

THE LAGUNA BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LAGUNA BEACH LIFE | PAST PRESENT FUTURE



**NEWS AND UPDATES
FOR THIS MONTH:**

*WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BUNGALOW
LAGUNA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT*



1991-2021 30 Year History of The Laguna Beach Historical Society

In May of 1991, Karen Turnbull, Richard Ayotte, and Michael Onorato got together to discuss the establishment of a new historical society for Laguna Beach as an integral part of the community. The early founders claimed, "We want to offer programs and activities that members of the community will find worthwhile and enriching."

The first board of directors included two of our current board members: Anne Frank and Jane Janz. One of their first concerns was to convince Wells Fargo Bank to allow the historical society to use Mrs. Blanche Clapp Smith's house at 278 Ocean Ave, which the bank had in its possession since Mrs. Smith's recent passing. An early newsletter states, "We visualize it as an ideal location for a Laguna Beach history museum where the Historical Society could present exhibits relating to Laguna's history."

In 1992, the historical society was successful in securing a lease for the Murphy Smith Bungalow with Wells Fargo (for a nominal amount!) and had MANY work parties to renovate the house.

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Blanche Clapp and her niece
Hanging out in the backyard of the bungalow on a sunny day

A Message from our President

ED STORKE, PRESIDENT

Greetings! We are pleased that the Murphy-Smith Bungalow (our headquarters & museum at 278 Ocean Avenue) reopened to visitors on June 19th, 2021 after a long closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bungalow is now open on Fridays & Saturdays from 1-4 pm. Many former docents returned, and a few new ones joined. We love our docents and so do our visitors! Our goal is to reopen the bungalow on Sunday afternoons as was the schedule before the pandemic. We are always looking for more volunteer docents or substitutes as needed. Please contact us if you or anyone you know would like to take part in our docent program.

Our efforts to continue our activities and connect with local schools such as bringing 3rd graders from El Morro & Top of the World Elementary Schools into the bungalow and making other historical presentations were canceled as schools adjusted their policies.

We were part of the Laguna Beach High School virtual scholarship awards ceremony. We awarded a scholarship to a deserving graduating student at Laguna Beach High School who you can see highlighted below. As in previous years, it was a tough decision as there are many good student applicants in our community. Our Zoom Webinar program from April (with five board members and sponsored by Shelby Anderson, LBHS history teacher) was well attended and is now available on our YouTube channel.

Ed Storke

Congrats to our SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Soren "Luke" Teeple
Laguna Beach
High School

"I love history. I believe that by studying history we can not only learn about the future, but we can learn and appreciate ourselves; our collective story." Soren hopes to study business or political science with an emphasis in history, possibly a minor.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Johanna Ellis

Anne Frank

John Hoover

Jane Janz

Eric Jessen

Diane Keplinger

Carol Viebeck Lloyd

Jeff Loge

Karen Lagrew

Glenna Matthews

Heidi Miller

Laurie Sanders

(continued from page 1)

The newsletter solicited volunteers with enthusiasm, "Bring paint scrapers, gardening tools, large garbage bags, gloves, and a picnic lunch and join us for a "Tom Sawyer" party." The Murphy Smith Bungalow (named after the Murphy family who originally owned the house and Mrs. Smith) officially opened to the public on August 22, 1995.

This year, 2021, the Laguna Beach Historical Society celebrates 30 years of dedication to preserving the history of Laguna Beach and continues to collect archival donations and present historical programs to its members and the public. We regularly submit articles for local publications including StuNews and LBIndy. Several of our board members do research to help professional creators and individuals for their articles, books, films, personal use, etc. Volunteers continue to work hard to present our beloved Murphy Smith Bungalow as a nostalgic representation of Laguna's past. We truly appreciate the dedication and service of all the individuals who make this happen.

To see some of the fruits of our labor of our all-volunteer organization, peruse our website at lagunabeachhistory.org to see past newsletters, videos of our programs, photos, and other information about the history of Laguna Beach. With your support, we hope to continue and expand these efforts for many years to come.



Bathing at Laguna Beach

Early colored postcard
Main Beach



Bungalow Reopen & Refresh

After a long year and shutdown due to the COVID pandemic we are now reopen! Our Volunteer Docent Coordinator, Diane Keplinger, successfully rallied former and new docents to open the bungalow for our summer visitors.

Matthew Pappish and his daughters, Megan and Teddi, volunteered service hours to repaint our picket fence in time for the 4th of July weekend. Say hello and thank you if you see the three of them working as docents when you visit this summer.

A group of board members spearheaded by our President met on a recent Saturday to clean up the clutter and make progress on organizing our archives.

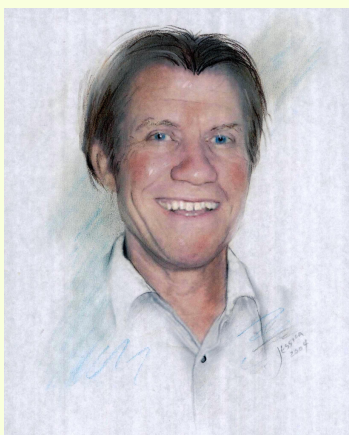
Last, but not least, we commissioned Harvey McMeekin, one of the original sandblast sign makers in Laguna, to make us a new sign at a reduced rate. The new sign will hang on the side of the bungalow facing the Whole Foods parking lot and give us more visibility to both those walking and driving into town along Ocean and Beach Streets. **Thank you to all!**



Bungalow Front Porch Display Case and Information Board



Passerbys often poke their head in the window of the Murphy Smith bungalow to find out more about us. Now they can easily use the URL links and QR codes on our new display board on the front porch to access our website and more information. We have created a virtual tour including 37 downtown historical spots to "see" even when we are not open. It has been viewed over 1,000 times since it was launched just a few weeks ago!



Board Member SPOTLIGHT John Hoover

You may have seen John walking around town or puttering down at the bungalow "taking care of matters." He lovingly and jokingly refers to us as the "hysterical society."

Why did you choose to serve on the board?

That's easy. I'm a history buff and always have been even in high school when no one much cared for history.

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

I'm in charge of operations of the bungalow and grounds, I have a lot of practice in this particular area.

What is your favorite part of working with the LB Historical Society? It is fun to talk with the visitors and give them tidbits about Laguna history since I've been around Laguna since the 1960s.



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Ed Storke
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Thank you!

Go to LagunaBeachHistory.org/support-us to join or renew now!

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If you prefer to receive this newsletter by email, drop us a line at 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](https://www.youtube.com/LagunaBeachHistoricalSociety)
Visit our Website: lagunabeachhistory.org
Contact us at: info@lagunabeachhistory.org

