



JUNE 2012

The Society Page
**A SPECIAL INVITATION TO OUR
ANNUAL MEETING
AT THE BEAUTIFUL, PRISTINE
CASTRO VALLEY RANCH**



Put **SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd** on your calendar and plan to bring a friend or prospective member to our annual meeting, from **12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM**. We will have a chicken BBQ, catered by David Bozzo for \$10 apiece. After a brief business meeting we will present our Architectural Awards for 2012. Then ranch manager Don Long will give us an overview of this historic cattle ranch.

RSVP by **Monday, June 18th** to **Connie Rogers** at **842-8494** or jrogers@garlic.com

AGENDA FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

- I. Treasurer's Report
- II. Endowment Fund progress
- III. Accomplishments for 2011-2012
- IV. Goals for next year
 - a. Continue staffing the Gilroy Museum two days a week and improving our practices there.
 - b. Increase Museum Endowment Fund with the Gilroy Foundation.
 - c. Support preservation of historic buildings and increasing the vitality of Gilroy's historic downtown.
 - d. Continue Architectural Awards Program.
 - e. Continue Residential Plaque Program.
 - f. Improve our website and Facebook page.
 - g. Provide interesting quarterly programs for members.
 - h. Complete video of museum and begin using it.
- V. Presentation of Architectural Awards
- VI. Questions, Suggestions or Requests from members.
- VII. Don Long will present an overview of Castro Valley Ranch history

ENDOWMENT FUND PROGRESS

Last summer we received a very generous bequest of \$50,000 from the estate of our former board member, Linda Burnett. Donations and earnings from our many fundraisers allowed us to deposit an additional \$9000 with the Gilroy Foundation, bringing our balance there up to a grand total of \$79,710 at of the end of 2011. For this we thank you all! In April the Foundation notified us that our fund had generated \$3,900 and the Lindeleaf Fund had generated \$3,500 in 2011. Our board voted to reinvest these earnings in their respective funds.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2011-2012

1. Staffed the Gilroy Museum with volunteers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturdays of each month.
2. Led walking tours to different parts of historic Gilroy on nine first Saturdays.
3. With your contributions and support of our fundraisers, we added \$9000 to our fund with the Gilroy Foundation.
4. Held fundraisers at Mimi's Restaurant and a Bowl-a-thon at Gilroy Bowl.
5. Sold items at both the Gilroy Museum and the Gilroy Welcome Center.
6. Eleven historic homes purchased plaques through our recognition program.
7. One church, three historic homes and four commercial buildings received our first architectural awards in June 2011.
8. Gave presentations to the Art and Culture Commission and the City Council.
9. Earned \$964.68 by helping to sell art posters at the 2011 Garlic Festival.
10. Pulled our restored antique fire hose cart in Gilroy's Memorial Day Parade.
11. Supported the efforts of Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs.
12. Awarded a \$250 scholarship to a Gavilan student.
13. Gave a thank you Christmas luncheon to our museum volunteers and presented certificates of appreciation at our June BBQ.

SAN BENITO HISTORICAL VILLAGE

We had a great time visiting the village on April 21st, as you can see in these photos. Don Pidd, the caretaker, gave us the royal treatment. If you missed this trip, you can visit on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM or by special arrangement. Lots more information is found on the beautiful San Benito Historical Society website at www.sbhistoricalociety.org



GILROY ROTARY + GILROY FOUNDATION = DVD MUSEUM ACCESS

The Society was very gratified to be notified in April that we were awarded \$1000 by the Gilroy Foundation to match the \$1000 recently awarded by the Gilroy Rotary Club. These two grants have enabled us to begin work on a twenty-year-old goal: providing handicapped access at the Gilroy Museum. Under the Historic Building Code alternative methods are allowed to provide this legally required accessibility.

152 Productions, a local film company owned by Nils Myers and Mattie Scariot, began filming at the museum at the end of May. We are using **Phill Laursen's** adaptation of the script used for school tours. Museum volunteer **Barbara Bottini**, a retired teacher and local actress, is the guide and narrator. The DVD should be completed very soon, and we're looking forward to a special public showing in early fall. We'll be able to take this video to local classrooms and public meetings in addition to providing it to visitors who are unable to climb our many steps.

BITS AND PIECES

✂ **2012 Architecture Awards** – We asked the public to help us nominate outstanding examples of improved or well-cared-for properties and received a dozen or more nominations. Our Committee, **Kathy Hodgdon**, **Linda Williams** and **Roberta Hughan** are now in the process of narrowing them down. Winners will be announced at our June 23rd annual meeting. Categories are: *Historic Design Award* (for new construction in the downtown historic district), *Historic Commercial Building Award* (for a restored commercial building downtown), *Historic House Award* (for exterior renovation or restoration of an historic home), and *Certificate of Commendation* (for a residential or commercial property, which may be new construction, restoration, renovation and landscaping, painting or other significant improvement).

✂ Our partner **Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs** held a two-day event there on May 19th and 20th. It featured blue grass music groups, tours, exhibits, etc. Your Society had a table selling the items we have at the museum. Thank you to **Mary Ann & Ermelindo Puente** and **Connie Rogers** for staffing the table. With support from the State Parks the Hot Springs is holding monthly full moon camp out nights, and it is even possible to soak in the therapeutic warm water! Check the details at www.friendsofgilroyhotsprings.org.

This year we again decorated our colorful red antique fire hose cart with flags and pulled it in the **Gilroy Memorial Day Parade**. Thanks to members **Sarah Kelly** and **Connie Rogers**, who carried our banner, and **Jim Rogers** and 18-year-old volunteers Rene Lambert, Austin Boyd, and Alex, who pulled the hose cart. The parade is a great community event!

✂ **In Memoriam** – We are sorry to note the passing of former board member and community supporter, **Ruth Habing**, 9-29-1930 to 5-21-2012. **Ruth** and **Bernie** have been an important part of the Gilroy Community since they purchased the funeral home in the 1940s. They and their children at the Habing Family Funeral Home have comforted and supported us on a continuing basis for many years.

CHECK OUT THESE EVENTS AND WEBSITES OF OUR FRIENDS

- CaliforniaPioneers.com California Pioneers History Calendar
- <http://www.californiahistorian.com/> link to California Conference of Historical Societies web page
- **The Wolfe & Wolfe Prairie Homes Tour: 100 Years of Prairie Architecture in San Jose**
August 18, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Presented by the Preservation Action Council of San Jose. Owners of eight beautiful Prairie houses in several historic San Jose neighborhoods will open their front rooms, kitchens, and more. Buy your tickets now at www.preservation.org. Out-of-towners, email us at PrarieTour@preservation.org for a visitor's package.

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