

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It...)

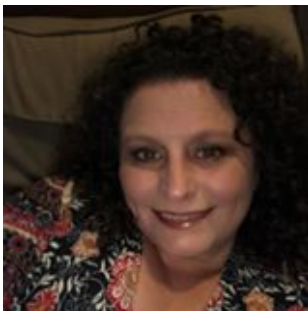
Spring is such a very busy...and exciting...time of year for all; but here at the Gilroy Foundation, our Springtime focus is on our grantees and scholarship winners. We can't wait to share this good news with you!

In this April/May Update, we plan to bring you up-to-date on all of the personnel changes, special awards, exciting gatherings, and things you might like to know. It's a bit longer read this month....READY?

WELCOME, ROYA WALLACE, EVENT AND MARKETING COORDINATOR

As we bade a fond farewell to Yesenia Gonzalez, Event Coordinator at the Gilroy Foundation, we sent along our best wishes as she joins the team as a full-time Lifestyle Manager at a well-known Silicon Valley tech company in Menlo Park, scheduling travel arrangements and conventions for employees there.

We fondly refer to Yesenia as a "Gilroy Foundation success story," having graduated from Gilroy High School and attending San Francisco State University as a Julio Mata scholarship winner. Her time at the Gilroy Foundation was a short two years, but she has successfully advanced her career!



Welcome, Roya Wallace, a local resident, very familiar with our Gilroy community, who brings with her extensive knowledge in event planning and marketing. We are excited to have Roya join the Staff here as she looks forward to her first major event, the Gilroy Garlic Festival!

AWARDS, HONORS, MEETINGS AND MORE...

With assets of more than \$13.5 million, Gilroy Foundation is truly blessed with generous donors, board members, volunteers and community partners. We are very proud that all of our donors are local residents who believe in the Gilroy Foundation tagline, "*Give Where You Live.*" Because of them, we are proud to share this good news with you:

Annual Meeting and Charitable Giving Presentation of the Gilroy Foundation, April 18

Gilroy Foundation announced that this Spring, grants of nearly \$640,000 were awarded to 95 community programs during this well attended annual gathering in the upstairs banquet room of Old City Hall Restaurant. For the complete list of grantees, click [here](#).

For the Competitive Grant cycle, six independent readers were given copies of the 51 grant applications received in 2018, requesting a total of nearly \$190,000. With limited resources in this category of the Foundation's charitable giving, it was a challenging task for the readers. Applicants were ranked privately and then the readers met and came to a consensus of the worthiest applicants. More than \$57,000 was awarded in Competitive Grants in 2018. Designated

and Donor Advised grants, along with nonprofit partner payouts, make up the total awarded.



Richard Hayes "Like a Rock" Industrial Arts Competitive Grant (\$20,000) was awarded to the Gilroy Arts Alliance for a video wall projection system for theater, digital exhibits and educational use for children and adults.

Julie Hayes "Rising Star" Performing Arts Competitive Grant (\$20,000) was awarded to the STAR ARTS Education program for purchase of an all-terrain mobile stage.



Gilroy Foundation Scholarships

At various senior award ceremonies this May, 80 students from Gilroy High, Christopher High, GECA, Mount Madonna High and Gavilan College were awarded more than \$526,000 in scholarships with awards ranging from \$250 to \$50,000! For the complete list of 2018 Scholarship winners, click [here](#).

Three "teams" of volunteers read the students' applications; this is a heavy responsibility as some of these awards, like the Julio Mata Family \$50,000, can truly change a person's direction in life--possibly the difference between getting a college education...or not.

Merriman Family Scholarships

With the passing of Jacqui Merriman earlier this year and her husband Craig, only a few months later, the Gilroy Foundation acknowledges our grief as we recognize the legacy this family has left in our community.

The Merrimans created four fabulous funds, benefiting St. Joseph Center, Operation Freedom Paws, City Youth Recreation Scholarships and the Sean Michale Merriman Scholarship Fund for Mount Madonna students. These students are so grateful for this opportunity given them to continue their education; and the generosity of the Merrimans toward these organizations and programs will long be remembered.



Executive Director Donna Pray awarded the Merriman Scholarships to nine deserving Mount Madonna High School students. Jacqui and Craig felt this school turned their son's life around.

Founders Circle

Gilroy Foundation Board of Directors President, Edwin Diaz, delivered the State of the Foundation address at the Annual Meeting and also announced the formation of the [Founders Circle](#) of the Gilroy Foundation. This group, whose foresight and determination to provide for the future of the Gilroy community, gathered in 1980 and is instrumental in the good the Gilroy Foundation has done in our community: *since 1982, the Gilroy Foundation has awarded over \$8.5 million in grants and scholarships.*

Gilroy Foundation Ambassadors and Nonprofit Partners Annual Meeting, May 2

Invitations were extended to 46 Ambassadors and 17 nonprofit partners to attend a hour of information and exchange of ideas. Board member Lori Kent, Emeritus Board member Ted

Becker and Executive Director Donna Pray provided information on Site Visits to grantees, creating a partnership with the two groups for a closer relationship, plans to welcome new Gilroy residents, Planned Giving and Matching Gifts.

Some great and exciting ideas surfaced-one of our Ambassadors, a local realtor, will gift new residents with a one-year membership to the Gilroy Foundation! (a \$100 value....BTW, are YOU a member?) [Find out how!](#)

Honors for Board Members

Congratulations to Board Member **Marie Blankley** on her appointment to the Gilroy City Council to fill a vacancy created by the passing of Paul Kloecker. She is currently campaigning for a position on the City Council for a full term.

Congratulations to Board Member **Karen LaCorte**, who was given the Community Achievement Award at the 2018 Poppy Jasper Film Festival in early April. Acknowledged as a columnist, businesswoman and community leader, Karen was lauded for her professionalism in her field, for making contributions to community events and traditions, and for her passion for the arts and entertainment.

Youth Board concludes another successful year!



Congratulations to Gilroy Foundation Youth Board members who have concluded this year's activities and will resume their service in the fall. At the April Awards ceremony, Youth Board members awarded their \$1,000 grant to DreamPower Horsemanship.

Throughout the year, they have served at Lord's Table, conducted a Holiday Toy Drive and learned many valuable pointers from guest speakers. Many thanks to their mentors

Gina Anderson, Kristin Bright, Ericka Davis, Cheryl Ellemberg, Deanna Franklin and Sal Tomasello.

Breaking News: Exciting Gilroy Foundation partnership with new business, Jersey Mike's

Fund donors Laurie and Harry Sontag will be opening a new business June 13. As part of the Jersey Mike's culture, they partner with a local nonprofit-and Gilroy Foundation was named! They will hand out 10,000 cards that allow the bearer to donate \$2 to Gilroy Foundation; in exchange they will get a free sub! *You'll be hearing much more about this upcoming local promotion.*



MEET BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER, Kurt Michielssen, Treasurer

What motivated you to become involved with the Gilroy Foundation?

I had become familiar with the Foundation after attending a number of Day in the Country fundraisers. When Foundation Board member Bob Kraemer asked if I was interested in becoming an Ambassador, I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of Gilroy's most influential and active nonprofits! I first became a grant reader and was later asked to sit on the Board of Directors.

A "philanthropist" donates time, talent and treasure. In what ways are you philanthropic with other organizations?

Time is precious; but I am fortunate that my employer Pinnacle Bank believes in giving back to the communities it serves by allowing me to donate time to the Foundation's Board of Directors. I am also happy to be able to donate today financially and someday in the future, donate to the

Foundations as a member of the Foundation's Legacy Society.

I am also involved with the Gilroy Rotary, on the Board of St. Joseph's Center, on the Gilroy Hall of Fame Committee, on the Board of the Gilroy Economic Development Corporation and the newly formed Finance Committee of St. Louise Hospital.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I don't like to get my hands dirty, so gardening won't work for me! In my mid-forties, I guess I had a bit of a mid-life crisis and my wife Mary Pat approved the purchase of my first Harley-Davidson motorcycle. I enjoy the challenges of riding and it forces me to "clear my head" and focus on the road in front of me.

"Give Where You Live"

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