

Historical Society

Laguna Beach Life | Past | Present | Future

Mark your Calendars!

OCTOBER 11 Presentation

City Hall 7:30 pm

*The Laguna Playhouse:
A Treasured Community Institution*

NOVEMBER 16 Presentation

Tankersley Hall at 7:30 pm

*Laguna Presbyterian Church:
Centennial Program*

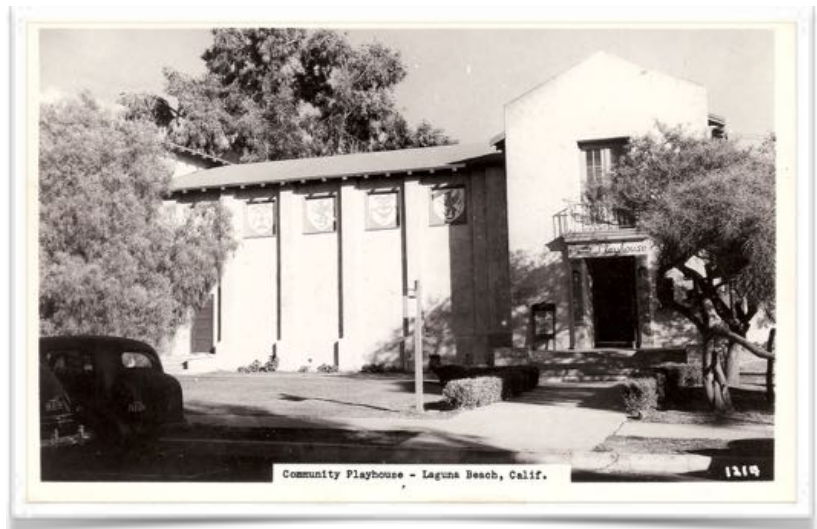
- Parking in church lot available
- There will be a brief tour of the church's facilities.
- Refreshments will be served

Recorded programs can be viewed online at:

Laguna Beach Historical Society - YouTube Channel

President's Message

Gregg DeNicola MD offers some perspective by reflecting on Laguna's past and present history of activism.



THE LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

A Treasured Community Institution

Presented by Glenna Matthews, Historian

Growing up in Laguna, I felt that The Playhouse was the most exciting, engaging part of the community. My parents and I went to all the plays and loved them, attended the regular potlucks, and counted ourselves very lucky.

My mother ushered, my father was in one play, and I was both performing in plays and working backstage. I still remember my first play, "You Can't Take It With You" in 1946!

Therefore, I volunteered to give a presentation, "The Laguna Playhouse: A Treasured Community Institution," in which I'll draw upon my own vivid memories and help from Carolyn Hobert Fisch, Deborah Paul Kermode, and Jennie Williamson Riker, as well as from a master's thesis on the history of The Playhouse until 1960. I was away from Laguna for decades, becoming a professional historian among other activities, but now I'm back and I want to share those treasured memories.



Laguna Celebrates 90 Years with a Birthday Party

The Laguna Beach Historical Society provided several historical photos and video for the city to use at its 90th Birthday Party at City Hall. Some of our members were on hand to help celebrate including two of our beloved board members, Carol Lloyd and Jane Janz, who are descendants of early Laguna Beach residents who contributed greatly to its early development.



This wonderful picture was shared by Jennie Riker. Her parents Don and Jo Williamson met while performing in "Romeo and Juliet."

Circa late 1930s

A Message from our President

Gregg DeNicola MD

In late August, we had the opportunity to witness our democracy in action. Protesters and counter-protesters met together at Main Beach Park for what appeared to be a major skirmish. Fortunately, no violence occurred (major kudos to our Laguna Beach Police Department for their diligence.)

It's interesting to recall our town's history and the number of demonstrations that have occurred in that very spot.

There were demonstrations in the '60s to replace the buildings on what is now Main Beach Park with just that, Main Beach Park. (The park won.)

Yours truly recalls anti Vietnam war protests in the late '60s and early '70s at Main Beach. (They seemed to have worked.)

Over the next 10 to 20 years, there were demonstrations to support the gay community that made Laguna Beach their home. (The gay community receded, but LGBT rights flourished.)

On November 11, 1989, local photographer and preservationist Mark Chamberlain began a protest and walk from Main Beach through Laguna Canyon to protest the 2,000 acre "Laguna Laurel" housing project and the new toll road. 11,000 people came to show their support and march peacefully. (They won on the housing project but lost on the toll road.)

In the fall of the year 2000, after a tentative lease was signed to move The Pageant of the Masters to San Clemente, protests and petitions were set up on Main Beach to fight this move. (It worked.) Of course there have been hundreds of other protests and demonstrations at Main Beach over the years... for The Gulf War, against The Gulf War, to promote women's rights, for and against various political candidates, and both pro life, and pro choice demonstrations.

Yes, Main Beach appears to be the ground zero in town where people have done exactly what our founding fathers intended... "the right of the people to peacefully assemble... and petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

So no matter what your personal stance is, support our right to gather and protest.

And of course, support your local Historical Society by coming by to see all the recent improvements at our Murphy Smith Bungalow on Ocean Avenue. Feel free to make a contribution... or become a member... and enjoy the rich history Laguna Beach offers.

Murphy Smith Bungalow: News and Updates

New Roof at Last

After much deliberation, The Murphy Smith Bungalow has a new roof. During the week of July 24th, the old roofing (seven layers of which only two were legal) were replaced with a new underlay and premium 50 year shingles.

We believe the green patterned shingles are close to the original. Photographs of the original roof were black and white.

Pacific Coast Roofing Company did the replacement and also remitted \$100 membership to our Historical Society. A large portion of the roof costs were donated by generous benefactors. Please visit the bungalow to see it for yourself.

Scholarship Recipient

Laguna Beach High School Senior, Kaden Matheson received the Historical Society scholarship. We received a wonderful thank you note from this well deserving recipient with a passion and interest in history.

Museum Display Cases

Just in time for Fall Football Season

While you are at the bungalow, please come inside to see the display cases in the front bedroom. With the help of our volunteer interior design consultant, Amanda DiBona, new exhibits are being assembled. One will display Laguna Beach High School football artifacts and the other case will feature the history of The Laguna Playhouse.

A big thank you to Amanda DiBona, owner of LuxeStudioDesign.com, who has graciously donated her services to make this all happen.

Little Free Library

Now at The Murphy-Smith Bungalow

A Little Free library is a community library where you can "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. Ours is one of other Little Free Libraries in town - these community book exchanges have a unique, personal touch.

Members:

History Patron

\$750 and above

Gregg DeNicola MD

Mary Lynn Lowry

Judy McKay

Charlie & Anne Quilter

Karen & Matt Smith

Dave Walker

History Friend

\$100 and above

Roger & Mary Alderson
Joseph Ambrose Jr.
Jay & Gertrud Andrus
Wayne & Faye Baglin
Andrew Ball
Lisa & Rex Bell
Jerry Bieser
Bob & Vicki Borthwick
Meriam Braselle
Ronald & Frances Chilcote
Ann Christoph
Donnie Crevier
John & Stephanie
Cunningham
Jane Cutting
Karen & Roger Dennis
Sandy Desmond
Johanna Ellis
Emerald Bay
Community Association
Robert & Nancy Englund
Festival of Arts -
Josie Fox

Richard & Anne Frank
Mary Williams & Pat Gallis
Jon Garmshausen
Jane Golden
Morrie & Barbara Granger
Willa Gupta
Arnold & Bonnie Hano
Regina Hartley
John Hoover
Jerry & Renee Hornbeak
Patrick Jackson
Susan & Joseph Jahraus
Eric Jessen
Trudy Josephson
Healthcare Information
Management
Bob & Betty Kelly
Kep & Diane Keplinger
Penny King
Eric & Laurie Kirkland
Tom & Vickie Lamb
Anders Lasater
Randy Lewis
Brent & Diane Liljestrom
Carol Lloyd
Jeff Loge
Karen Lagrew
Ed Merrilees
Lindy Narver
Professor Michael Onorato
Barbara Ring
Lester & Lori Savit
Chuck Schoen
Vicki Schramm
Arthur Sherman
Marvina Shilling
Nancy Smith
Nelda Stone

Ed Storke
Si Teller
Gil & Judy Thibault
Twig of Laguna
Village Laguna
Tom Robison & Nancy
Wessel
David Wilson

Board of Directors

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*Thank you to all our
members for your
generous support -
We couldn't do it
without you!*

Become a Member:

- \$25 for Historian** (Individual)
Includes: Newsletter mailed to you, entry to historical programs at City Hall and other venues, Murphy Smith Bungalow visits
- \$100 for Historian Friend** (Individual, Business, Organization)
Includes: All of the above plus name recognized in newsletter
- \$750 for Historian** (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: _____

Mailing Address: _____

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501 (c) non-profit organization.
Tax ID #33-0519882

Other Ways to Support Laguna's History:

Amazon Smile

- We would be honored if you would choose Laguna Beach Historical Society as your "designated charity" on Amazon.
- Be sure to always start at AmazonSmile.com when you shop at Amazon.
- It costs you nothing extra and you will be supporting our organization –Thank you!

Ralph's Community Contribution Program

- The Historical Society is now enrolled in the Ralph's/Food 4 Less/Foods Co. Community Contribution Program.
- To register, simply go online to www.ralphs.com.
- Make sure to have your rewards card handy, choose The Laguna Beach Historical Society as your organization.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card they are available at the customer service desk at any store.
- If you are new to ralphs.com online, please click on the top right: no account and register.
- You will receive an e-mail when you register your new account.
- Walk through the steps and enter our Ralph's Non Profit Organization (NPO) # - 84041.

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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 with your support. Thank you!

Visit us on You Tube: Laguna Beach Historical Society

Visit our Website: lagunabeachhistory.org

Contact us at: lagunabeachhistory@gmail.com

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

