



Old Gilroy City Hall - 1905

# THE SOCIETY PAGE

*Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society*

*September 2021*

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History of  
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Society News



Interpretive Signs  
for Museum

## GILROY MUSEUM

195 5th Street • Gilroy, CA 95020  
(408) 846-0446

### HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
10AM - 4PM

First Saturdays 10AM - 2PM

Email the museum at:  
[Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org](mailto:Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org)

## YOU'RE INVITED

*to*

## Gilroy Historical Society's 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HERITAGE LUNCHEON



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2021

Old City Hall Restaurant  
7400 Monterey Street, Gilroy, California

11:30 Social Hour – 12 noon Lunch

*followed by*

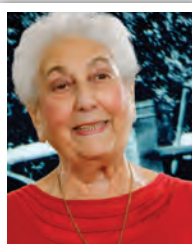
## 152 West Productions Presents: SENIORS WHO SHAPED GILROY

\$30.00 per person – advance purchase only – RSVP by September 25th

If you did not receive a mailed invitation, RSVP to  
Joanie Lewis at 408-842-8698



Elizabeth Barratt



Viola Carr



Barbara Drewitz



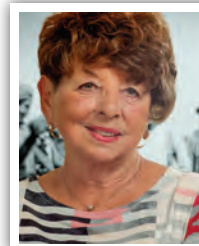
Herman Garcia



Carol Peters



Eddie Sanchez



Anita Sciutto

## GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[www.gilroyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.gilroyhistoricalsociety.org) (Follow the link on our website to reach our Facebook page)

Connie Rogers, <i>President</i> .....	Jrogers@garlic.com .....	(408) 842-8494
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Maureen Hunter, <i>Secretary</i> .....	MaureenHunter8@yahoo.com. ....	(503) 550-7668
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Barbara Biafore, <i>Volunteer Schedules</i> . ....	budbiafore@gmail.com .....	(408) 842-7515
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Elizabeth Barratt, <i>Emeritus</i> . ....	hrhandqe3@gmail.com .....	(408) 607-3189
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Roberta Hughan, <i>Emeritus</i> .....	RHughan@garlic.com .....	(408) 842-5375
Dave Matuszak. ....	dmatuszak2@aol.com .....	(408) 842-0681
Lucy Solórzano. ....		(408) 607-7722

Board meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Museum, 195 Fifth Street, 1:00 p.m.

Members are always welcome to attend or share ideas with the board.

### MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

846-0446 ♦ [gilroy.museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us](mailto:gilroy.museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us)

Hours: Tues / Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The following items are for sale  
with the proceeds going to benefit the Museum.

When ordering from Amazon use  
**smile.amazon.com**,  
and they will send the  
Gilroy Historical Society a tiny  
percentage of your purchase!

- \$ 5.00 **Gilroy's Old City Hall** book by Chuck Myer
- \$ 5.00 **Juan Bautista de Anza Trail** book
- \$ 5.00 **Old City Hall Lapel Pin**
- \$ 5.00 **Reusable Bags** blue bags with Old City Hall logo (15" x 12" x 9")
- \$ 5.00 **DVD #1** includes Gymkhana, National Guard Camp at San Luis Obispo, Armistice Day Parade and 1911 GHS Championship Team
- \$ 5.00 **DVD #2: Life in Gilroy 1950** a professionally made 50-minute film
- \$ 10.00 **Mouse Pad** with photo of Gilroy Museum
- \$ 10.00 **Note Cards** package of 8 with 4 different line drawings of historic homes
- \$ 12.00 **Gilroy Museum DVD** history of Gilroy's growth and development
- \$ 20.00 **San Martin, Then and Now** book by Donna Brodsky
- \$ 20.00 **Views of Morgan Hill** book by Ian Sanders
- \$ 20.00 **A Country Doctor in the Valley of Hearts Delight: The Life and Times of Pioneer Gilroy Physician and Mayor, Heverland R. Chesbro, MD** book by Elizabeth Barratt
- \$ 23.98 **Gilroy, Images of America** book autographed by author Claudia Salewske (includes tax)
- \$ 23.98 **Wineries of Santa Clara Valley, Images of America** book by Bev Stevehjem
- \$ 25.00 **Mineral Springs of Santa Clara County** book by Ian Sanders
- \$ 25.00 **100 Years of Gilroy Hot Springs** picture book by Ian Sanders and Michael Brookman



# MUSEUM NEWS

by Susan Voss, Museum Manager

I recently had the pleasure of participating in the Gilroy Historical Society's Planning Workshop. During the upcoming year, the Museum plans to work on the collection, conserve the Museum textiles, enlist more volunteers or an intern, and depending on the pandemic, engage our community. The board would also like us to add more Saturday hours if possible.

The Museum is embarking on an assessment and verification of the Objects catalog which encompasses most of the artifacts in the main basement storage. It's a big job, since there are over 3,000 objects, but our volunteers are up to the task! When the audit is completed and the database information updated, the artifact descriptions will be improved. This will also enable us to reorganize the basement storage so the collection access will be more efficient.

Thanks to the budget allotment from the City of Gilroy, the museum has over \$2,000 to engage a Materials and Textile conservator who will make recommendations on the conservation and preservation of the more fragile clothing materials.

The Museum has applied for a Collection Assistant through the Foothill/DeAnza Humanities Mellon Scholars Internship Program. The program pays the intern so there is no cost to the Museum, and while there is no guarantee the Museum will receive an appointment, an intern would be a great help with the collections project.

Depending on the constraints of the pandemic, the Museum will continue to be open and hopefully by spring, once more offer school tours to vaccinated children. We are excited about displaying the Hot Springs register, and volunteers are working to revise and refresh our other permanent displays.

We're delighted that a dozen of our pre-Covid volunteers have returned, vaccinated and working with masks. Also, we have a new volunteer on Tuesdays, Allison Ramirez, who will be focusing on Collection and museum research. Allison is a recent graduate of San Diego State and is working part time in Gilroy. If you're interested in volunteering, inquire at the museum and we can guide you through the city application process. It's going to be a busy year. Join the fun!

We were pleased to have City Administrator **Jimmy Forbis** visit the Museum on August 26th. He saw our chock-full basement and we discussed our future storage needs with him. He also was able to see that the Museum is an important part of the City's public image by responding to research requests from the media and receiving visitors from all over the state and country.

**Christina Cargnoni**, a Santa Clara University student  
was our summer volunteer/intern.





# SOAK IT ALL IN: A DAY OF WATER, WINE AND HISTORY OF GILROY HOT SPRINGS



You are cordially invited to enjoy a day in Gilroy on October 9, 2021 in support of reopening Gilroy Hot Springs for public access. This fundraiser is sponsored by **Gilroy Hot Springs Conservancy**, **Satori Cellars**, the **Gilroy Museum** and **Gilroy Historical Society**.

For one day only, The Gilroy Museum will host a special exhibition of the famed "Flagpole Register" as well as other rare items, on loan from the McDonald and Lundblade families. According to **Teddy Goodrich**, as told in *A Hundred Years of Gilroy Hot Springs*, by Ian L. Sanders and Michael F. Brookman,

*A flag was flown on a prominent peak known as Lookout Mountain across Coyote Creek from Gilroy Hot Springs to signify the resort as open. The flagpole was erected in February 1911 by William McDonald. A register was kept of those guests who made the arduous climb to the flag pole.*

## REOPENING GILROY HOT SPRINGS

Gilroy Hot Springs, also known as Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, is a valued natural and historic resource. With a resort history almost as old as the State of California, the hot springs has served as a space of community and personal rejuvenation and healing, while encouraging and facilitating a connection to the natural world for over 154 years.

Gilroy Hot Springs Conservancy is a non-profit that was formed in 2020 for the purpose of restoring the hot springs property and reopening it for public use. Gilroy Hot Springs is situated in Henry Coe State Park and has been owned by California State Parks since 2003. State Parks provides the opportunity for non-profits such as the Conservancy to partner in operation, management and education in State Park properties. The spirit of the hot springs and the potential for preservation has been guarded and maintained by the Friends of Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, a committee under the Pine Ridge Association, which is an interpretive non-profit serving Henry Coe State Park. After receiving a tour of the hot springs from the committee, volunteers set out to form a new kind of partnership with California State Parks with the goal of getting back into the healing mineral waters, which still flow today in 2021. Gilroy Hot Springs Conservancy was formed with the mission to create a partnership with State Parks to restore, maintain and operate the hot springs, including the many historically protected structures still standing on the property. Planned services for the public include mineral hot springs soaking, camping, restored cabin rental and recreation.

One of the joys and pleasures of serving as a volunteer for Gilroy Hot Springs Conservancy has been the never-ending web of connections to the hot springs that the community still holds. Since I began working on this project in 2018,



Contributed by:  
**LUCIE VOGEL, J.D.**  
President of  
Gilroy Hot Springs  
Conservancy



nearly every person I mention the hot springs to, with roots in South Santa Clara Valley, has a connection. They have visited the property or they have soaked in the healing waters. Their life or the life of someone they know was changed by the healing powers of the water. Others have family connections to Roop Rd and Gilroy Hot Springs Rd, or to the many historical buildings in downtown Gilroy that once served as an interconnected web that ferried people to the hot springs. Very rarely do I meet a local who has never heard of the hot springs.

The reopening of Gilroy Hot Springs will bring healing, commerce and community to Gilroy and South Santa Clara Valley. In a time where so much of the world seeks to fracture and fray our connections, the reopening of Gilroy Hot Springs will help deflect and defend against these negative forces. Please consider getting involved with our efforts to reopen this valued community and cultural resource. See you at the hot springs!

## TO PURCHASE "SOAK IT ALL IN" TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soak-it-all-in-a-day-of-water-wine-and-history-of-gilroy-hot-springs-tickets-169720435391>  
**\$100 for adults, \$50 for children under 18**

## EACH TICKET INCLUDES A SELF-PACED TOUR:

**9AM-NOON** Visit the Gilroy Museum for a special exhibition of the famed "Flagpole Register" and other rare items, on loan from the McDonald and Lundblade families. The Museum has an existing exhibit of many early photos and has just conserved a panoramic photo from the early 1900s which will be on display. The Museum also sells 100 Years of Gilroy Hot Springs, a wonderful photo book by Ian Sanders and Michael Brookman.  
**195 Fifth St., Gilroy, CA**

**10AM-2PM** Visit Gilroy Hot Springs for a walking tour of historic structures and to learn about reopening plans. See the natural hot springs flow! Tours leave on the hour, every hour. Or can be taken self-paced. Please wear good shoes for hiking. Also bring water, sunscreen and bug spray. **13800 Gilroy Hot Springs, Gilroy, CA**

**NOON-3PM** Enjoy a relaxing lunch at Satori Cellars. Each ticket includes a box lunch created by Gilroy's own Chef Mark Segovia. 21+ are invited to enjoy a wine tasting of Satori's prized local wines. **2100 Buena Vista Ave, Gilroy, CA**



# SOCIETY NEWS

## Annual Meeting and Architecture Awards

What a busy summer we had! On July 11th we had our first in person meeting in almost 18 months. It was a treat to have it at the Neon Exchange, a cooperative work space for women owned businesses. The building is the former Louis Hotel, which opened in 1921 and is celebrating its 100th year now. **David Bozzo** catered our lunch for 42 guests, including several of our Architectural Award winners. Each owner told us a little about their home while photos were shown on the big screen. The home at 7651 Carmel Street was originally owned by our deceased member, **Alice Santos**. It was really gratifying to see how her memory is being honored by the tender loving care and pride of the current owners. At the end of the program owner **Toni Bowles** gave us a tour of both upstairs and downstairs in the beautifully restored building.

## Planning Retreat

The grand Queen Anne Victorian Holloway House was a great place for our annual Planning Retreat on August 18th, thanks to our members, owners **Jeff and Barbara Orth**. We reviewed our financial picture, which is excellent thanks to our generous donors. Susan Voss gave us a report on the Museum. Plans for interpretive signs and historic site nominations were discussed. We're embarking on a new project, revising the Downtown Walking Tour and placing new plaques on significant buildings. It is especially great that we have partners for this big project: Visit Gilroy, the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce and the Gilroy Downtown Business Association. Our lunch break was enjoyed on picnic tables in the back yard with delicious lunches from the 152 Bread Company across the street.

## Monthly Historic Walking Tours

A welcome result of the pandemic is that there has been increased interest and participation in our historic walking tours on the first Saturday of most months. They are outdoors! Last year, with information from the **Howson Family (Ron, Marcia, Roberta and their cousin Lynn)** and member **Dan Mello**, we added a new tour of the Tudor style houses on Carmel and Princeville Streets. Most were built by brothers Jack and Robert Howson who emigrated from England in 1921 and built the houses in the 1920s. We even had a dozen people from Fresno come to our Tudor Tour last month!

Along with their dues some members included a contribution! We are grateful because those gifts allow us to continue our heritage film series, marking historic sites and explaining our unique history through educational efforts. **If you forgot to send your dues to our PO Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021, by July first, it's never too late!**



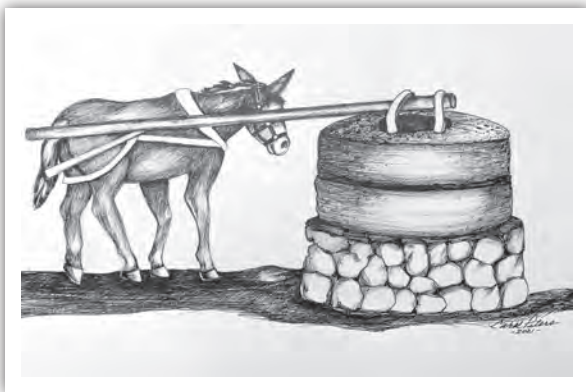
## Compliment Received

It's always nice to see good deeds recognized, right? Board members recently received a generous check, accompanied by this message, from a long-time donor: **You have been doing outstanding work! The newsletter, architectural awards, films and programs are a real credit to Gilroy.**

## Interpretive Signs for Museum

We have two valuable artifacts both from the 1840s, millstones and a soap pot, that are too large to display inside the Museum. When the City revised our landscaping for the front yard a few years ago we were delighted that we had an opportunity to display them there. But they needed explanations of their significance. Have you ever tried to find pictures of objects or clothing from the 1840s? There were no photographs in those days! We turned to our neighbors, the State Park in San Juan Bautista, for an example of how to depict the way millstones worked.

Member and artist **Carol Peters** painstakingly drew these pen and ink drawings of the soap pot being used and the millstones in action. She gifted the originals to us and Bob Weaver took high resolution photos of them to send to the sign maker. The signs have now been ordered with these words to accompany the pictures. Look for them in front of the Museum soon!



### MILL STONES

*Julius Martin and his family arrived in the Gilroy area in late 1843. A miller by trade, it is thought that he ground grain into flour when he lived near John Gilroy on the San Ysidro Rancho. These millstones were found in that area.*



### OLD WHALING KETTLE

*Thomas Larkin and Jose Maria Sanchez brought this kettle from Monterey about 1840. It was used by John Gilroy to make soap from tallow and alkali near Soap Lake, east of Gilroy.*

## Trivia

Do you know the difference between historic and historical? Every past day is a historical day. But only a few days are historic. Historical merely means "based in history," so anything that happened in the past is historical but not necessarily news. Historic means significant, important or famous in history – something like a huge stock market drop. Now you are in the know!

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**Chet Hudson**  
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GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1621  
Gilroy, CA 95021



Old Gilroy City Hall (1905)

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Individual \$35    ☐ Senior \$25    ☐ Family \$50    ☐ Business/Corporate \$500    ☐ Life \$500

MAIL TO:

**Gilroy Historical Society, P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021-1621**

*...Honoring the integrity of Gilroy Community History*

Your membership or gift membership includes a subscription to *The Society Page*.

*Thank You for your Membership!*