



The Society Page

June 2015

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT
OUR ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 28 @ 12:30 PM



REDWOOD RETREAT * Home of Fernwood Cellars 7137 Redwood Retreat Road, Gilroy

This is a rare treat as 4th generation owner Linda Pond will give us a walk-around tour of the historic Sanders Redwood Retreat Resort on the property. Be sure to wear flat shoes because of the uneven terrain. Lunch will be catered by Troy Garcia of the Gilroy Grill, including excellent wine from Fernwood Cellars, one of the eight historic wineries described in the new book *Historic Wineries of Santa Clara County*. (It also appears on the cover.) Author Bev Stenehjem has been invited.

The menu will be baked chicken, pasta primavera, green salad, and rolls. All of this for \$20 apiece! If you'd like to come, please mail your check to our P.O. Box 1621 by Monday, June 22nd to make your reservation. This avoids having to pay at the door and gives us a firm count for the caterer. Thank you.

AGENDA FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

- I. Treasurer's Report
- II. Accomplishments for 2014-15
- III. Future Goals
- IV. Questions, Suggestions or Requests from Members
- V. Presentation of 2014 Architectural Awards

ENDOWMENT FUND PROGRESS

Thanks to very generous donors and supporters we're making wonderful progress on our Museum Endowment Fund. Special appreciation goes to **Margene Peterson** who led a team that signed up 128 pledges, collecting a total of **\$5520** during our Bowl-a-thon last March! Total Bowl-a-thon net proceeds were **\$6,770.57**.

During 2014, we deposited **\$11,575** in the Gilroy Foundation from donations and fundraisers. With interest, our balance at the end of 2014 was **\$159,279.21**.

Our goal of reaching **\$500,000** in the Museum Endowment Fund seems very high, but we believe it will take that much to generate enough income to pay a half-time professional director of the Gilroy Museum. With major help from the Lindeleaf Fund (which now stands at **\$92,055.27**) we are over the halfway point. A professional director will ensure that the Museum stays open, no matter what! At the same time, we know that volunteers are the ones who breathe life into the Museum. Although we are only open an average of ten days/month, our visitor numbers are similar to or better than when it was open twice as much.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2014-2015

1. Staffed the Gilroy Museum with 29 volunteers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturdays of every month, or about 65 hours/month. Welcomed two new volunteers.

2. Led free walking tours to different historic areas of Gilroy on nine first Saturdays per year.
3. Sold items at the Gilroy Museum and the Welcome Center to fund our Museum operating budget. Monthly pizza sales to bowlers also added to operating funds.
4. Held a very successful Bowl-a-thon fundraiser to benefit our Endowment Fund.
5. Presented Architectural Awards Habing Family Funeral Home, Pinnacle Bank and five historic homes.
6. Earned \$860 selling art posters in the Mercantile Tent at the Garlic Festival.
7. Participated in a partnership with Gabilan Chapter, DAR, Habing Family Funeral Home, St. Mary Parish, and neighbors to upgrade the old St. Mary Cemetery containing the grave of John Gilroy and several other important people in the history of South County. The Society contributed \$1000 towards the installation of a wrought iron fence around the cemetery.
8. Helped with the timeline and choosing photos for the boards in the historic paseo on the west side of Monterey Street between 5th and 6th Streets.
9. Held a popular program featuring Steve Yvaska, *Mercury News* columnist, evaluating antique and collectible items brought in by the guests.
10. Gave a thank-you Christmas luncheon at the Willey House for our Museum Volunteers.
11. Contributed to the restoration of the Southern Pacific locomotive mural downtown, which was inspired by a program we had the previous year.
12. Supported the efforts of the Miller Red Barn Committee to save the barn and find a new use for it.
13. Held an Authors' Day at the Gilroy Museum for the authors of seven local history books we sell there.
14. Maintained an active Facebook page that generated interest in our activities.

ARCHITECTURAL AWARD WINNERS FOR 2015

- 7610 Dowdy Street - Historic House Award
- 7160 Hanna Street - Historic House Award
- 286 Fifth Street, The Lester House - Historic House Award
- 283 Fifth Street, First Church of Christ the Scientist - Certificate of Commendation
- 290 IOOF Avenue, the IOOF-Rebekah Children's Home - Historic Commercial Building

The owners will be honored and presented with their awards and beautiful photographs of their buildings at our Annual Meeting on June 28th. Our next *Society Page* will have photographs of the buildings and explanations of why they were selected. Many thanks to committee chair, Kathy Hodgdon, for her seasoned guidance and committee members Bill Faus, Roberta Hughan, Karen Pedigo, and Connie Rogers. Special commendation goes to architectural photographer, Kris Knutson, who has again donated his talent and expertise for this effort.

LOCAL AUTHORS' DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Several local history books were featured on May 2nd when we hosted authors Elizabeth Barratt, Claudia Salweske, Ian Sanders, and Michael Brookman at the Museum. Although Donna Brodsky was unable to participate, she signed our copies of her book *San Martin, Then and Now*. All of the books are sold at the Museum. A wonderful late addition to the event was author Bev Stenehjem with her just -published book, *Historic Wineries of Santa Clara County*. The cover photo is of the Sanders Resort, now Fernwood Cellars, where we will have our Annual Meeting on June 28th. We will be selling this one too, in the near future.

OLD ST. MARY CEMETERY

In several past issues we have reported on the progress of the ad hoc committee working to improve the appearance and highlight the importance of Old St. Mary Cemetery. The group now has a new, much lower, fence estimate of less than \$30,000.



Cemetery Donation Letter.doc
click to download

FABRIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

On March 19th and 20th, about 14 of our Museum Volunteers participated in a workshop on fabric preservation at the Museum given by Margaret Geiss-Mooney, noted textile/costume conservator and collections consultant. She gave a very lively presentation, using a Power Point and many samples. On Friday, the group spent half the day assessing the building, which she said was the "first line of defense" in terms of preservation. That afternoon participants examined many fabric objects from the collection and discussed

how best to handle them. All in all it was a very useful workshop. We can thank the City of Gilroy for providing the training stipend.

Volunteers who participated were Nancy Alford, Carol DeSantis, Edith Edde, Linda Elia, Joanne Fierro, Maureen Frantzich, Lenore Hailstone, Tom Howard, Maureen Hunter, Betty Kelly, Mark McPherson, Marian Niyama, Connie Rogers, and Linda White. Cathy Devine from the Morgan Hill Historical Society also participated.

GARLIC FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are so lucky to have one of the best assignments at the Festival... jobs in the shade of the Mercantile Tent helping patrons choose art posters from past years! We don't have to handle money, and there are even a few chairs to use during slow times. Two volunteers also operate the Peoples' Choice voting for runners-up in this year's poster contest. Last year we earned **\$860**, money that helps pay the Society's operating expenses all year long. If you can help us by taking one morning or afternoon shift on Friday, July 24th, Saturday, July 25th, or Sunday, July 26th, please call **Barbara Biafore** at **(408) 842-7515**.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Our beautiful bright red hose cart was once again in Gilroy's Memorial Day Parade. Many thanks go to Scott Lynch, who stores the hose cart at his business, to Rick Santos who transports the hose cart to and from the parade, and to Sarah & John Kelly, and Connie & Jim Rogers who pulled the cart in the parade. As you can see, it was a little cool that day! Luckily the cart pulls easily. How do you like our beautiful banner donated by Richard Young of Young Signs?

GILROY HOT SPRINGS PROGRESS

We've heard from Matt Bischoff, Historian with the Monterey District of State Parks, that the restoration of the Texas Cabin is almost finished! Watch for information about a dedication ceremony to be held soon.

MUSEUM NEWS

* Recent acquisitions at the Museum include:

~ A lovely quilt made by volunteers at the Senior Citizen Center in the 1980s was donated by Judy Bozzo. Each panel on the quilt is made up of local scenes.

~ Voluminous records of the FRFG Women's Book and Study Club, dating back to its founding in 1898 were donated. The Club is still active in Gilroy. What a tradition!

~ And the Museum needs certain Gilroy High School yearbooks! Do you have any you'd like to donate? Years needed are: '42, '44, '47, '48, '49, '55, '69, '76, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81, '83, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, '96, '97, '98, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2014.

* The Museum has been actively engaged in providing many of the photos for the new downtown Historic Paseo. Have you seen the Paseo on the west side of Monterey, between 5th and 6th? It now has beautiful background hills painted on the north wall. Seven freestanding "boards" ranging in size from 12' to 16' wide and 8' high will be installed in the Paseo next fall. Each one will cover a topic such as Agriculture, Business, Cowboy Era, Community, Hospitality, Early Settlers, and, of course, Garlic! Our famous local firm, Articulate Solutions, is doing the graphic art. A fund-raising committee is selling bricks in the Paseo that you can have engraved with family names for \$250 or you can sponsor a whole board for \$10,000 or \$12,000. For more information contact **Joan Buchanan** at

(408) 847-7440, or jbuchan@garlic.com