camaraderie.

OUR BOWLATHON IS BACK!

By Linda White

After our unplanned hiatus last year, and the unfortunate closing of Gilroy Bowl, we are thrilled to announce that our Bowlathon will rise again!

Join us on **Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 2:00 PM at Morgan Hill Bowl**, 650 Tennant Station for a fun afternoon of food and bowling . . . and perhaps a great prize!

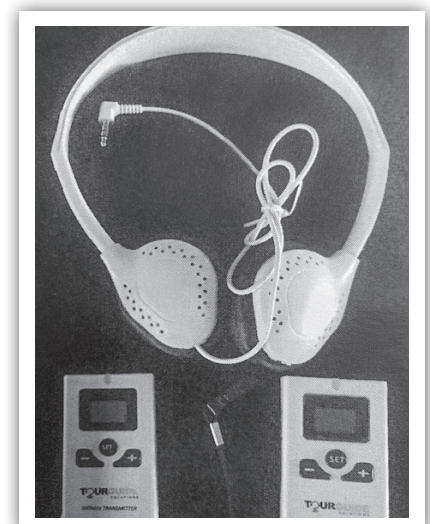
Be sure to submit your entry form and fee by February 13th. Continue to collect pledges and turn in your pledge sheet at the event. A flyer and pledge sheet are inserted in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

TOUR GUIDE SOLUTIONS

By Connie Rogers

We have invested a wonderful new audio system to use with monthly Historic Walking Tours! It includes 12 small receivers on lanyards and earphones, one transmitter and microphone, a charging station and a compact lightweight carrying case. The Preservation Action Council of San Jose uses this system and, after trying it on one of their walks, inspired us to do the same. It will help keep participants focused and eliminate most of the traffic noise.

Our new sound system from Tour Guide Solutions for the historic walking tours.



Meet Our Museum Manager . . . **SUSAN VOSS**

By *Connie Rogers*



Susan's agricultural roots go deep in Gilroy. Her family owned orchards of prunes, apricots and cherries in Gilroy since 1959. Five years later they moved to their farm on Holsclaw Road where Susan and her sisters grew up in one of Gilroy's most historic areas. She still lives there in an historic house! Can you envision the Voss sisters playing in the orchard and helping harvest the fruit? As a youngster Susan had a spotted pinto mare named Dixie and today still has an interest in horsemanship. Her parents imbued Susan with a lifelong interest in history. This was evident in their personal and civic life and was passed on to their daughters with trips to California history spots whenever her dad could get away from the orchard.

At UC Santa Barbara Susan majored in history which she says gave her the tools for critical thinking and minored

in English which taught her how to express those ideas. She later earned a teaching credential in Adult Ed at San Jose State and an MBA at National University. She has held a variety of jobs, including a stint as the assistant manager of the Gavilan Water District, which was later absorbed by the larger Santa Clara Valley Water District.

In 2003 Susan began working for the City of Gilroy in the Recreation Dept. and for a few years was the Museum Coordinator. When the City laid off all employees at the Museum in 2009 she became the City's Volunteer Coordinator, retiring in 2019. Then she promptly began volunteering at the Museum! The Society could not have found a more qualified person, by training, interest and dedication. Her life experiences and education are an excellent fit for this position. Recently she contributed an authentic costume with leather chaps which a friend wore while riding in the 1976 reenactment of the DeAnza Expedition. Now it greets Museum visitors as our newest exhibit!

Susan's MBA skills are valuable in managing the Museum budget and her organizational skills are making access to the collection much easier. She has several volunteers working on a major audit of the collection, reconciling old records on index cards and in Excel spreadsheets with our current Past Perfect software. New archival boxes have been filled and storage has been rearranged to make locating items much easier. Her teaching skills illuminate the many facets of the Museum's collection for volunteers and the public. Susan is not only meeting our goal of setting priorities for the Gilroy Museum, she is making it welcoming and more accessible. We are so fortunate to have a manager with her knowledge and abilities. Come in to meet her in person!

Our State Senator Visits The Museum

We were surprised and honored to receive an email from the staff of **Senator John Laird, SD 17**, saying he'd like to visit the Museum on October 21st! Not only did he ask to come, he was genuinely interested in our city and our history. He stayed for half an hour and accompanied by two staff members, **District Director Angela Chesnut** and **Monterey Office Staff Justin Tran**, a graduate of Christopher High School. We sent him home with a tote bag full of our best books, a gift he truly appreciated.



Senator Laird and Susan Voss



Justin Tran and Angela Chesnut of Senator Laird's staff.

Another dignitary who visited our Museum is **Alicia Goehring**, the CEO and Executive Director of the California Historical Society. At her December 13th visit she expressed interest in what we are doing and was quite complimentary about our museum practices. Alicia is proposing a program of field services to museums like ours and wants to create a strong network of local historical societies across the state.

Museum Volunteers Discover Time's Treasures

By Susan Voss

Do you ever wonder what Gilroy Museum volunteers do? Just ask **Karen Pedigo** who is pictured cleaning an American Legion Banner. Since aged artifacts require care, a group of volunteers is carefully examining each item, noting its condition, location, labeling, and reviewing its cataloging. In the picture, Karen holds the vacuum's nozzle brush above the banner and the gentle suction removes dust. Karen has been busy applying this same process to the museum's collection of period men's and women's clothing, while other volunteers have been working with everything from dishes and cutlery to toys and tools.

Volunteers have examined about 136 of the Museum's 600 artifact boxes. Each museum box holds a unique surprise, and like opening presents, when the lid comes off, you never know what treasures you may find. If you enjoy surprises and exploring Gilroy's 150 years of memorabilia, come join the volunteers working with the collection. After all, there are still at least 464 boxes left to open! If you are thinking about becoming a Gilroy Museum volunteer, drop by the Museum on a Tuesday or Thursday to get acquainted. We'd love to meet you! You can complete and submit the City of Gilroy volunteer form found at: <http://www.ci.gilroy.ca.us/524/Volunteer-Services>. You will be directed to the application page where you can create an account and complete the application. The instructions on the page inform you of the finger print process paid for by the City. If you encounter a problem, call or come by the Museum and we can help you with the registration process!



Join the
Gilroy Historical Society for

Monthly Walking Tours

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

2022 Schedule

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

- January 8** MONTEREY STREET
- February 5** BUNGALOWS
- March 5** WOMEN'S HISTORY TOUR
- April 2** OLD GILROY I (*Railroad and Alexander Streets*)
- May 7** OLD GILROY II (*Forest and Chestnut Streets*)
- June 4** GAVILAN HILLS MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY
(*Meet at the cemetery, 1000 First Street*)
- July 2** NO TOUR
- August 6** FIFTH STREET
- September 3** NO TOUR
- October 1** WILLIAM WEEKS BUILDINGS
- November 5** OLD ST. MARY CEMETERY
(*Meet in front of St. Joseph Family Center, 7950 Church Street*)
- December 3** NO TOUR



FREE

- Reservations suggested but not required -

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS OR
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL THE GILROY MUSEUM AT (408) 846-0446

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS FOR THE MUSEUM

Our beautiful new bronze interpretive signs for the soap pot and millstones in front of the museum have arrived. Below are the proofs! The City will install them and we're planning an unveiling event to celebrate. We're hoping for a Saturday in January, so look for an email or Facebook post to reveal the date . . .

~ Artistic Bronze Rendering ~



MILL STONES

Julius Martin and his family arrived in the Gilroy area in 1844. A miller by trade, it is thought that he ground grain into flour when he lived near John Gilroy on the San Ysidro Rancho. These millstones were found in that area.



OLD WHALING KETTLE

Thomas Larkin and Jose Maria Sanchez brought this kettle from Monterey about 1840. It was used by John Gilroy and others to make soap from tallow and alkali near Soap Lake, east of Gilroy.



Happy New Year to All!

We're looking forward to many projects in 2022 and hope to see you on January 23rd at the Heritage Luncheon.

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Chet Hudson
President

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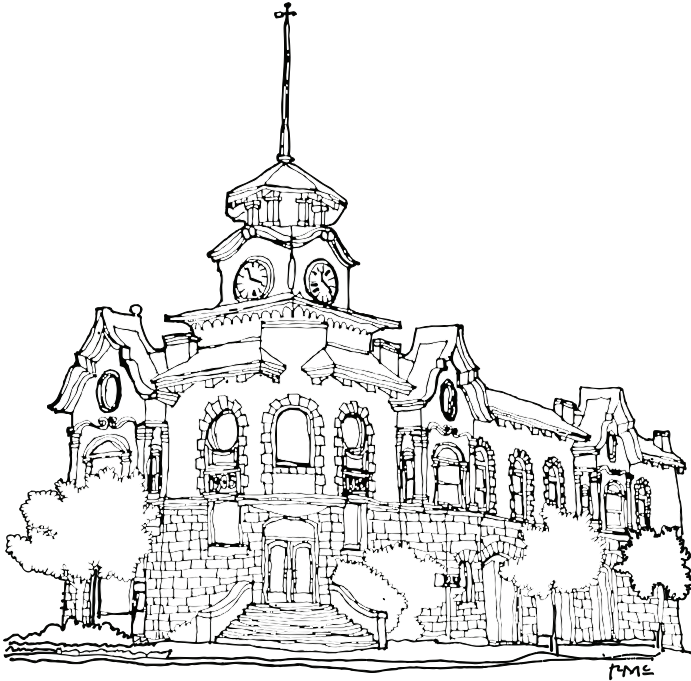
GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Old Gilroy City Hall (1905)

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...Honoring the integrity of Gilroy Community History

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

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_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

_____ Address _____

_____ Name _____

_____ Date _____

**GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**