

# Historical Society

Laguna Beach Life | Past | Present | Future

**Mark Your Calendar  
For Our Upcoming  
Program!**

**FEBRUARY 8 Program  
John Weld Documentary  
World Premiere**

**Laguna Beach High School  
Artists Theater at 7:30pm**

Tickets can be purchased  
online at  
[JohnWeldOfficial.com](http://JohnWeldOfficial.com)  
or at the door for \$15.  
Doors open at 7:00pm.  
(Open Seating)

## The Remarkable Life of John Weld

*He Never Said No to Adventure*

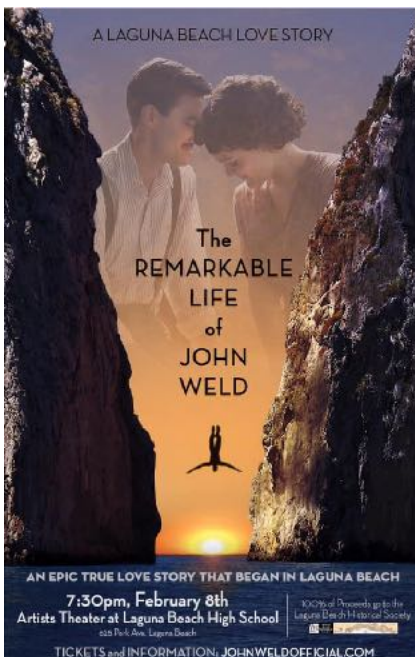
Introduction by: Roger Jones, Executive Producer  
Friday, February 8th, 7:30-9:30 pm

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a major benefit for the Laguna Beach Historical Society will be held at the Artists Theatre, Laguna Beach High School, at 7:30PM. *Chasing the Moon Films* has selected Laguna Beach for the premiere showing of "The Remarkable Life of John Weld", a documentary depicting the incredible lives of John and Katy Weld, longtime residents of Laguna Beach. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at [JohnWeldOfficial.com](http://JohnWeldOfficial.com). 100% of the proceeds for this event go to the Laguna Beach Historical Society.

John Weld was a stuntman during the golden age of Hollywood. His first job was a 137 foot dive off of the cliffs of Santa Cruz island just offshore from Santa Barbara into 14 feet of water. John performed stunts for many stars such as John Barrymore, Charlie Chapman, Tom Mix, Buck Jones, Laurel & Hardy and women too including Gloria Swanson and Zasu Pitts.

During the 1920s, John worked in New York as a reporter for a Hearst newspaper company and covered The Great Race. John traveled to Paris on a Belgian freighter arriving there two days after Lindbergh's Lone Eagle landed at Le Bourget Airport.

He joined the Herald Tribune, and his first assignment was to cover Lindbergh and report every nuance. John remained in Paris for five years where he met and socialized with luminaries such as James Joyce, Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, Alexander Calder, Henry Miller, and Pablo Picasso. (continued on page 2)





Returning to Hollywood as a screenwriter for Columbia, John met beautiful Katy (the actress Gigi Parrish) at a party held at famed aviatrix Pancho Barnes' oceanfront home in Laguna Beach. Five years later, Katy and John were married. In 1940, John and Katy left Hollywood and moved to South Laguna. John became the Ford dealer in Laguna Beach and later in San Clemente as well. He was also a great writer who wrote and

published eleven books. In 1949, he and Katy purchased the Laguna Beach Post newspaper. For 20 years, John wrote a column entitled "Our Town" that always ended with "Laguna I Love You." Since John was involved with the Ford dealerships, it was Katy who managed the newspaper in the early years.

John and Katy lived in Laguna Beach for more than 60 years and touched many lives. Those who are fortunate enough to have known them are richer for the experience. John died in June 2003 at the age of 98. Katy passed away a few years later at the age of 94.

Executive producer of the film, Roger Jones, gave us his account of how this film came to be.

"In 1999, Laguna Beach resident Nancy Bushnell introduced my wife Sherill and me to John and Katy Weld. Nancy had correctly thought since John had authored a number of books and I had written a few, we might enjoy each other's company. We became good friends and visited with them every few weeks until their passing.

"We traded some books and after reading John's *Fly Away Home Memoirs of a Hollywood Stunt Man*, I was taken back by the extraordinary lives he and Katy had lived. I mentioned to John that the public would be fascinated by Hollywood in its infancy and his accomplishments and that I would like to work on the project. He and Katy welcomed my suggestion and we signed an agreement.

"After a few false starts, I met for dinner with our good friend and executive producer Joe McKnight, his cousin actor/producer Nathan West and producer/director Gabe Torres. The documentary being shown is the result of that meeting.

"Hopefully most of you will be able to attend the premiere showing of "The Remarkable Life of John Weld" on February 8<sup>th</sup>. I will be introducing it and look forward to meeting you. For more information and tickets, please go to [JohnWeldOfficial.com](http://JohnWeldOfficial.com)." (Photograph descriptions on page 3)



## Hospitality Night 2018

We were honored to be visited by many of you and to showcase the bungalow decorated with lights again this year during Hospitality Night. This is an opportunity to make residents and out-of-town visitors aware of the bungalow as they listen to live music on the porch, view our exhibits, and partake in snacks, refreshments, and holiday cheer! Thank you to our board member Laurie Sanders and docent Barbara Ring for welcoming our visitors during hospitality night this year and to board members Johanna Ellis, Anne Frank, John Hoover and Glenna Matthews for contributing their time and energy to this yearly tradition!



### Photographs:

- 1) The offices of the Laguna News Post with staff standing in front. John Weld wearing a neck tie, Katy Weld seated. Historical Society Board member Glenna Matthews father is in the black turtleneck. Note the address of 300 Ocean Avenue and the "Tea Served at 4pm" sign.
- 2) John Weld, Age 20 in 1925. As a young man, John's name was Jack.
- 3) Gigi Parrish as a Hollywood starlet.
- 4) John Weld and Craig Lockwood, August 1969. Craig Lockwood wrote a series, "From Where I Sit" featured in the News Post.

## A Message from our President

### Edward Storke

First, let me wish a very successful and enjoyable New Year to you and yours! Does it seem possible that it is already 2019? I'm sure we all expect a successful new year for the Laguna Beach Historical Society. We hope that you will join with us to help achieve our mission which is the collection, preservation, and dissemination of history of Laguna Beach, California. This mission requires the efforts of all our members and volunteers.

If you have not renewed your membership recently, please do so now! We can only achieve our goals by working together for the success of the Historical Society.

We also need volunteers to staff the Murphy Smith Bungalow and perform other history tasks. The Murphy Smith Bungalow is open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1-4 pm. This requires a large cadre of dedicated docent volunteers. Currently, we need one or more people to staff the second Sunday of each month. Potential docent volunteers should contact Diane Keplinger at [dianekep2009@gmail.com](mailto:dianekep2009@gmail.com).

Our January newsletter features our special world premier movie on Friday night, February 8, 2019. Besides being a great event, it is also a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Tickets are \$15 and all proceeds will benefit The Laguna Beach Historical Society.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to Mark Chamberlain, artist, activist, and promoter of our unique and wonderful city. He wanted to document changes to the canyon to create a broader awareness of regional and global environment issues. He is largely responsible for public pressure and funding to help preserve the Laguna Beach Wilderness Park. He helped create "The Tell" and other activities to help achieve this goal. He passed away less than a year ago on April 23, 2018. We salute him and will miss his great accomplishments!

## Members

### Historian Platinum/ Corporate Members

*\$1000 and above*

Eric Jessen  
Caduceus Medical,  
Gregg DeNicola MD  
Mary Lynn Lowry  
Dave Walker

### Historian Patron

*\$500 and above*

Laguna Beach Festival of the Arts  
Karen & Matt Smith  
Ed Storke

### Historian Friend

*\$100 and above*

Kate & Robert Adams  
Roger & Mary Alderson  
Andy Alison  
Joseph Ambrose Jr.  
Jay & Gertrud Andrus  
Alizabath Arciniaga  
Wayne & Faye Baglin  
Andrew Ball  
Curt and Jan Bartsch  
Leslie Blumberg  
Bob & Vicki Borthwick  
Meriam Braselle  
Ronald & Frances Chilcote  
Ann Christoph  
Don Crevier  
Leslie Daff  
Karen & Roger Dennis  
Sandy Desmond  
Susan Elliott  
Johanna Ellis  
Emerald Bay  
Community Association  
Gene and Johanna Felder  
Carolyn Hobert Fisch  
Josie Fox  
Richard and Anne Frank  
Cathy Fry  
Jon Garmshausen  
Jane Golden  
Groupfire  
Willa Gupta  
Arnold & Bonnie Hano  
Regina Hartley

Healthcare Information  
Management  
John Hoover  
Jerry & Renee Hornbeak  
Susan & Joseph Jahraus  
Jane Janz  
Mark and Kelly Johnson  
Korey Jorgensen MD  
Kep & Diane Keplinger  
Penny King  
Eric & Laurie Kirkland  
David and Karen Lagrew  
Randy Lewis  
Carol Lloyd  
Greg MacGillivray  
Jared & Kathryn Mathis  
Ed Merrilees  
Lindy Narver  
Gordon & Kathleen McKinzie  
Professor Michael Onorato  
Ron Ploof  
Joseph & Jan Praske  
Barbara Ring  
Dan Satterthwaite  
Laurie Sanders  
Lester & Lori Savit  
Chuck Schoen  
Vicki Schyamm  
Arthur Sherman  
Marvina Shilling  
Teryll Sindell  
Nelda Stone  
Gil & Judy Thibault  
Village Laguna  
Gayle Waite  
Barbara Wick

## Board of Directors

Ed Storke  
**President**  
Nelda Stone  
**Secretary**  
Gregg DeNicola MD  
Johanna Ellis  
Anne Frank  
John Hoover  
Jane Janz  
Eric Jessen  
Diane Keplinger  
Jeff Loge  
Karen Lagrew  
Glenna Matthews  
Heidi Miller  
Laurie Sanders

*Your financial support is  
vital and appreciated!*

### Thank you to our members for your past donations!

We encourage you to renew  
your membership and consider  
upgrading to the next level of  
membership. See your mailing  
label for your most recent  
donation.

**If you are not a member, we  
would appreciate your  
support!**

We are determined to preserve  
and protect the history of  
Laguna Beach, and we strive to  
share interesting historical  
information at our programs, at  
our bungalow, and on our  
website at

[lagunabeachhistory.org](http://lagunabeachhistory.org).

We also support our local  
schools with historical  
presentations and a scholarships  
for a deserving seniors.

The Murphy Smith Bungalow is  
the home of the Laguna Beach  
historical society where we  
house historical displays, but we  
have a goal of expanding our  
space for archiving our city's  
historical documents. Your  
contributions will help us reach  
the goal of a permanent archive  
for researchers, residents, and  
guests of Laguna Beach.

*Preserve your memories,*

*keep them well.*

*What you forget,*

*you can never retell.*

**- Louisa May Alcott**

## **Become a Member:**

- \$25 for Historian** (Individual)
- \$100 for Historian Friend** (Individual, Business, Organization)
- \$500 for Historian Patron** (Individual, Business, Organization)
- \$1,000 for Historian Platinum/Corporate Membership**  
(Individual, Business, Organization)

Online donations gratefully accepted now by PayPal or credit card on our website at:  
[lagunabeachhistory.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 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](http://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](http://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) # - KC415.

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

If you prefer to receive this newsletter by email only, drop us a line at [info@lagunabeachhistory.org](mailto:info@lagunabeachhistory.org).

---

**A Special Note to our Loyal Members:**

With your support, we are able to maintain our beloved Murphy Smith Bungalow, present historical programs, send this newsletter, and host other events — thank you!

**Visit us on You Tube:** Laguna Beach Historical Society

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

**Contact us at:** [info@lagunabeachhistory.org](mailto:info@lagunabeachhistory.org)

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

