

# THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LAGUNA BEACH LIFE | PAST PRESENT FUTURE

## NEWS AND UPDATES FOR THIS MONTH:

- HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
- 3RD GRADE STUDENTS VISIT THE BUNGALOW

## The Bungalow Experience: Education and History



Mrs. Wong and her students with Karen Lagrew on the porch of the bungalow at 278 Ocean Avenue

## Visitors young and old access historical resources to gain perspectives on Laguna Beach

In June, El Morro 3rd graders explored the rooms of the Murphy Smith Bungalow with clipboards, pencils, teachers, and parent chaperones. One of their lessons was to compare the similarities and differences between their own homes to the historic bungalow on Ocean Avenue.

Dee Perry who helped organize this says "Learning about their city is part of the state social studies curriculum and our students are so lucky to have such a beautiful city to learn about and wonderful citizens that enjoy sharing their knowledge. I believe it helps our young people cherish our Laguna Beach."

Carefully written and illustrated thank you notes following their visit displayed items that stood out for these 8 and 9-year-olds such as the dollhouse, the small kitchen, and the even smaller bed. They also wrote about the necessities of 1920s life: a sewing machine, meat grinders, ice box, typewriter, and dial-up telephone. They were interested in who lived there and were excited to learn more about their towns history.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# A Message from our President

KAREN LAGREW, PRESIDENT

As I write my first message to you as President of The Laguna Beach Historical Society, I join a talented and passionate team of volunteer board members and docents who create our visitor experiences.

As a child, my favorite book was *"The Little House"* by Virginia Lee Burton about a small home in the country that over the years remains untouched as the city grows around it. It is a classic.

As a young adult, I noticed parallels to my own Laguna Beach board and batten childhood home which made the book even more meaningful.

The Laguna cottage of my childhood was small and antiquated, full of love and so so unique. Although my parents "threatened" to move my sister and me to a planned community outside the city boundaries, where we would have walk-in closets and sidewalks, they never followed through and I am forever grateful for the respect and appreciation I developed for an old home, a wonderful location, and the spirit of community.

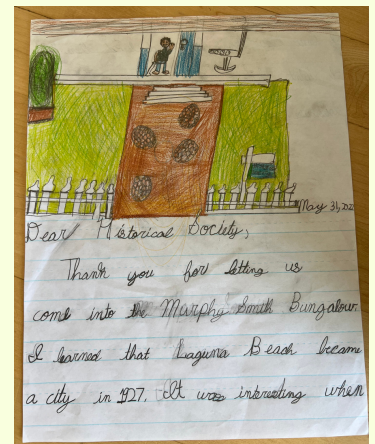
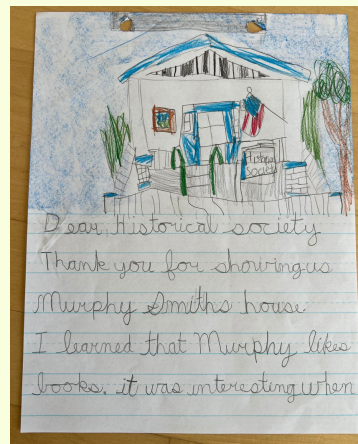
Today our visitors come from near and far and express the same love and awe of the little old house, the Murphy Smith Bungalow, where they can step into a time capsule of Laguna life in the 1920s.

Our local elementary school children visit at the end of each school year and compare and contrast their homes (and kitchens!) to the one at the bungalow.

As the world changes around us and Laguna Beach adapts to these changes, our history and memories remain intact. As a local non-profit, volunteer organization we aim to keep our unique history and memories alive at the *"Little Bungalow on Ocean Avenue."*

We thank you, our members for sharing in our mission!

*Karen Lagrew*



(continued from the front page)

We were happy to be part of their visit which also included stops like the lifeguard tower, the fire department, and City Hall.

As part of our mission, we aim to provide resources to those interested in all aspects of Laguna's history through a visit to the bungalow, perusing our books on the couch in the living room, or finding a trove of photographs, a timeline, and videos online through viewing our webpage, or social media posts.

Student thank you letters can be viewed at the bungalow. 😊



## Congrats to our SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Owen Dyer

Laguna Beach High School

History has been a part of Owen's life from a young age when he first learned about California Ranchers and maritime history. Then through volunteering with the Laguna Canyon Foundation he created a documentary on Laguna Beach's Greenbelt. To further satisfy his interest and understanding of local and international history during high school, Owen took college classes in the summer and participated in Model United Nations. Owen plans to major in International Relations and a career in foreign policy and diplomacy, and to help improve the world.

# Bungalow News!



## What's Happening at the Murphy Smith

### Entryway:

The sidewalk, steps, and porch were power washed in late spring and the virtual historic tour on our message board continues to be accessed, currently at 8,546 views.

### Little League Baseball History on Display:

Following our spring 2022 program we have a collection of items to view in the front bedroom of the bungalow, stop in to see.

### Little Free Library Shelf:

We accept new or used books, magazines, and periodicals on our front porch.



## Board Member SPOTLIGHT

### Laurie Sanders

As our archivist coordinator, Laurie leads and manages the space we store items in on the upper floors of Wells Fargo Bank, formerly Laguna Federal Savings.

*Why did you choose to serve on the board?*

"It was pure happenstance. I had finished graduate school for my Master of Library and Information Science degree, where my focus had been in Archival Studies. I was working part-time for the Newport Beach Public Library and looking for additional part-time work or volunteer opportunities. My mother was visiting the bungalow and learned through John Hoover that the Historical Society happened to be looking for an archivist to oversee their collections."

*Why do you think your position on the board is a good match for you?*

"In addition to my work as a librarian and my background in archives, I am a long-time resident of Laguna, having lived here for 25 years."

*What is your favorite part of working with the LB Historical Society?*

"I have truly appreciated the relationships I have built through serving on the board. Everyone is so knowledgeable and passionate about Laguna history, and it has been inspiring to me. I love the opportunity to learn more about the rich history of this community, and to share that history with others."

### Archives at a Glance

- **An archives** is a repository for historical documents and records related to a particular location, person or persons, or institution.
- **An archivist** collects, organizes, preserves, maintains, and provides access to records and materials of long-term value.
- **Our archives** contain materials related to the history of Laguna Beach, including personal papers, scrapbooks, photographs, newspapers/newspaper clippings, movie reels, oral histories on cassette, maps and blueprints, and memorabilia.
- **For research inquiries**, please contact the Laguna Beach Historical Society through our website.



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS LIST

## HISTORIAN/PLATINUM/CORPORATE MEMBERS

### \$1000 AND ABOVE

Chris & Patti Appel  
Caduceus Medical Group  
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Mary Lynn Lowry  
Dave Walker  
Chris Quilter

*Thank you!*

## HISTORIAN PATRONS

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| Jane Janz                 | Joan Lowell                  | Laurie Sanders            |
| Eric Jessen               | Cindy Love & Eric Smith      | Charles Schoen            |
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| Eric & Laurie Kirkland    | Lindy Narver                 | Village Laguna            |
| Laguna Beach Greenbelt    | William & Theresa Ann O'Hare | Warren Watkins            |

We want to thank you for your past financial support and encourage you to consider upgrading to the next level of support for the Laguna Beach Historical Society. We are determined to preserve and protect historical archives of Laguna Beach including photographs, quarterly guest speaker events, and an annual scholarship to an outstanding graduating LB high school senior.



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

**Did you know these organizations will donate to a nonprofit at no cost to you?  
 Please consider designating our organization.**

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- Go to [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) and either sign in or register for your account
- Be sure to have your Ralphs Rewards card handy
- Click on Community > Community Contributions > Enroll
- Search **Laguna Beach Historical Society** or the organization number **KC415**
- Call **800-660-9003** to get your Rewards card number and set contributions.

**Amazon Smile Program**

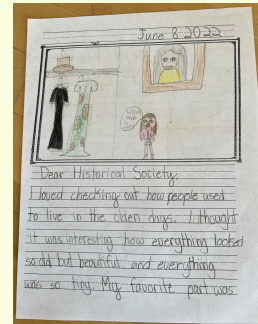


- If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, simply sign up at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select **Laguna Beach Historical Society**
- Open the mobile app on your phone and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on the Gifting, Registry, and Charity button and then the AmazonSmile button to search for Laguna Beach Historical Society. Follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

THANK YOU! ♥



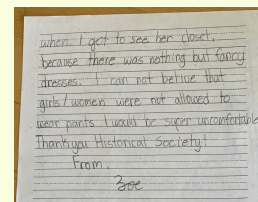
A model of the bungalow was created by El Morro students Caroline Barber and Estelle Boeck



**El Morro 3rd Graders:**

"Thank you for letting us go in the house. There was a crazy amount of teacups in the kitchen! I also loved the tiny dollhouse."

"I liked the trapdoor next to the house and I wonder what is inside of it?"



"Thank you for showing us the inside of an old fashioned home, I loved looking at the clothes in her small closet."

"I learned that Murphy likes books."

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

**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 YouTube:** Laguna Beach Historical Society

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

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



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