

The Society Page

September 2015

MEET US FOR A VIRTUAL WINE TOUR..... Saturday, September 19th at 2 PM at the Gilroy Library, 350 West Sixth Street

Bev Stenehjem will share the stories and photos from her new book, [THE WINERIES OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY](#). It includes eight South County wineries and five of them are Gilroy's! Did you know we are the oldest premium wine-producing area in the state and have our own viticulture designation? She interviewed the families of our wineries and they shared pictures from their own histories. Join us for this very special program with "virtual" wine and appetizers.



MORE ABOUT LOCAL AUTHOR BEV STENEHJEM

Bev Stenehjem is a human resources professional during the day and a wine enthusiast on the weekends. She moved to Gilroy from San Jose in 2009 and a few months later, due to the Great Recession, found herself in between jobs. Her good friends, knowing about her interest in wine, prodded her to write a wine column while waiting for her next opportunity in the human resources field.

The next day, Bev called the Gilroy Dispatch, sent in a few sample columns and was promptly hired as a freelance writer. She spent the next three years discovering and writing about all the wonderful wineries between Morgan Hill and Hollister. Her wine column, Bev's Wine Buzz, appeared in three publications: The Gilroy Dispatch, The Morgan Hill Times and The Hollister Freelance. During this time she also presented numerous wine appreciation classes through Gavilan Community Education.

In 2014, Arcadia Publishers came across her column on the Internet and asked her to write about the history of our wine region. Bev's new book, [The Wineries of the Santa Clara Valley](#), uses vintage photos to tell the story of our region's rich history. In addition to being the director of human resources at Mission Bell in Morgan Hill, Bev is also the chairperson for the non-profit, Gavilan Employer Advisory Council. She is an associate member of the region's wine association, the Wineries of Santa Clara Valley, where she keeps their website and Facebook page updated with news and events. Bev is also proud to be a member of the Gilroy Historical Society. She is a passionate advocate for our fabulous, local wineries. Her book is a tribute to them and all the hard-working families who produce award-winning wines, year after year.



AND SPEAKING OF WINERIES.....

Here are some photos from the Society's Annual Meeting at Fernwood Cellars on June 28th. It was a beautiful day in a picturesque historic location, with delicious food and wine. It doesn't get better than that! Fourth generation owner Linda Pond explained the history of the property, first settled by her great-grandfather in 1863 and operated as the Sanders Redwood Retreat Resort around the turn of the century. Then she gave us a tour, enjoyed by many of our 54 guests. Today Linda's son, Matt Oettinger and his wife are the operators of Fernwood Cellars.



AND THE WINNERS OF OUR 2015 ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS ARE:

1. 286 Fifth Street, known as the Lester House - Historic House Award
2. 283 Fifth Street, the Christian Science Church - Certificate of Commendation
3. 7160 Hanna Street - Historic House Award

4. 7610 Dowdy Street - Historic House Award
5. 290 IOOF Avenue, Rebekah Children's Home - Historic Commercial Building

We were very pleased to present our 2015 Architectural Awards to the owners or representatives of these exemplary buildings at our Annual meeting on June 28th. Each one was given a certificate and 8 x 10 photo of their building. These wonderful photos were taken by **Kris Knutson**, an architectural photographer who generously donates his work. We're also grateful to member **Kathy Hodgdon** for again chairing the Awards Committee.

A NEW LIFE FOR OLD SAINT MARY CEMETERY

Thank you supporters, one and all, for coming to the rescue of Gilroy's most historic cemetery! In about three months more than 110 donors contributed \$30,000 that will make it possible to pay for a new wrought iron fence around the cemetery. The heartwarming donations, ranging from \$5 to \$2000 came from individuals, clubs and businesses. Of course the Society was one of the many donors. We are very proud of our part in the coalition of community members that included Gavilan Chapter of the DAR, Habing Family Funeral Home, neighbors of the cemetery and parishioners of St. Mary.

Saint Mary Church is celebrating its 150th year and it is certainly most fitting that their oldest cemetery be refurbished and honored at this time. St. Mary is making the arrangements for the new wrought iron fence and arched gate to be installed very soon. St. Mary School will hold a mass at the cemetery on November 2nd as a religious re-dedication. The Committee is planning a **historic re-dedication on Saturday, November 7th and you are invited!** Congresswoman Lofgren has already said she will be there. She and all the other donors will receive a letter of invitation for the 10 AM event. After the ribbon cutting, there will be refreshments and tours of the cemetery. It is rewarding to see two years of collaborative effort nearing completion. Put it on your calendar!

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PASEO

Another ambitious community project is almost ready for completion! For two years **Joan Buchanan** has led a committee in developing a timeline of Gilroy history, then dividing it into these major topics: Early Settlers, Agriculture, Gilroy's Cowboy Era, Gilroy Means Business, Gilroy a True Community, Hospitality and, of course, The Stinking Rose. Photos had to be chosen that were representative of their time period of industry and they had to be of excellent quality so they would reproduce well for the large "boards" to be erected in the Paseo. Many of those came from the Gilroy Museum. Articulate Solutions was hired to create the graphic artwork and has done a beautiful job. You may have seen several of the panels in the July/August edition of "Gilroy Morgan Hill Today." The result is one we can all be proud of! It goes to the City Council on September 14th for their approval. Committee Members who worked with Joan are: **Carol Peters, Trudie Conrotto, Mattie Scariot, Arline Silva, Karen Aitken and Connie Rogers.**

The Paseo is designed to conveniently link pedestrians visiting the shops and restaurants on Monterey Street with Gourmet Alley and adjacent parking. The Gilroy Historic Paseo will be more than a thoroughfare --- it will be a path through Gilroy's rich history.

With a community partnership of private and public funding, under the direction of award-winning landscape architect Karen Aitken, the beautifully designed Gilroy Historic Paseo will welcome tourists and residents alike. The Society has purchased a brick for the passage-way with our name on it. If YOU would like to be part of this historic effort, you can buy a brick with 3 lines of up to 15 letters each for \$250. All donations are fully tax deductible because they go through the Gilroy Foundation. You may send your check to their P.O. Box 774, Gilroy, 95021.



GHS Paseo.pdf
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WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

Our first All Volunteer Workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 10 AM at the Willey House, across the street from the Museum. In the six years we've been operating the Gilroy Museum we've had great success with our enthusiastic volunteers. However there has been turnover (as expected) it seemed a very good time to review some of the basics, help learn research skills, get to know each other better and listen to ideas from the volunteers. A Tag Team of **Betty Kelly, Joanne Fierro, Connie Rogers** and **Tom Howard** will lead the discussion.

Thank you to several members and friends who have donated some of the missing Gilroy High Yearbooks! That is a big help in filling out our collection. Here is an updated list as of 8/20 of the ones we still need: 1942, 1944, 1948, 1949, 1955, 1969, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015.

We also have some wonderful new acquisitions at the Museum. Here is the large framed wedding certificate of **Debby Stuker's** great-grandmother, Katie Berri, complete with photos of the bride and the groom, John Rea. Judge Howard Willey officiated on May 11, 1889.

The other very special acquisition is a large Regina music box, circa 1896, used at Henry Miller's summer home on Mt. Madonna. The donation included many large metal discs of different songs that could be played like records. The donor obtained it from Mary E. Long, the wife of Raymond Long, whose grandfather Albert was the nephew of Henry Miller.



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new Life Members:

Gracie Garcia

John & Lee Blaettler

And this new Corporate Member:

Mike Monroe of People and Planet Natural Foods, now wholesale only

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS PLEASE

Here is a link to the nomination form for Gilroy's Hall of Fame. The Chamber of Commerce (to which the Society belongs) is reviving this program and has asked for our help. The form is two-sided, so read it carefully. Nominees may be living or not, but the nomination must be turned in on or before September 30th to either the Gilroy Museum or the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce. The Committee wants to build up a list of nominees that can be drawn from in the future, as well as choosing a 2015 winner.



Hall of Fame.pdf

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