



Old Gilroy City Hall - 1905

THE SOCIETY PAGE

Newsletter of the Gilroy Historical Society

April 2024

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New / Revised Website



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The 3 R's and A Museum



Good News for the Society



Museum Benefactors List



Membership Application



Hecker Pass Cedar Trees Sign



Calendar of Upcoming Events

GILROY MUSEUM

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

HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10AM - 4PM

First and Second Saturdays
10AM - 2PM

Email the museum at:
Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

Old City Hall Restaurant
7400 Monterey Street, Gilroy, California

11:00AM – Check in & Social Hour

12 Noon – Luncheon Served • 1:00 PM – Presentation



HERMAN GARCIA

Founder and CEO of CHEER,

Coastal Habitat Education & Environmental Restoration



For over 20 years Herman and his volunteers have been restoring South County's historic streams and steelhead habitat. He created a "Garbage Museum" trailer out of materials found in creeks and uses it to give school presentations. Hear his entertaining and inspiring tales!



Reserve by Wednesday, April 17th to

Karen Pedigo at 408-499-7460 or karenpedigo10@aol.com

Luncheon cost is \$30, pay at the door.

Call or email to cancel as we must pay for no-shows!

MENU CHOICES:

Tri-tip with mashed potatoes • Herb grilled Panko chicken with mashed potatoes
Grilled Tilapia with rice • Chicken with Penne Pasta and Alfredo sauce
Spaghetti and Meatballs • Including salad, bread, iced tea or coffee

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

www.gilroyhistoricalsociety.org (Follow the link on our website to reach our Facebook page)

Connie Rogers, <i>Co-President</i>	Jrogers@garlic.com	(408) 842-8494
Joanie M. Lewis, <i>Co-President and Heritage Films</i>	JoanieMLewis@charter.net	(408) 842-8698
Lucy Solórzano, <i>Secretary</i>	lcsjr31@garlic.com	(408) 607-7722
Eileen Cavallaro, <i>Treasurer</i>	Etcavall@hotmail.com	(408) 848-3084
Maureen Hunter, <i>Education Committee</i>	MaureenHunter8@yahoo.com	(503) 550-7668
Barbara Biafore, <i>Volunteer Schedules</i>	budbiafore@gmail.com	(408) 842-7515
Linda White, <i>Fund Raising Coordinator</i>	linda104@charter.net	(408) 847-2861
Elizabeth Barratt, <i>Emeritus</i>	hrhandqe3@gmail.com	(831) 241-6927
Karen Pedigo, <i>Education Chair</i>	karenpedigo10@aol.com	(408) 499-7460
Dave Matuszak, <i>Outreach</i>	dmatuszak2@aol.com	(408) 781-0497

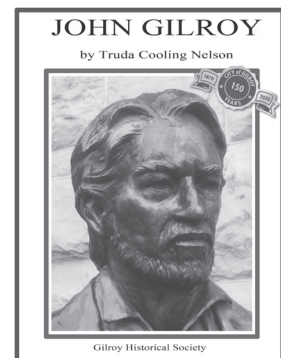
Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 AM at the Museum.
Let us know if you would like to attend to share ideas.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

408-846-0446 • gilroy.museum@ci.gilroy.ca.us

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

Walking Tour Booklets	\$ 1.00
Packet Historical Homes Notecards	\$ 10.00
Single Historical Homes Notecards	\$ 1.00
Postcards	\$ 1.00
Souvenir Pencil	\$.25
Historic Home Prints by R. McGinnis	\$ 10.00/15.00
Tote Bags	\$ 5.00
Juan Bautista De Anza Booklet	\$ 5.00
<i>A Country Doctor in the Valley of Hearts Delight</i> by E. Barratt ...	\$ 5.00
<i>A Hundred Years of Gilroy Hot Springs</i> by I. Sanders	\$ 25.00
<i>John Gilroy</i> by Truda Cooling Nelson	\$ 15.00
<i>Gilroy's Old City Hall</i> by Woollacott, Pursell and Myer	\$ 5.00
<i>Images of Gilroy</i> by Claudia Salewske	\$ 20.00



Proceeds from Sales
Directly Support the Gilroy Museum.

Renewed And Revised Website

We've updated our website, gilroyhistoricalsociety.org. Check it out! **Metro.Agency** helped us simplify navigation and gave us a facelift with brighter colors and a banner with changing images.

Join us at the Gilroy Library on Saturday, April 13th at 10am for another fascinating talk by author Bill Briggs about the man who was the editor of the first newspaper in San Francisco.

**SAM BRANNAN, THE GOLD RUSH,
AND THE CREATION OF SAN FRANCISCO**

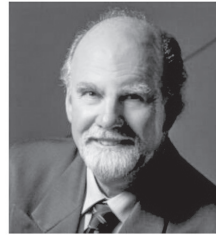


Presented by
Author William Briggs

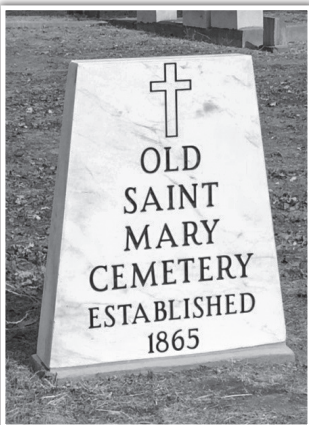
Past co-president of the Morgan Hill Historical Society, California State University emeritus dean, and retired journalism professor.

Saturday, April 13 at 10:30am
at the Gilroy Library

Set against the tapestry of westward expansion and Manifest Destiny, follow Samuel Brannan's epic sea pilgrimage from New York around Cape Horn to escape religious persecution. Hear about Brannan's contentious relationship with Mormon leader Brigham Young, and his split from the Latter-Day Saints which freed him to pursue his dreams.



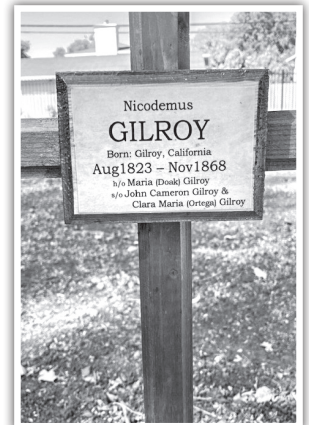
Co-sponsored by the
Gilroy Historical Society



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

On Saturday, May 11th **Dave Peoples** will give another tour of Old Saint Mary Cemetery and the many graves he has located. Many have asked for another opportunity to take the popular tour and here is your chance!

Meet Dave in front of St. Joseph's Family Center at 7950 Church Street at 10AM so that you can walk to this obscure cemetery together.



In Memory of Roberta Howson Hughan

Roberta Howson Hughan passed away peacefully on March 27, 2024. She contributed much to our community and to the Society as a board member during her long and meaningful life. We will miss her deeply.



CHEER

Coastal Habitat Education & Environmental Restoration



OUR MISSION



Bodfish Creek 2008

CHEER Beginnings

Founded on donations in 2003, CHEER was incorporated as a non-profit organization. In the first several months, the organization began building infrastructure. An experienced and talented entrepreneurial team dedicated to community improvement was put together. The team has negotiated conservation easements essential to pilot-project start-up and has identified and contacted program supporters. CHEER is now being supported by various funding opportunities for designated current and future projects.

Our Mission & Philosophy

Coastal Habitat Education Environmental Restoration, also known as CHEER, is a registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization with a fresh take on environmental programming. Its mission is to restore coastal ecosystems but do so in a way that safeguards resource-based local economies. CHEER recognizes that varied interests are represented in local economies. It believes that assessing and reconciling these interests so that each group profits by cooperation in restoration efforts is the key to more effective environmental programming.



THE 3 R'S AND A MUSEUM

By Susan Voss, Museum Manager



Did you ever think that the Gilroy Museum could be a learning center? The Gilroy Historical Society foresaw the possibility and incorporated the charge, "...to develop interest in all historical matters...within the community" to the museum's mission statement. Today, the Gilroy Museum fulfills its educational outreach through Traveling Trunks, video, walking and museum tours. The museum video and the Traveling Trunk program (profiled in the last newsletter) can serve as either preview or review exercises for the combined walking and museum tour. Spanish subtitles on the video are available for those who prefer them. Visiting classes range from 28 to 32 students, plus the teacher and accompanying adults. Classes usually come two at a time, and one class goes on a walking tour of downtown with **Connie Rogers** while the other class tours the museum, and then they switch activities. Museum school tours last 50 minutes, and four volunteers serve as docents. Since September 2023, the museum has given tours to 424 students from 14 classes and 5 different schools, and there is still time for further museum school adventures!

Let me introduce you to a typical Gilroy Museum school tour. The hubbub of children's voices outside the museum doors alert volunteers, and they welcome everyone and have the children sit on the carpeted rotunda floor. Museum etiquette is briefly reviewed, and volunteers wear gloves to reinforce the "look but don't touch" policy. The town's history begins with, "Do you know that the City of Gilroy is named after a real person?" Depending on whether the students are third or fourth graders, responses range from wide eyed, "Oh's" to succinct summaries of the John Gilroy story. Prehistory is introduced by volunteer **Robyn Houts** who uses arrowheads, animal skins, and acorns to illustrate the concepts of hunting and gathering by the Amah Mutsun. The children also view the rotunda exhibits and enjoy the touch table where replicas are placed. Next, the class is divided, and the groups take turns touring the east and west museum rooms. Volunteer Babs Holiday enjoys explaining the purpose of a chamber pot and the children's loud, "Euw's"! **Joanne Fierro**, another volunteer, tells the Caroline Hoxett story and her land donation for Gilroy's Carnegie library. In the east wing, volunteer **Steve Brady** acquaints students with a school display complete with actual wooden desks, and he discusses how businesses contribute to a thriving community.



On the walking tour, students join Connie Rogers on a stroll down Fifth Street, south on Monterey Street to Old City Hall, then back through the paseo to the Gilroy Museum. Along the way, students might see the brass fire pole in Station 55 restaurant, learn about the Old City Hall court and jail, or discuss all the different immigrant groups that have made Gilroy their home. Tours end with a resounding student chorus of, "Thank you!", and thoughtful teachers write, **"Thank you for the wonderful field trip experience today. My students loved it!"**

For further information on volunteering please contact Susan Voss, Museum Manager, 408-846-0446 or email Gilroy.Museum@cityofgilroy.org.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE SOCIETY

GILROY FOUNDATION COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARD

We were very pleased and proud to be awarded a competitive grant of \$5000 from the Gilroy Foundation towards the production of our 2024 Heritage Film. Filming itself is scheduled for April 24th. Thank you Gilroy Foundation!

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS NIGHT

For the third year the Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance is sponsoring an Awards Night on **Friday, May 17th at 7:00 PM at History San Jose Park**. Dave Matuszak has submitted our application for an award for our Traveling Trunks Program, serving school children.

It is an enjoyable evening with displays by many local historical organizations and recognition by elected officials. Join our members there by buying tickets (\$20) which can be purchased by going to <https://www.preservation.org/npm2024>. The first 75 to buy tickets are entered into a drawing for 12 fine bottles of wine.

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION TO OUR 2023 DONORS.....

2023 GOLD MUSEUM BENEFACTORS

Kirk Berube
Barbara & Bud Biafore
Elaine Bonino

Tim Filice
Gilroy Garlic Festival
Joel & Paula Goldsmith
Joseph & Dorothy Rizzuto

RAC Services LLC
Larry Scettrini
Edward Seledon

2023 SILVER MUSEUM BENEFACTORS

Charles & Alice Anderson
Richard & Barbara Armenta
Lorenzo & Sandra Ayala
Elizabeth Barratt
Paul Baxter
Angelo Benassi
Karen Bernosky
Steve & Marie Blankley
Eileen & Mario Cavallaro
Donald Culver
Bob & Phyllis Dillon
Kathleen Earnshaw
Charles Elder
Linda & Robert Elia

Christine Filice
Tom & Becky Fischer
Gilroy Downtown Investments
Pete & Julia Gimenez
Habing Family Funeral Home
Lenore Hailstone
Joan Halperin
Ric & Joanne Heinzen
Jane Howard
Ronald Howson
John & Sarah Kelly
Pamela Leonardi
Joanie Lewis
Elizabeth McGlaufflin

Kathy & Moe McHenry
Edith & George Nichol
Gene Sakahara
Anita Sciutto
SoSC Valley Memorial Dist
Chris & Debby Stuker
J. David & Mary Sturla
Judith Stutheit
Carolyn & Edwin Tognetti
Gary Walton
Linda White
Shirley Willard
Beth Wyman
Lani Yoshimura

2023 BRONZE MUSEUM BENEFACTORS

Mel & Mona Berman
James & Nancy Bower
Judith & Sam Bozzo
Phil & Joan Buchanan
Sherrean Carr
Jermaine Conrotto Case
Trudie Conrotto
Joseph Coughlin

Daughters of the Golden West
Edward Enos
Joanne Fierro
Jimmy Forbis
Debby Kline
Kelly Jo Laguna
Steve & Ruby McWilliams
Susan Meyers

Rachel Munoz
Marian Niiyama
Clay Pytlik
Rick Santos
Lucy Solorzano
Cat Tucker
Richard Williams
Women in Touch

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

E-Mail _____

The Society does not share your contact information.

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Please check the level at which you wish to join.

- Individual **\$35**
- Senior or Student **\$25**
- Family **\$50**
- Patron **\$250**
- Business/Corporate **\$500**
- Life **\$500**
- Donation: _____

I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities (please check)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity / Public Relations | |

Complete and return with your check to:

Gilroy Historical Society, P.O. Box 1621, Gilroy, CA 95021
or join thru our website at **www.gilroyhistoricalsociety.org**.

Thank You for your Membership!

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR THE SOCIETY... HECKER PASS CEDAR TREE SIGN

The Planning Commission and City Council have both approved our request to erect a monument sign in partnership with Mountain Charlie Chapter of E Clampus Vitus for the Cedar Trees on Hecker Pass. Erecting signs can be complicated, especially on public property and near a roadway. It has taken us over a year so far. The trees have been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2007, but where and how to put the signs????? This one will be erected by the Clampers near the Southwest quadrant of the new roundabout, facing the recreation path. It will be four feet high and bear a handsome bronze plaque saying:

HIGHWAY 152 TREE ROW

***Has been placed on the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
By the United States Department of the Interior***

To celebrate the first statewide Arbor Day the school children of Gilroy planted 75 deodara cedars along the south side of the newly paved Highway 32 on March 7, 1930. The following year 65 additional cedars were planted, totaling 140 trees. Local groups under the direction of the Rotary Club were proud to celebrate the new highway by beautifying the western entrance to Gilroy.

The new Hecker Pass Highway was named for Santa Clara County Supervisor Henry Hecker, who held that office from 1916 until 1945. He allocated funds for this connection from Gilroy to Santa Cruz County, a vital link to the coast. In 1933 ownership was formally transferred to the State of California and designated as Highway 152. This 1.39 mile of cedar trees, still largely intact, continues to fulfill its original purpose of welcoming visitors to Gilroy.

Placed by Gilroy Historical Society and Mountain Charlie Chapter of E Clampus Vitus

GILROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Gilroy, CA 95021

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Old Gilroy City Hall (1905)

Calendar of Events - Gilroy Historical Society

Historic walking tour of Forest and Chestnut Streets
Meet at Gilroy Museum, 195 Fifth Street.

Dave Peoples' tour of Old Saint Mary Cemetery
Meet in front of St. Joseph's Family Center at
7950 Church Street.

History San Jose Park – History Awards Night
Tickets at: <https://www.preservation.org/npm2024>.
Entrance at 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose.

Tour of Gavilan Memorial Park, 1000 First Street
Meet at the center circle of the cemetery.

Historical Society Annual Meeting
Grange Hall, 8191 Swanston Lane, Gilroy.

Annual bowling tournament at Morgan Hill Bowl
Details coming later.

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH AT 10AM

SATURDAY, MAY 11TH, 2024 10AM

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH AT 7PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 10AM

SUNDAY, JUNE 23 AT 12 NOON

SATURDAY, JULY 13TH