



# THE SOCIETY PAGE

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*Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society*

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**PLEASE JOIN US AT GILROY GOLF COURSE**

**For our Annual Meeting and Architectural Awards**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018 at 12 NOON**

**GILROY GOLF COURSE, 2695 Hecker Pass Highway**

**(BBQ Area next to the driveway, across from the parking lot)**

Troy Garcia of the Gilroy Grill will prepare our lunch. The menu will be chicken piccata, garlic herb pasta, green salad, rolls and beverage (iced tea, water, beer & wine for \$20. Make your reservation right away by sending your check to **Gilroy Historical Society, P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA, 95021 by Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**. The winners of the Architectural Awards will be our guests. Help us thank these property owners who have kept their historic homes (and Gilroy) looking good!

## AGENDA FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Accomplishments for 2017-2018
3. Future goals
4. Questions, Suggestions and Requests from Members
5. Report on Miller Red Barn progress
6. Presentation of 2018 Architectural Awards

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2017-2018

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 earning a record \$9119 to benefit our Gilroy Foundation Endowment Fund. With that and our annual end of the year appeal we have added over \$18,000 in the past year!
5. Presented Architectural Awards to owners of seven historic homes, a cottage court and the Salvation Army Church.
6. Provided displays at both the Museum and City Hall featuring our Chinese history and Transportation.
7. Held programs about Frank Delos Wolfe, architect of Old City Hall, Amah Mutsun culture and heritage, a field trip to Pacheco State Park and our first annual Heritage Luncheon, featuring oral histories of seven important senior citizens.
8. Held a one-day only exhibit of the Kitaji Bibles in partnership with Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs. 125 guests attended!
9. Improved our Gilroy Historical Society website. .
10. Hosted several school tours at the Museum and walking tours of downtown.
11. Gave a Christmas thank you luncheon for our volunteers at the Willey House.
12. Supported the efforts of the Miller Red Barn Association.

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### 2018 ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

We had several nominations and spirited discussion about which ones to select. Our Committee, composed of **Bill Faus, Pat Reinhart, Larry Scettrini, Kathy Hodgdon and Connie Rogers** is very proud to present the winners, photos taken by **Phill Laursen**. Our purpose is to recognize the owners of properties who have taken such good care of their historic homes and buildings and to bring this to the attention of the community. The Miller Red Barn is still a work in progress, but we felt they deserved commendation for the beautiful new roof installed last year. We wish them luck with their grant application for more improvements.



Miller Red Barn, 1891, Christmas Hill Park, Ranch Site  
 Certificate of Commendation  
 Miller Red Barn Committee



7391 Alexander Street, 1887, Greek Revival/Stick Eastlake  
Historic House Award  
Bob Mc Crory



7221 Forrest Street, 1870 Pioneer style  
Certificate of Commendation  
Roy Moreno



7797 Egleberry St., 1913, Pioneer Style  
Historic House Award  
Gerald and Mary Ann Hunter



7861 Church St., 1917, Neoclassic with craftsman details  
Certificate of Commendation  
Steve and Jamie Hernandez



7581 Carmel St.  
Historic House Award  
Peter Casper



7548 Princeville St. 1932, Spanish revival style  
Historic House Award  
Lisa Cortese and Patty Filice



7531 Dowdy Street  
Certificate of Commendation  
Ross Brodersen



7560 Monterey Street, 1931, Spanish Colonial Revival  
Historic Commercial Building  
Tom Miller

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## **HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY UPDATE BEGINNING SOON**

On the City website there is a listing for Historic Resources, also known as the Historic Building Inventory. It is a document mainly used by buyers and sellers in the older areas of town, also by researchers and was invaluable in planning the Historic Walking Tours on the first Saturday of most months. It was created in 1986 when the City hired professional Bonnie Bamburg. She trained volunteers who did the leg work and they made a list of 385 buildings. This survey also helped form Gilroy's two Historic Districts: Monterey Street from Fourth to Eighth and Fifth Street from Monterey to Hanna with stubs on Egleberry and Church Streets. There are also 58 separately called out Historic Sites of individual buildings, like the Rebekah Children's Home and others.

It is very exciting to history and architecture buffs that this document will soon be updated. A steering committee of **Gary Walton, Steve Ashford and Connie Rogers** helped staff from the Planning Department evaluate seven firms applying for the job. Three firms were interviewed by this committee and a frontrunner chosen. Soon the staff will present a contract for the City Council to approve and the year-long process should begin right afterwards. This update will quickly re-evaluate the current listings and add new ones. It will determine the historic significance of each building for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and should also give the City information about how owners of these historic buildings can rehabilitate them for current use while still keeping the historic "look". Stay tuned for more info.....

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## **GARLIC FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We have a very desirable job this year, thanks to Council Member Harney who is chairing the information booths. We need to staff one of the two booths with four people each shift, 9 AM to 2 PM or 2 PM to 7 PM all three days of the festival. It will be in the shade ! and we may even have chairs inside the booth to use during slow periods. It is a pleasant job with no stress and several advantages. Each worker will get free entry into the festival and a meal ticket good at Gourmet Alley. All your "earnings" will go to the Gilroy Historical Society. Call Barbara Biafore at 408-842-8494 today to volunteer!

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## **BREAKING NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM**

Here's a late-breaking news flash: The Society has just had an opportunity to buy three documents signed by John Gilroy and his wife selling land to Horace Willson in 1854 and 1855. Also photos of Horace and Eunice Willson, their 1846 marriage certificate, an architectural drawing of the Willson home in Old Gilroy signed by George Chalmers plus Edith Willson's Bank of Gilroy bank book. Although we rarely buy anything, we decided this offer, via Facebook, from an antique dealer in northern Idaho, was too good to pass up. Soon you should be able to see them at the Museum!

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## **GENEALOGY TRAINING**

The Museum arranged for Sheila Benedict, to give genealogy training to our volunteers in early May. It was a very informative class for 15 of us! We learned of locations for many resources to consult, how to verify information and many other tips that we can use to help museum visitors who want to look up their ancestors. If you would like to learn more here is Sheila's website: <https://benedictprogenealogy.com>

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## CAN YOU HELP OUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE?

Our dedicated Education Committee goes out to Gilroy schools and does classroom presentations on a variety of historic topics. One presentation involves showing the students replicas of 1900's children's clothing. The Committee is looking for any children's clothing from 1900 to 1930, especially boys' underwear. If you have any items you would consider donating, we'd be most grateful and the children would be impressed! Karen Pedigo 408-499-7460

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## OUR HOSE CART IN THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

We were able to have our bright red fire hose cart, circa 1900, in the Gilroy Memorial Day parade again. Many thanks to **Rick Santos**, who took the hose cart to the parade on his trailer, to **Anthony and Jacob Lewis** (Joanie's grandsons) who proudly held our banner (created and donated by **Richard Young**), **Ernie Marques, Jim Rogers, Eric Howard** and his friend who pulled the cart in the parade and to **Scott Lance** who has been providing storage space for the hose cart for many years. It takes a village of helpers!

