



THE SOCIETY PAGE

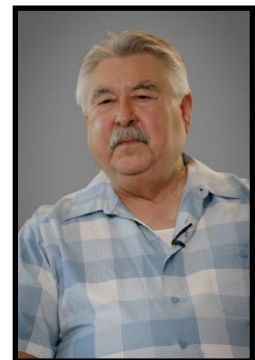
Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

December, 2018

Please join us for our SECOND ANNUAL HERITAGE LUNCHEON

We invite you to celebrate Gilroy's history with five seniors who helped shape it:

1. **Mineko Sakai**, daughter of Jimmy Hirasaki, beautiful seamstress & businesswoman.
2. **Angelo Benassi**, prune farmer who worked for the State to place farm workers with farm owners.
3. **Don Christopher**, founder of Christopher Ranch garlic business.
4. **Bill Spendlove**, radio announcer, master of ceremonies and entertainer.
5. **Mike Casares**, grew up in a farm labor family in Gilroy.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2019

At Old City Hall Restaurant (7400 Monterey Street, Gilroy)

12:00 PM - No host social hour

1:00 PM - Lunch - oral history film program to follow by 152 West Productions

\$30 per person - Advance purchase only (no tickets issued)

You will receive a mailed invitation. Please complete the enclosed reservation card with your food choices and check by January 10, 2019. For information contact Joanie Lewis at (408) 202-2204.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!

Our donors are amazing! Year after year they keep sending contributions toward our Museum Endowment Fund with the Gilroy Foundation. And we are immensely grateful! We are getting much closer to our goal of \$500,000. We think that amount will enable us to hire a half time Director/Curator for the Gilroy Museum, thus ensuring it will always stay open. As of June 30, 2018 our Museum Endowment Fund balance was \$253,259 and the Lindeleaf Fund balance was \$107,327 , making the total \$360,586.

Your generosity sustains our volunteer efforts to staff the museum and makes it so worthwhile. Volunteers have enabled us to complete the recording of the collection into Past Perfect software and assisted with many other worthy tasks. And they have helped us spread the word about Gilroy history to many other parts of the community. Gilroy is truly a special place and you are a big part of the reasons why! A full list of 2018 donors will be published in our next edition.

AND THANK YOU TO OUR VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS ALSO!

The tradition of our Christmas volunteer thank you luncheon continued on December 4th when we enjoyed a festive lunch at the Willey House. Lead Volunteer **Betty Kelly** loves to coordinate this special treat every year. **Barbara Biafore** provided beautiful red cyclamen table decorations, **Connie Rogers** brought sparkling cider, **Maureen Hunter** bottled water, **Deanna Goodrich** coffee and **Betty** delicious little red velvet cupcakes. Twenty eight of our 30 volunteers enjoyed themselves, as you can see in our group photo.

After lunch Lead Volunteer **Tom Howard** summarized our accomplishments for the year. We also celebrated the retirement of both **Susan Voss** and **Cathy Mirelez** from the City of Gilroy and gave them each the gift of a wooden box with photo of the Museum on the lid. We're looking forward to welcoming them as volunteers next year.





HISTORIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY AND SOCIETY

It is hard to realize that in January we will have completed our tenth year of staffing the City-owned Museum with volunteers! All this time we have been operating on the strength of a letter from Maria deLeon, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. When we began neither the City nor the Society knew how long we would be able to maintain this service and what other issues it might come up. Last year we brought up the topic of formalizing a more structured authorization and have held several meetings with Cathy Mirelez, the City's Cultural Arts Supervisor and Susan Voss, City Volunteer Coordinator and Liaison to the Museum. These progressed to

meetings with both of those ladies and Adam Henig, Recreation Manager, with the Society represented by **Eileen Cavallaro and Connie Rogers**.

The Society asked the City to continue all the support we have enjoyed: building maintenance, all utilities including internet service, computers, copy machine and continuation of being part of the City "family". After all, the City owns both the building and the Collection inside. The City holds the Collection in trust for the people of Gilroy. The Society provides staffing with volunteers who are recruited and vetted by the City. We agreed to purchase commercial liability insurance. In short, it was a win-win for both the Society and the City of Gilroy. We were very pleased to come to terms on the Agreement before Susan Voss and Cathy Mirelez retired and prior to hiring a part time Director/Curator. Our new liaison to the Museum will be Adam Henig. The new Agreement (not a lease or a contract) begins on January 1, 2019 and lasts four years until Dec. 31, 2022. Of course we expect it to be renewed at that time! If you would like to see a copy of the Agreement, please ask Connie Rogers.

NEW RENEWAL DATE AND DUES STRUCTURE

During our retreat meeting in August it was decided to change the renewal process for membership in order to avoid confusion. Sometimes our rotating membership year with no set renewal date was difficult to remember. So we decided to have all members renew on July 1 of each year, unless you are already a Life Member. We hope this will be easier for all of us to remember! It's simple, JULY 1ST FOR ALL RENEWALS. So don't pay anything until next July 1st, 2019.

At the same time we adjusted our dues to reflect the following:

Seniors - \$25,

Individuals - \$35

Family - \$50

Life and Corporate Memberships - \$500

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

- We have wonderful new volunteers this year, **Lily Jackson**, a teachers' aide who works every first Saturday, and **Joe Robinson**, a former teacher, recently moved to Gilroy, who works several days/month! They are great assets to the Museum!
- Progress is being made on the revised Amah Mutsun exhibit. We are waiting to get a loan agreement approved so that artifacts discovered at our Chitactac site can be loaned back to us by Cabrillo College who has custody. Also photos need to be mounted.
- The John Gilroy book (reprint of Master's thesis by Truda Cooling Nelson) is still in progress. We can thank **Phill Laursen** for this time-consuming work!
- We are getting estimates on conservation of the John Gilroy/Horace Willson documents we purchased last summer.
- We're planning to arrange for training for Volunteers through the County Parks Dept. this winter, using our training stipend from the City.

Did you know that our volunteer, **Barbara Biafore**, sets up a new display in City Hall's central corridor several times/year? Right now apropos of the Christmas season, the cabinet features children's toys.

ON THE HORIZON ...

- Our application for the Gilroy Train Station to be on the National Register of Historic Places was submitted in December. Society member **Sherri Stuart**, aided and abetted by **Connie Rogers**, completed the detailed 35 page application form, accompanied by photos taken in 2013 by Kris Knutson for our Architectural Awards.
- A field trip to the California Room special collection at the Martin Luther King Library in San Jose. This will probably be on a Saturday afternoon in January. If interested, email Connie Rogers at jrogers@garlic.com
- BOWL-A-THON on Saturday, March 23rd. **Linda White** does a super job arranging for this annual fundraiser at Gilroy Bowl. No bowling skill is needed, we just have fun! Line up a few friends, get some pledges and join us for a good time.
- A trip to the historic cold war radar tower at Mt. Umunhum is being arranged by member **Beth Wyman**. Her friend Basim Jaber of the Mt. Umunhum Conservancy will give us a tour. He championed saving this Santa Clara Valley landmark. Date to be arranged, probably a Saturday in April, with the Morgan Hill Historical Society.
- Architecture Awards will be coming up this spring. We need members and public to nominate properties (homes and businesses) who are setting a good example by restoring an historic building or taking good care of one. In our next issue we'll publish the categories and how to nominate. We also need a few members to look at the properties that have been nominated and vote on the results. Can you help? Let Connie know!
