

TAKE A LEAP!

Is February 29th good luck or bad luck? Depends on who you ask!



*According to an old Scottish aphorism, "leap year was ne'er a good sheep year." The superstition that Leap Days are particularly lucky or unlucky has been debated through history and across cultures, and there's still no clear winner. For one thing, it's bad luck if you're a prisoner on a one-year sentence that spans a Leap Day. Also, bad news if you work on a fixed annual salary; no extra pay for that extra day. On the other hand, Leap Day is great luck if you're on a fixed monthly rent (one free day of living!), or if you're Hattie McDaniel, in which case February 29th, 1940 is the day you became the first African-American to win an Oscar, for your role as Mammy in *Gone With the Wind*.*

Will February 29th, 2020 be lucky or unlucky? You'll just have to live through it and see.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**THE 2020 SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE IS NOW OPEN!**

Although our 2020 Competitive Grant Cycle closed on January 31, our 2020 Scholarship Cycle is open until March 6 for most of our scholarships, and a few are open longer.

We are delighted to be able to report that from 1999 through 2018, Gilroy Foundation has awarded \$4.7+ Million in scholarships to deserving high school, junior college, and college students in the Gilroy Area.

Please check all the Criteria on our Scholarships page. Many of our awards use the "Common GUSD Scholarship Application"; however, some, like the Julio Mata \$50,000 Scholarship, has its own special application. We have two new scholarships this year, the Tony Vigna Memorial Scholarship and the Gilroy Foundation Vocational Career scholarship.

This year, we have \$523,450 to award! Please spread the word, as sometimes a scholarship can truly change a life!

Thank you all!

~ Donna Pray

"Give Where You Live"

GILROY FOUNDATION GRANTS

Even though there were a few less days this month, Gilroy Foundation made all of the other days count as our grant readers delved into the important business with which they are charged. Gilroy Foundation received 47 Competitive Grant applications, 3 Richard Hayes "Industrial Arts" \$10,000 grant applications, 4 Julie Hayes "Performing Arts" \$10,000 Grant applications and 2 Youth Board Grant applications, totaling requests for \$233,638.

The April 22nd Annual Meeting and Charitable Giving Presentation is always a highlight of the year as our Boards, donors and grant recipients come together to give and receive [grant](#) funding. Stay tuned for the exciting results.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: FINAL TALLY



The November 2019 Membership mailing yielded \$80,824 for Gilroy Foundation coffers with 15 Fund donors adding to their Funds (\$51,725). Annual memberships accounted for gifts of \$29,099 with 30 Silver Members, 7 Gold Members and 11 Platinum Members being added to our Member list.

Thank you for your gifts to Gilroy Foundation!

OUR CONNECTION TO SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Gilroy Foundation is governed by a Board of eleven local community leaders and advised by an Emeritus Board and the Ambassadors of Gilroy Foundation. Gilroy Foundation's endowment is invested with [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#) (SVCF), the nation's largest community foundation with \$13.5 Billion in assets. SVCF also provides financial and legal assistance to our Board of Directors and donors.

On February 19, Deb Sanchez and Vicki Campanella attended a quarterly meeting of the Alliance of Community Foundations meeting in San Mateo, hosted by SVCF. This is a group of local community foundations in San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito counties.

These types of meeting are so valuable to us as a non-competitive platform to share ideas and valuable information. Ten other community foundations were represented as we enjoyed the presentation of our keynote speaker, Laura Seaman, CEO of the [League of California Community Foundations](#).

YOUTH BOARD PANEL INTERVIEWS GRANTEES

Gilroy Foundation's [Youth Board](#) Members met earlier this month to review the Youth

Board Grant Application submissions.

At their March meeting, grant applicants will be invited for a presentation and an "interview" by the Youth Board, after which a vote will be taken. Youth Board gives \$1,000 annually to organizations that support seniors, youth and animals.

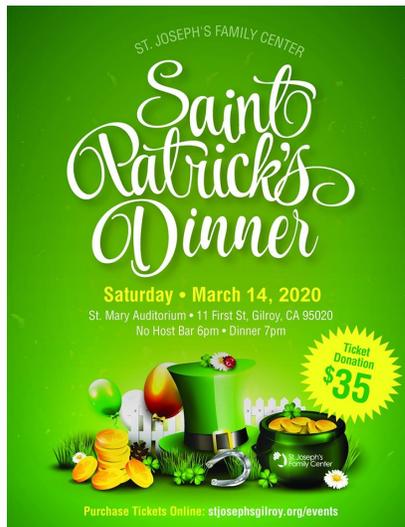
We look forward to hearing the results of the interviews and their vote at the Annual Meeting in April!

FOCUS ON NONPROFIT INVESTMENT PARTNER ST. JOSEPH'S FAMILY CENTER



St. Joseph's Family Center is committed to assisting individuals and families through their most challenging times. Founded at St. Mary Parish over 45 years ago, its mission is to alleviate hunger and homelessness in South Santa Clara County by providing food, housing and employment related services, and advocating for system changes to improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Their annual fundraiser, the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, supports the very important work they do in our community. For tickets, contact Vicky Martin at 408.842.6662 x30.



HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED HERE?

Gilroy Foundation's website contains a wealth of great information!

Pretty much, every question you may have about the Foundation-- [how to start a fund](#), who are our [Ambassadors](#), Gilroy Foundation in the [News](#), [Photos](#) from GF events, and even our [Financial Statements](#)you can find it all [here!](#)

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