



# Laguna Beach Historical Society

presents

## The St. Clair Family's Influence on Laguna's Art, Films & Architecture

**May 10th, 2017, 7:30pm, Laguna Beach City Hall**

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

### May Newsletter Includes:



St. Clair Family



In Memory –  
Vernon  
Spitaleri



Gregg  
DeNicola –  
President's  
Message

On Wednesday, May 10th, Mary Rabe will present the three points of interest regarding the St. Clair family through a talk and a slide show that will include pictures of the family, paintings, movies and architecture. The St. Clair family history covers over one hundred years of Laguna Beach history. They remain with us today through their contributions to the town's art and architecture.

Norman St. Clair (1865-1912), father of the movie director (Malcolm) and the architect (Aubrey), was well known in his time, but not many of us know about him now. Norman was one of the founders of the Laguna Beach Plein Air Arts community. Well-known artists such as William

Wendt and Edgar Payne came to Laguna Beach through their connection to paintings by Norman St. Clair and started Laguna Beach as an art colony.



(continued on page 2)

*These images show the influence of  
The St. Clair Family  
Courtesy Mary and Herb Rabe*

(continued from page 1)

Malcolm St. Clair, one of Norman's sons, was a director in Hollywood. Malcolm was well-known at that time for his many silent films. He started his career acting in Max Sennet's "Key Stone Cops," then went on to directing and producing. Three of his movies were filmed in Laguna Beach.

Aubrey St. Clair, a very talented architect, built one of his first houses in Laguna Beach for his brother, Malcolm. He designed commercial buildings and residential buildings, many of which we can still see today. During the Laguna Beach Historical Society's May presentation, you'll see the famous houses designed by Aubrey St. Clair and the city buildings he designed including the Fire Station and the City Hall.

Save the date – May 10<sup>th</sup> – for an interesting and in-depth review of the St Clair family and their multi-faceted impact on Laguna Beach and its history!

## Upcoming Programs:

### May 10

The St. Clair Family's  
Influence on Laguna's Art,  
Films, and Architecture by  
Mary Rabe

### September 7

Pancho Barnes by Lou D'Elia

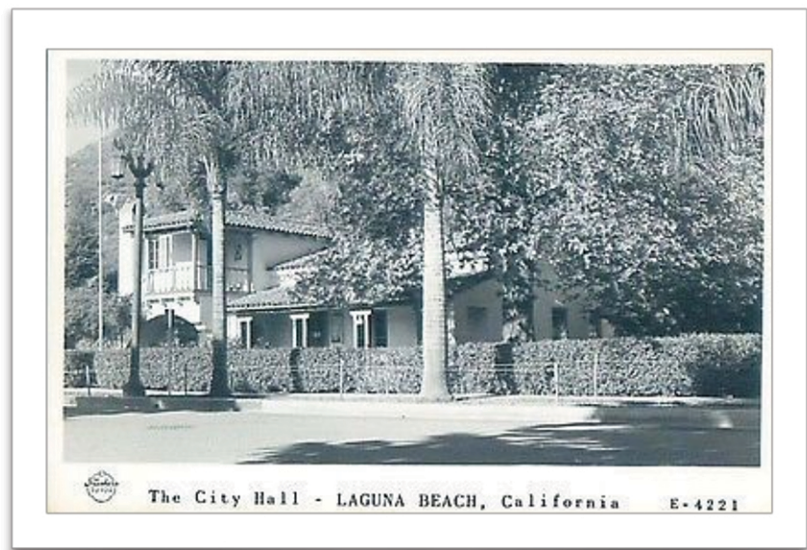
### October 11

The Laguna Playhouse by  
Glenna Matthews

### November 16

Laguna Presbyterian Church  
Centennial Program  
(will take place in Tankersley  
Hall)

Our next newsletter will be out  
in the fall where you can find  
program information.



## Past Programs:

See our past programs including our March program, The Laguna Greenbelt, on our YouTube page Laguna Beach Historical Society.

Most of these are on DVDs available at the bungalow for a donation.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### **In Memoriam: Vern Spitaleri**

The Laguna Beach Historical Society pays homage to one of its recent past Presidents – Vernon Spitaleri, Vern’s passing in January was recently announced by his family. He was born at the height of the roaring 20s and moved to Coastal Orange County in 1957 when he was in his mid 30s. Vern would become responsible over the years for much of what we take for granted in Laguna Beach today.

Vern’s primary interest was newspapers. In fact, he founded The Laguna News Post, which was located for many years on Glenneyre and Forest Avenue downtown. He was one of the first newspaper publishers to solicit editorials from his opponents. He felt it heightened credibility. That trait would be very welcome today.

He served as President of The Boys Club, President of Friends of the Laguna Beach Library, and was also President of The Laguna Playhouse. He led the campaign for a local hospital which ultimately resulted in The South Coast Medical Facility when a local police officer’s death triggered the need for a hospital to serve the community.

He was integral in the development of Main Beach Park and the establishment of The Dilly Preserve. Of course he also served on the Board of Directors of The Laguna Beach Historical Society for many years, eventually serving as its President as recently as a few years ago. Vern professed a deep love for Laguna Beach and worked relentlessly to preserve its history. Above all, the respect he earned over his lifetime continues to be apparent.

One of his more famous quotes was, "Do the best you can. No one is perfect. Except your mother."

Rest In Peace Vern, we will cherish the indelible imprint you left on our city.

*Gregg DeNicola MD,  
President, Laguna Beach Historical Society*

### **Volunteer Opportunity:**

Stories or narratives have been shared in every culture as a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation, and instilling moral values.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is seeking a volunteer who will conduct interviews and collect personal stories.

We have several stories waiting to be documented and many more waiting to be discovered.

If you or someone you know would like to keep the stories of our town and its eclectic history alive please contact us.



***Vernon R. Spitaleri  
Former President,  
Laguna Beach Historical Society***

**“History Patron” Members \$750+**

**Gregg DeNicola MD**  
**Mary Lynn Lowry**  
**Judy McKay**  
**Charlie & Anne Quilter**  
**Karen & Matt Smith**  
**Dave Walker**

**“History Friend” Members \$100+**

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 Comm. Assoc  
 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 Info. Mgmt  
 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 Meier  
 Ed Merrilees  
 Lindy Narver  
 Prof. 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

**Murphy Smith Bungalow**  
**Visiting Hours:**

**Friday:** 1:00-4:00pm  
**Saturday:** 1:00-4:00pm  
**Sunday:** 1:00-4:00pm

**Telephone:** (949) 497-6834

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

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

**Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors**

Gregg DeNicola, MD <i>President</i>	Sandra Desmond Johanna Ellis Anne Frank	Carol Lloyd Jeff Loge Glenna Matthews
Ed Storke <i>President Elect</i>	John Hoover Jane Janz	Karen Meier Heidi Miller
Nelda Stone <i>Secretary, Treasurer</i>	Lorraine Leon Jones Eric Jessen	Laurie Sanders

### 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 recognized 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](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: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.  
Tax ID #33-0519882.**

*The Orange County Historical Commission  
and OC Parks Presents:*

#### **Uncovering Hidden Histories in Orange County**

Discover the rich history of Orange County and learn how you can connect with historical resources in your own community.

- Q & A - with authors of *People's Guide to Orange County*
- Story telling and children's crafts.
- Tours of the newly restored Irvine Ranch Historic Park



*We look forward to seeing you  
at our booth!*

Saturday, June 10, 2017  
10AM - 2PM  
Irvine Ranch Historic Park  
13042 Old Myford Rd  
Irvine, CA 92602  
Free admission

# LAGUNA BEACH LIFE: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

**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!

**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**

