



THE SOCIETY PAGE

Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

PLEASE JOIN US AT GILROY GOLF COURSE

SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH AT 12 NOON

FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND

ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

Our lunch will be prepared by Troy Garcia of the Gilroy Grill. The menu will be chicken, pasta, green salad, dinner roll and beverage (iced tea, water or wine) for \$20. Make your reservation right away by sending your check to the Society's P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021 **by the Monday prior to the event, June 19th**. The winners of the Architecture Awards will be our guests. Help us commend those property owners who have kept their historic homes and Gilroy looking good!

AGENDA FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

- I. Treasurer's report
- II. Accomplishments for 2016-2017
- III. Future goals
- IV. Questions, suggestions and requests from members
- V. Report on the Miller Red Barn progress
- VI. Presentation of 2017 Architectural Awards

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016-2017

1. Staffed the Gilroy Museum with 25 or more volunteers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and first Saturdays of every month. We'd like to open more days if we had more volunteers!
2. Led free walking tours to different historic areas of Gilroy on nine first Saturdays.
3. Sold items at the Gilroy Museum and the Welcome Center to help fund our Museum operating budget. A fund established by Bunny Filice and visitor donations also provided support.
4. Held a very successful Bowl-a-thon to benefit our Endowment Fund.
5. Presented Architectural Awards to owners of five historic homes and the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce.

6. Earned \$440 working at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.
7. Helped with the timeline and choosing photos (many from the Museum) for the Historic Gilroy Paseo. Bought a brick for the Paseo in the Society's name.
8. Provided displays at both the Museum and City Hall featuring the history of Gilroy Fire Dept. and Hispanic contributions to Gilroy and Chinese in Gilroy.
9. Held programs about Ina Coolbrith, California's first poet laureate and Gilroy's telephone history, with our own Betty Kelly explaining our antique switchboard.
10. Revised our Gilroy Historical Society website.
11. Participated in the countywide Archives Crawl at the Museum.
12. Filmed oral history interviews with seven Gilroy seniors who have contributed greatly to our community. 152 West Productions will produce a film of these for us. Stay tuned for the premiere!
13. Hosted several school tours at the Museum and walking tours of downtown.
14. Gave a Christmas thank you luncheon for our volunteers at the Willey House.
15. Supported the efforts of the Miller Red Barn Association.

RIBBON CUTTING FOR GILROY'S NEW HISTORIC PASEO

May 20th saw the joyous culmination of several years' effort by a multitude of Gilroy citizens. Mayor Roland Velasco cut the ribbon dedicating Gilroy's Historic Paseo, located between 7451 and 7455 Monterey Street, running back to Gourmet Alley and the parking lots on Egleberry. The idea began with former Mayor Al Pinheiro, to provide a way for shoppers to get from the parking lots to Monterey Street. First an unreinforced masonry building had to be purchased by the City and demolished. Then there were the inevitable delays and construction problems in safeguarding the walls of adjoining buildings. Fortunately the unique black and white tile entry of the old shoe store was preserved and became part of the walkway in the Paseo.

Meanwhile Al and his fundraising committee went to work raising money for the artwork. Whitney Pintello painted attractive background scenery on the walls. The Gilroy Foundation sold commemorative bricks to over 200 supporters. Joan Buchanan and her committee brainstormed ways to present Gilroy's history in the most attractive manner. A timeline was developed but in the end it was decided to erect seven large boards, each depicting a different topic. Then the fun began locating high quality usable photos from Gilroy's past. The Gilroy Museum played a big part in this, running original photos down the street to Articulate Solutions for reproductions. Landscape architect Karen Aitken and the graphic artists of Articulate Solutions contributed their talents to the arrangement of the photos and maps. Several local companies and individuals were financial sponsors of the art boards and benches.

Finally the completed artwork was sent to a production firm. Custom framework and posts were created and Greg Bozzo installed the huge boards last December. Next the commemorative bricks were laid along the pathway edges, then benches and plants were installed. The ribbon cutting was both symbolic and celebratory. Already Gilroy citizens and visitors are enjoying the artistic presentation of our history. The Paseo is another source of pride for our community.



Joan Buchanan and her committee at the ribbon cutting. Taken by Dan Harney

OUR BOWL-A-THON SUCCESS

By Linda White

And we thought it couldn't get any better!! Our 7th Annual Bowlathon last March in support of the Museum Endowment Fund earned an amazing profit of \$8505.66, and brought our lifetime total for this event to \$30,906.28. Words can't express our gratitude!

Once again the team led by Margene Peterson (which included Melissa Peterson, Maureen Hughes, and Vickie Potman) amassed a total of \$6060!! Melissa had 73 pledges. Of course they were awarded with gift cards to Old City Hall.

Bowlers recognized for scores were Linda White and Brendan McClain for High Series, Julia Gimenez and Bruce Ball for High Game, Peggy Soda and Rick Santos for 2nd High Series, and Karen Leavitt and Shawn Mulcare for 2nd High Game.

Participants chose from an array of items donated by Board members and friends. At the end of the day some lucky individuals selected items donated by Old City Hall, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Gavilan Golf Course, Nob Hill Foods, Garden Valley Foods, LeVigne Winery of Paso Robles, Patti's Perfect Pantry,

Royal Nail Spa, Lowe's, and Gilroy Bowl, along with individuals Joanie Lewis and Melissa Peterson. Grace Kawano of Gilroy Bowl generously donated the food we enjoyed throughout the day.

This year definitely surpassed all expectations. We can't wait till next year!!!



Margene Peterson, team leader and Champion Extraordinaire—taken by Linda White



Vickie Potman, Melissa Peterson, Margene Peterson and Maureen Hughes
Taken by Linda White



Rick Santos and grandson, Talin enjoyed the event!

Taken by Connie Rogers

LOTS OF MUSEUM NEWS

New Landscaping

Have you seen our new landscaping? It's terrific! What an improvement, both physically in keeping water seepage out of our basement and especially in appearance! The huge iron soap pot and the

millstones are two of our prized possessions and now we can display them for the public. Wording for interpretive signs is being developed.

New Volunteers

Gina Czerwinski, Trudie Conrotto, Larry Scettrini and John Kelly have recently enhanced our staff of volunteers. We're so happy to have them! We still have room for more if you'd like to join us.

New Donations

A double box-end wrench handmade from a farrier's rasp. It was found at the corner of Watsonville and Redwood Retread Roads on the property of Charles Francois. This was the location of a toll station on the road to Watsonville in 1862.



A Gilroy Gymkhana rodeo trophy from 1956. A sticker on the bottom of the wooden base notes that it came from "Lawton's Gem Shop, Jewelers, Gilroy, Cal."



A unique valentine greeting made of cardboard and paper in the shape of a red heart with cupid and Gilroy, California printed on the cover. The item was patented in 1907. The back cover has space for an

address and says "Poststamp One Cent". Inside contains an accordion pleated list of 24 small photos of Gilroy buildings and scenes. How cute is this??



New Training

Phill Laursen, Mark McPherson and Tom Howard are getting training in the use of video equipment at CMAP (Community Media Access Partnership), now located in downtown Gilroy.

WHO WAS REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OLD CITY HALL?

We always say that no one knows exactly what kind of architecture to call our beloved Old City Hall. Flamboyant is one term that has been used. It certainly was designed to attract attention and is still doing that after 112 years! The closest people have been able to come to a label is "Flemish-Baroque."

The book titled Gilroy's Old City Hall says "It is claimed.....that the real architect was the prominent California designer, Samuel Newsom. Despite the fact that the daring and dramatic building does suggest Newsom's hand, no documentation connecting him with the structure is known to exist."

Earlier this year Krista Van Laan, a researcher and architectural historian in San Jose came to the Gilroy Museum seeking further information about Old City Hall. She had been researching the life and work of

architect Frank Delos Wolfe and has written two books about him. In the process she discovered that **he** (and his partner at the time, Charles McKenzie) was actually the real architect of Old City Hall!

Ms. Van Laan also discovered that the National Register application for the building, completed in 1975, mistakenly attributed it to Samuel Newsom. She has volunteered to correct that record, a complicated task in itself! In talking with Krista we found that there are two homes in Gilroy also designed by Wolfe and possibly others. We're working on plans for her to present a program to us in the fall about Wolfe and his works in Gilroy.

In the meantime, if you're a fan of historic architecture, you might be interested in this tour on August 26th featuring Wolfe's later works in the Spanish Revival style.



Red tile roofs, arched doors and windows, twisted pillars, wrought iron trim, and ornate door surrounds are on some of the most beautiful homes in San José.

San José city-wide architectural open homes tour

Eight 1920s Spanish Revival houses and buildings by the architectural firm of

WOLFE & HIGGINS

MASTER ARCHITECTS OF THE SPANISH REVIVAL

AUGUST 26, 2017
10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Purchase tickets now at

www.WolfeandHigginsTour.com

\$35 advance/\$40 day of tour

PAC*5/ members \$30 advance sales online or mailed check

Please consider becoming a sponsor of the tour! www.wolfeandhigginstour.com/sponsors.html

Extra! Join us August 25 at the pre-tour kickoff party to benefit PAC*5J

Support preservation and enjoy delicious continuous hors d'oeuvres and small plates with wine or soft drinks and convivial company at an exclusive party at the Gross-Low house, a San José City Landmark that is not on the tour. This stunning 1916 Dutch Colonial Revival house is one of the few still-standing houses designed by William Higgins before he partnered with Frank Wolfe. **Includes a ticket to the next day's tour.** Space is limited, so reserve your spot now!

Go to www.WolfeandHigginsTour.com for details

Tickets also available at these local merchants:

Antiques Colony
1881 W San Carlos St, San Jose
Willow Glen Home & Garden
1123 Lincoln Ave, San Jose



TOUR PRESENTED BY:
Preservation Action Council of San Jose
History Park, 1650 Senter Road
San Jose CA 95112-2599
Tel: 408-998-8105

BOB HAMILTON AND A GILROY HOT SPRINGS MYSTERY

Laura Dominguez-Yon asks if any of us might know of Bob Hamilton. While researching other things, she came across this picture of "Bob Hamilton of Gilroy, California", probably taken about 1953. He was living in Japan, and doing air transport between the US and Asia. In 1953 he became a Major in the Sky Pilots International, and was instrumental in acquainting Japanese aviator former Captain M. Fuchida with Sky Pilots International after Fuchida's conversion to Christianity. Fuchida led the aerial attack on Pearl Harbor, dropping a bomb himself on the USS Arizona. Sky Pilots International brought Fuchida to the US to train him and to have him do a speaking tour across the US. He spoke in Watsonville on November 5, 1953 at a church. Laura believes Bob Hamilton, in addition to recruiting Fuchida in Japan, may have helped fly him to speaking engagements in the US. Laura's mother, Mrs. Kitaji, said Fuchida had visited the Hot Springs while he was in our area. If you can shed any light on this, please email Laura at

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"from Pearl Harbor to Golgotha"



Sky Pilot Colonel Bob Hamilton, of Gilroy, California

Proclamation of the City of Gilroy

Whereas, Claudia Kendall Salewske was the author two well-known books about Gilroy history: Gilroy (2003) and Pieces of the Past (1982); and

Whereas, Mrs. Salewske developed the third grade local history curriculum for Gilroy Unified School District in the early 1980s that is still being used today; and

Whereas, Mrs. Salewske taught English and American literature at Gilroy High School for several years and was the advisor to the California Scholarship Federation. At Gilroy High School her expertise and passion for writing helped the high school create writing across the curriculum in all departments, which had a lasting impact on many graduates; and

Whereas, Mrs. Salewske later taught English composition, children's literature and technical writing at San Jose State University for several years. There she also supervised student teachers; and

Whereas, for the last seven years Mrs. Salewske was a volunteer at the Gilroy Museum and helped select the photos for the history-themed paseo in downtown Gilroy. She was a pillar of support to both the Gilroy Historical Society and the Gilroy Museum; and

Whereas, Mrs. Salewske was an exemplary citizen of greater Gilroy for nearly forty years, a friend and inspiring mentor to many, whose friendly gracious manner showed compassion, encouragement and support to all she met.

***NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Roland Velasco, Mayor of the City of Gilroy, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby wish to recognize*

CLAUDIA KENDALL SALEWSKE

for her many contributions and dedicated service to our fine City.

Mayor Roland Velasco

May 15, 2017

