



LAGUNA
BEACH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Laguna Beach Historical Society

presents

The History of the Laguna Beach Greeters

November 22, 2016 7:30PM, LAGUNA BEACH CITY HALL

Locals can view the program live on Cox Cable **852**

IN THIS NEWSLETTER



*The Greeter
Documentary*
by Elestial
Productions



**Laguna
Beach
Greeters:**
History and
Interesting
Facts



**President's
Message and
Announcement**

taken for granted, has meant so much to so many. (Continued on page 2.)

*Photograph from left to right:
Martin Yewchuk, Michael Minutoli,
Tabatha and Sara Yewchuk*

On Tuesday, November 22, Elestial Productions will present clips from their documentary about the Laguna Beach Greeters. Founded by Martin and Tabatha Yewchuk, Elestial Productions is a film production company that develops and produces screenplays, television pilots, and documentary films.

Elestial Productions is interested in telling stories that awaken us to the magic that lies within our daily lives, connecting us to our higher selves and the Universe, enabling us to embrace and celebrate humanity!

One such film focuses on current greeter, Michael Minutoli with the town as the backdrop. Michael is often seen waving and dancing at the corner of the former Pottery Shack with a statue of former greeter, Eiler Larson, behind him.

The film titled: *The Greeter Documentary*, seeks to discover what it is about Laguna Beach, California, a quiet, quaint artist colony inhabited by an assortment of quirky eclectic characters, that has spawned a phenomenon whereby people show up to fill the role of "The Greeter" both officially and unofficially over the past 125 years. It reveals how something as simple as greeting, that is so often





(Continued from page 1.)

What the Greeters all had in common was a deep love for humanity and a genuine desire to connect, making each person's day brighter with a smile and a wave. They accomplished more than that; by accepting themselves, being their authentic selves, and sharing and expressing their gifts, the Greeters encourage all of us to accept others and embrace and celebrate our differences.



1. Old Joe Lucas, 1880s to 1908

- Portuguese fisherman who survived a shipwreck before relocating to Laguna.
- He greeted the daily stagecoach as it arrived from El Toro.
- He often carried a trident, like King Neptune, and used it to spear fish.
- It was said that his English was not very good but knew all the swear words!

2. Eiler Larsen, 1940s to early 1970s

- Born in Denmark but left to pursue what he later described as “my mission of friendliness.”
- First came to Laguna at age 52
- Reflecting on the value of his efforts, Larsen said “Some people have millions of dollars and no friends. I’ve got practically nothing and thousands of friends who drive by to greet me.”

3. No. 1 Unnamed Archer, 1983-2010

- That was his actual name on his birth certificate – he was a twin.
- He was known for standing near Greeter’s Corner, waving at passersby and shouting, “You’re perfect!”

4. Michael Minutoli, 2010 to present

- Known for his flashy outfits and spinning on a plastic water bottle.

*Statue of The Greeter, Eiler Larsen
in front of The Old Pottery Place*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Laguna Beach Historical Society continues to evolve and grow. We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of four new board members. It's always exciting to see fresh faces and the new energy they bring to our current board. All four members embody the spirit of our historic community and bring talent, energy and expertise to the table. Joining the board are Lorraine Leon Jones, Jeff Loge, Karen Meier, and Heidi Miller.

Lorraine Leon Jones moved to California twenty-four years ago and found her heart belonged to Laguna Beach. In addition to being a docent for our Historical Society, she frequented her favorite restaurants and happy hours throughout town. After becoming an expert at showing off our city to her out-of-town friends and relatives, she launched her own company – Flavors of Laguna – that gives guided walking tours of downtown Laguna Beach with a culinary twist.

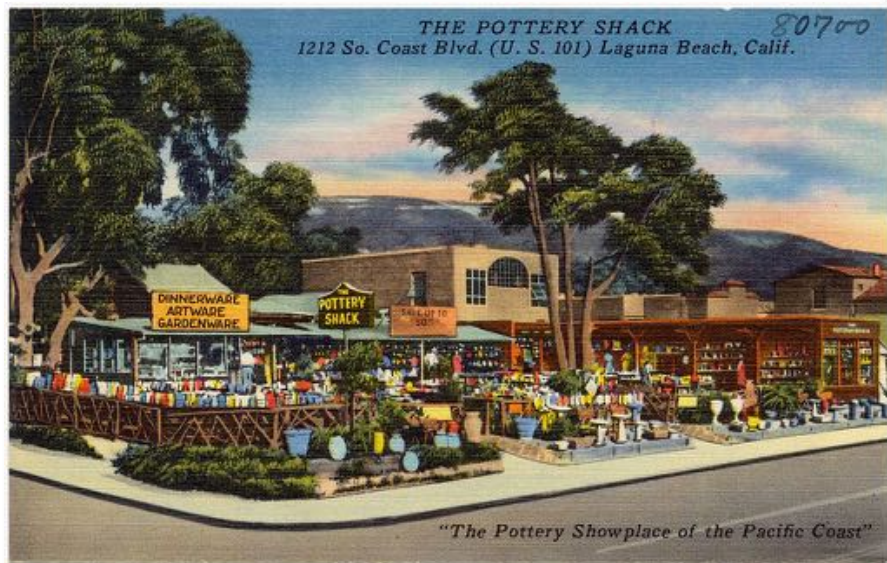
Jeff Loge was born and raised in town. His father was the original veterinarian for the city. His family developed and founded The Loge Building on Ocean Avenue. Jeff is a realtor, with a great deal of expertise and many contacts throughout the Laguna Beach community. Jeff will be chairing our membership committee and orchestrating our new membership drive. You can expect to be hearing from him soon!

Also proud to call Laguna her hometown is Karen Meier. She is a graduate of LBHS class of 1983, and an alumna of Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. Her two sons are also graduates of LBHS. Amongst her many talents is design. Karen has taken over our newsletter redesign and other publication and print needs.

Heidi Miller was the founder of the iconic Heidi's Frogen Yozurt. Heidi has established herself as a true leader in the community supporting local businesses as well as the community as a whole. In addition to owning the local shop Tight Assets across from Main Beach, she is the owner and CEO of The World Newsstand next to Johnny Rockets in downtown Laguna. Her commitment to maintaining that little slice of Laguna Beach history is only one example of her dedication to our city and its past.

Please join me in welcoming our four new board members. With their additional involvement, we look forward to a very exciting year in 2017!

Gregg DeNicola MD



*Vintage postcard of
"The Pottery
Showplace of the
Pacific Coast."*

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Visiting Hours:

Friday: 1:00-4:00pm
Saturday: 1:00-4:00pm
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Telephone: (949) 497-6834

Please contact us at:
lagunabeachhistory@gmail.com

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Cathy Fry	Greg MacGillivray	David Wilson
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Thank you to all our members for your support – We couldn't do it without you!

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

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Laguna Beach Historical Society Memberships

- \$25 for Historian** (Individual)
Includes: Newsletter mailed to you, entry to historical programs at City Hall, Bungalow Visits
- \$100 for Historian Friend** (Individual, Business, Organization)
Includes: All of the above plus name recognition in the newsletter
- \$750 for Historian Patron** (Individual, Business, Organization)
Includes: All of the above plus name displayed at programs

Online donations gratefully accepted now by PayPal or credit card on our website at:
lagunabeachhistory.org

You can also mail this form with your check to:

Laguna Beach Historical Society
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Name and/or Business: _____

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1937 Quilt Donation

We received a lovely donation of a quilt, which was handmade by a 5th Grade Class of Laguna Beach in 1937. Each square represents a different part of American History. It's interesting to see what was taught to 5th graders back in 1937. It was given to us by a wonderful lady named Phyllis Sherman from Washington. She received it as a gift from a friend who bought it at a garage sale. It is absolutely delightful – come to our bungalow and see! Does anyone know someone who might have been involved in making this?



Please note that there is a correction to a photo caption on page 2 of our September newsletter issue. The Eucalyptus grove standing as you turn up Arroyo Chico dates back to 1895 and was planted by an early (not first) Laguna Beach Post Master, "Nick" Isch.

Laguna Beach Historical Society
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

A Special Note to our Loyal Members:

We couldn't keep up the bungalow, have our programs, or send out this newsletter without your support. Thank you!
Be sure to check page 5 of this newsletter for our 2016 membership categories – and more details on our website.

Thank you for your support!

Visit us on You Tube: Laguna Beach Historical Society

Visit our Website: [*lagunabeachhistory.org*](http://lagunabeachhistory.org)

Contact us at: [*lagunabeachhistory@gmail.com*](mailto:lagunabeachhistory@gmail.com)

**We would be honored if you would follow us on Facebook,
Instagram, and Twitter**

