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## Author delves into interrelationships through science and humanities

*Daughters of Atherton Press founder bring their mother's final work to fruition*

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*By Pam Walatka, Special to the Town Crier*

Combine a brilliant, fertile mind with abundant energy and you may get a big, heavy, interesting book.

Corinne Lathrop Gilb's "Toward Holistic History" (Atherton Press, 2005) collects her articles and speeches on such disparate topics as symbolism in city planning, biorhythms as determinants of creativity, the intertwined histories of liberalism and corporatism and the role of beauty in public policy.

She brings together academic research from physics, physiology, psychology, aesthetics and history to reveal a matrix of interrelationships.

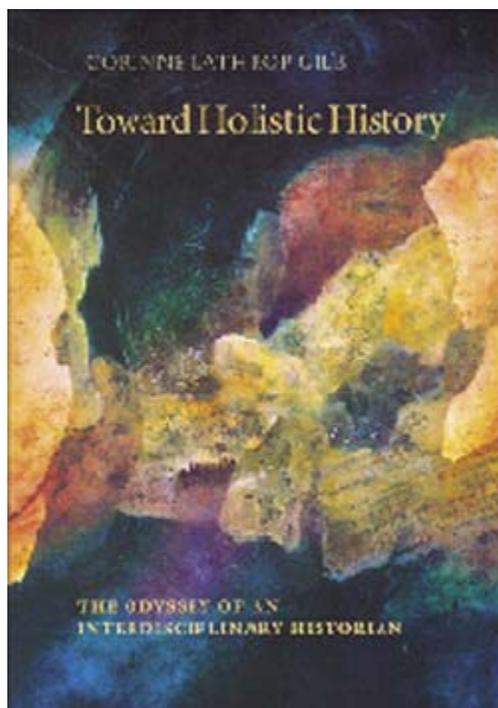
Gilb was a resident of Atherton when she died in early 2003 at the age of 77.

Her daughters published this book through the press Gilb founded in 1997.

The book is heavy in the physical sense - it weighs three pounds - and in the sense that it is written for an academic audience. There are 65 pages of reference notes.

Gilb, who earned a doctorate from Harvard University, lectured in history at Mills College and in humanities at San Francisco State University, codirected the Liberal Arts Urban Studies Program at Wayne State University and advised governments and nongovernmental organizations during her long career.

If you are an academic, and if you need solid references for some far-reaching ideas about the interconnectedness of life on Earth, you might find this book useful.



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In a traditional style, Gilb presents quite modern ideas about consciousness. Gilb is by no means glib.

For example, the opening paragraph of chapter 23, "Rhythm and Energy: Linkages between the Individual and His Environment," offers this: "Energy and rhythm are fundamentals of human existence; they are in fact fundamentals of the universe. What kind of human energy is most honored varies from one culture to another. It might be spiritual force, creativity, the stylized energy of fencing or the Japanese martial arts, simply activity, or perhaps even spontaneous violence. In the immensely complex process by which all the rhythms of life and universe are orchestrated, one question is which of them relates how to which of the different kinds of human energy? We do not yet know all the answers to this question. The most crucial areas for future research lie in the field of human physiology, especially the brain, which is the pacemaker for other body rhythms, and in variations of physiological reaction in different geographical and cultural contexts."

Later in the chapter (which alone contains 100 footnotes) she states: "Experiments on assembly lines have shown that more productivity results when groups of workers are allowed to vary the speed of the assembly line according to their own natural pace, or when workers are allowed more role in the total process and hence have more sense of control over the process. Better coordination between external rhythms and body rhythms is probably the reason for the good results. On the other end of the scale, one reason so many men die so soon after retirement probably is that their complex bodily processes are desynchronized by the absence of firm schedules."

In a postscript to the chapter, Gilb concludes, "In the face of all the new discoveries and many more coming, there was no way to close the book on the subject of rhythm as the basis of human (and all earthly) existence." I couldn't agree more.

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