



The Society Page

April 2013

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA TRAIL



**Saturday Morning, April 27th at 10:30 a.m.
Gilroy Library Community Room
350 West Sixth Street**

Hale Sargent, Interpretive Park Ranger of the National Park Service in San Francisco, will talk with us about this impressive national historic trail which runs on both sides of our valley. In 1775 Captain Juan Bautista de Anza led the epic expedition that would change history. You've probably seen the Auto Route markers on local roads, but did you know some of Monterey and San Jose's first settler families came with the Anza Expedition?

We will see an excellent 24-minute video, a professional re-enactment of the 1200 mile journey from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco. This program is co-sponsored by the Gilroy Library and open to the public. Light refreshments.

DO YOU HAVE A NOMINATION FOR OUR 2013 ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS?

Have you noticed an historic building that is "looking good" this year? You can nominate a building for the 2013 Architectural Awards. Last year, the home at 7297 Church Street was nominated by Jenny Knerr who stated, "I believe their efforts definitely deserve recognition - it's a pleasure to drive by their home now." The Board agreed, and the homeowners received a Certificate of Commendation.

Just send your nomination by April 30th using any of the below methods:

E-mail: GilroyMuseum@ci.gilroy.ca.us
Mail: Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth Street, Gilroy, CA 95020
Phone: (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.

The categories are:

Historic Design Award - for a new building in the downtown area that complements the original historic buildings or enhances the Downtown Historic District area.

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.

Historic House Award - for a home that is at least 50 years old that is an outstanding example of restoration and renovation. Exterior only.

Certificate of Commendation - for residential, commercial or "other." This could be for new construction, restoration, renovation, additions, landscaping, painting or significant improvement.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

Saturday, January 26th, 2013, saw our most successful Bowlathon to date. After expenses, we were able to add \$2649.99 to the Endowment Fund. WOW - more than we brought in the first 2 years combined!!

Bowling awards went to Julia Gimenez and Thomas Jacobs for High Series, while Cathy Gomez and Bruce Ball rolled 2nd High Series. Margene Peterson and Rick Santos took High Game honors, and Linda White and Larry Scettrini shot 2nd High Games.

Margene Peterson was also recognized for raising the most money in pledges while Cathy Gomez signed up the highest number of donors.

In addition to many grab bag gifts donated by various Society members and friends, raffle prizes were given by Gilroy Bowl, Gavilan and Gilroy Golf Courses, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Nob Hill Foods, and Blossom Valley Foods.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all participants, sponsors and donors.

Please think about taking part next year.... you won't be sorry!

REDISCOVERING THE MILIAS RESTAURANT

A crowd of 46 members and guests filled The Milias Restaurant dining room at our lunch meeting on February 9th. After a great meal, owner Adam Sanchez described their restoration adventure, which included MANY hours uncovering the original tiled floor and cleaning years of cigarette smoke from the beautiful chandeliers. After a lengthy hunt for memorabilia relating to prohibition, they amazingly found a prescription for whiskey written for George Milias and filled at the Johnson Drug store at 7451 Monterey Street! Light fixtures which may have come from the dining room were found at a local antique store and an original room key was donated by a Gilroy resident. Window frames from Hall's Western Wear across the street are used to accent lights in the dining room.

Alan Porcella shared a description of a fancy party at the Milias written by his then 12-year-old mother. Elizabeth Barratt and Anita Sciutto shared memories from their families. Everyone enjoyed seeing Adam's collection of historic artifacts and especially visiting with each other.

MUSEUM NEWS

Our new DVD video of the Gilroy Museum was shown at the Gilroy Rotary Club on February 19th. Producers Nils Myers and Mattie Scariot and star of the video, **Barbara Bottini**, accompanied President **Connie Rogers** to the event. It was gratifying to see 50 or 60 Rotary members paying rapt attention and giving the video a big round of applause. The members seemed very favorably impressed with the 24-minute film which they funded along with the Gilroy Foundation.

Remember Caroline Hoxett, Gilroy's benefactress who gave the lot for our Carnegie library, the clock in Old City Hall and the Rebekah's Children's Home? Her great-great-granddaughter and namesake, Caroline Monzani visited Gilroy on March 27th and 28th with her two adult daughters. They came all the way from Boston to visit the Museum, the Children's Home, Old City Hall, and Caroline's grave at Gavilan Hills Memorial Park. **Roberta Hughan** even gave them a tour of her home at 338 Fifth Street, which was built in 1869 by Caroline Hoxett and her husband. Mrs. Monzani and **Tom Howard** had a good time comparing photographs and arranging for copies of each others. She also donated some documents to the Museum and gave us many compliments on our professionalism.

Look for the new exhibit on William Weeks buildings next time you visit City Hall. **Barbara Biafore** and **Deanna Goodrich** have created a great display showing both old and current photos of several of the famous architect's buildings in Gilroy. Weeks was responsible for 1500 buildings on the Central Coast and we are fortunate to have 15 remaining in Gilroy. The previous City Hall exhibit, photos of our Mayors since Gilroy became a city in 1870, has now moved to the Museum. Enjoy them both!

GILROY MEMBER HONORED IN MONTEREY

The Monterey Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution honored our own **Elizabeth Barratt** with their Women in American History award during March, Women's History Month. Elizabeth has written three books about Gilroy, Carmel Valley and Carmel-by-the-Sea. Each one is unique, original, and well-researched. She is a frequent speaker for local organizations, telling of her quest to capture the history of Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. Her best known book is a pictorial history in the Images of America series called "Carmel Valley." Another local history is the volume titled "All Saints' Episcopal Church, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California: Our first one-hundred years, 1912-2012." Elizabeth's most recent book is "A Country Doctor in the Valley of Heart's Delight - the Life and Times of Pioneer Gilroy Physician and Mayor Heverland R. Chesbro, MD." This delightful biography of her great-grandfather is filled with wonderful stories about the early days in Gilroy and is available at the Gilroy Museum. Congratulations Elizabeth!

MUSEUM LEAD HONORED BY CITY

Tom Howard, Museum Lead Volunteer, was just announced as Volunteer of the Year by the City of Gilroy. The 600 hours he devoted to the Museum in 2012 surely warrant this honor! The award was announced at the City's Volunteer Appreciation dinner on April 11th. Tom is definitely the heart and brains of the Museum and we are very proud of him. As a former employee of the City, Tom has been applying his skills and knowledge as a Museum Volunteer since 2009. He is our guiding light and we appreciate him!

2012 MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS