



Looking Back on my Long Presidency . . . and our 70 - Strong Society Years

I feel a bit nostalgic as I write this message as my very long term as president (seven years) is coming to an end in June.

Coming Events . . . May 19 General Meeting

Greg Wade Reports on our City's Many Initiatives

Join us starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 19 at La Colonia Community Center for Solana Beach City Manager Greg Wade's update on City projects. It is always impressive to learn just how busy our public servants are with initiatives that don't always make local headlines.

Also during this general meeting, we will ask members to vote on your 2023-24 Society Executive Board. We'll also salute our outgoing Vice President, Judy Hegenauer, who is looking forward to taking a break from her many years of service on the Society's Executive Board and as a City Council member.

In early June, Education Chair Pat Coad will assemble a committee to review applications for three \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded this Spring. If you would like to help with the review and selection of our awardees, please email zzcoad@gmail.com

On June 9, you are invited to join your new Executive Board at our installation dinner, 5 p.m. at Tony's Jacal. During the June meeting, we will also introduce our 2023-24 scholarship winners. Our June newsletter will include a reservation form with menu

Your Vote Counts: 2023-24 Executive Board Nominees

- JoJo Dodson Bogard, President
- Michele Stribling, Vice President
- Holly Smith Jones, Treasurer
- Karen Grossman, Recording Secretary
- Cindi Clemons, Corresponding Secretary

Come to our May 19 general meeting, 5 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center or register your vote "Yea" or "Nay" by email to solanabeachhistory@gmail.com.

What really got me thinking about my tenure was Katie Pelisek's fabulous beekeeping presentation at our April general meeting. It dawned on me then that Katie and I have known each other since her son, Drew, and my daughter, Selena, started kindergarten at Solana Vista. Now they are 30! But it was approximately 12 years ago that I wandered into my first SBC&HS meeting. Katie was there and (the details escape me) we somehow decided to start up the garden club -- the SeaWeeders -- as an arm of the SBC&HS. Katie agreed to be the president of the garden club and Carol Childs, who was the SBC&HS president at the time, asked if I would serve as the Civic Beautification Chair.

For our first SeaWeeder undertaking, Katie and I tackled the horribly rundown and ill-maintained landscaping of the Post Office. We applied for City and County grants. Katie (landscape designer by profession) came up with the plan and the rest is history (you read all about it in our February newsletter)! Thanks to our hard-working Post Office Posse volunteers, our current SeaWeeders President Kathleen Drummond and our members who actively participate and volunteer, we also have helped to develop several lovely pocket parks with possibly more to come. Volunteers also help maintain the beautiful Coastal Rail Trail. If you are one of these special people who volunteer and help keep our City beautiful, bless you. And if you're not, WE NEED YOU!

After a number of years of my active involvement with the SeaWeeders, then nominations chair, Mary Berend persuaded me to take the position President of SBC&HS. It has been a pleasure to serve you. I have learned so much about my community from this experience and gotten to know so many wonderful friends and neighbors.

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President's Message, continued . . .

I especially want to thank all those who have served as members of my board! What fantastic giving, loving women and men. Thank you for helping preserve and share our history as well as our many civic and beautification endeavors.



One of the projects that I am proud to have accomplished during my tenure is digitizing our historical archives -- we now can access our history with the push of a button. We put this access into action last month when our Living History field trips resumed after the required stop during Covid. Our visitors viewed a slide show of Solana Beach history -- from the Kumeyaay to Cityhood. The children and teachers were fascinated. Learn more about how we have updated the Living History program on the following pages. And huge thanks to Cindi Clemons, Lisa Montes and Kathleen Drummond, who have been instrumental in the digitization project.

Another passion of mine -- one I hope to have more time for now -- are the video interviews we have conducted with some of our long-time Society members. If you have an historical story to tell about Solana Beach we want to hear it. Likewise, if you have historical photos of Solana Beach, please share with

us. We will digitize them, add them to our archives and return the originals to you. Interested? Email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com. Watch our new slideshow and videos at <https://youtube.com/@solanabeachcivichistorical7985>

We hope to see you at our May 19th General Meeting where City Manager Greg Wade will bring us up to date on the City of Solana Beach's many initiatives. We also will vote on our Executive Board. Join us and help keep our Society strong for another 70 years!

Michele Stribling

End of an Era in Torrey Grove

This winter's fierce wind and rain storms were too much for one of the venerable Torrey Pines our Civic Club/Historical Society members planted in the 1950s, nurtured for decades, dug up and boxed for relocation during the "Big Dig" to lower rail tracks, and replanted at the north end of our Coastal Rail Trail in 2002. This tree was uprooted and toppled over nearby public benches. Sadly, our City crews had to take it away in pieces. Only sawdust remains. Learn more about Torrey Grove in coming editions. As a 70th Anniversary gift to our members, we will publish newsletters through the summer.



Among the Civic Club's many accomplishments, by 1985 they had their own Jeep, with a surrey on top.

**NOT JUST
LADIES
OF THE
CLUB**



Posing with club's Jeep are, from left, Norma Ruhm, Celine Olson, Margaret Reiss and Monica Reiss.

Don Boomer / The Citizen

June 1989 . . . our Historical Society is born

Civic Club Embraced Call to Track History of our New City

The 1980s were the era of independence for Solana Beach. After an almost three-year and sometimes rancorous campaign, a third vote to pass Proposition N for "Cityhood" passed, bringing Solana Beach independence from the County of San Diego, which seemed endlessly willing to permit development. An ongoing scheme to build a hotel on what is now Harbaugh Seaside Trails was one of many development plans that were catalysts for Citizens Intending to Incorporate, the group advocating independence.

At 7 a.m. on July 1, 1986 members of Solana Beach's first City Council and our first Mayor, Margaret Schlesinger, were sworn in. They swiftly voted to boot the County out of City affairs and approved a 45-day moratorium on new building permits. At the time, more than two dozen building permits were pending.

Recognizing the import of the era, Mayor Schlesinger also expressed her interest in forming a historical society for the new City.

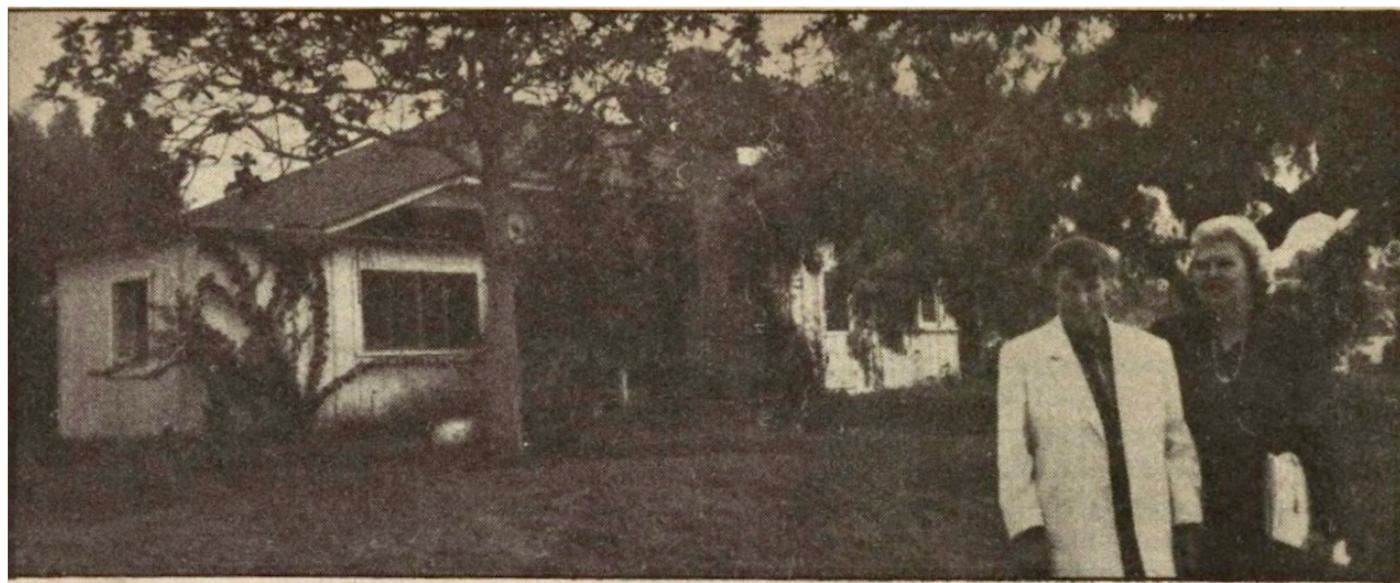
The Solana Beach Women's Civic Club had vanquished unsightly billboards, created the Plaza "centerpiece" for the new City, sponsored bicycle paths, successfully sustained landscaping along Hwy. 101, and repeatedly demonstrated their fund-raising prowess through cause-specific campaigns, annual Holiday Home Tours showcasing decor and crafts, and the Holiday Crafts Boutique. Now, they stepped up to the role of Solana Beach historians.

In the summer of 1989, the California Secretary of State approved a name change for the organization to the Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society. With the change in name and charter came a significant change in membership requirements -- for the first time, men would be invited to join. The Society's first president was Sue Evans; first male member, Eddie Lewis.



Margaret Schlesinger

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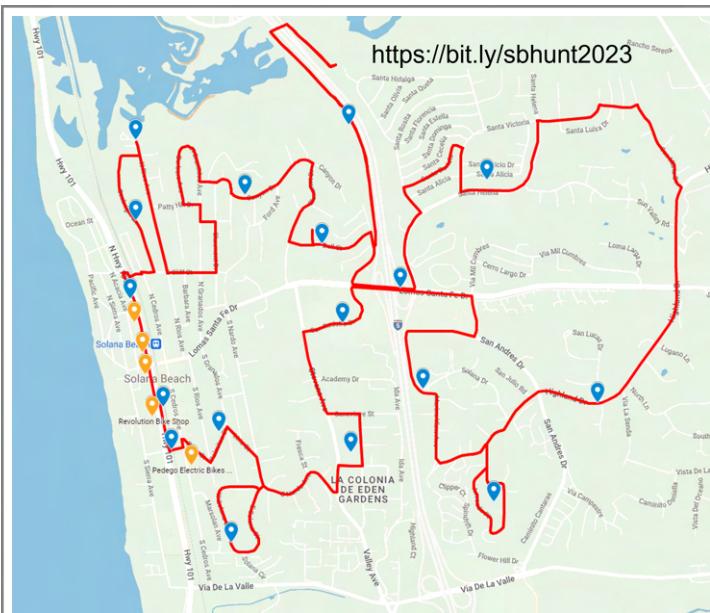


Mary Thurman, left, and Ada Scarsborough, historians for the Solana Beach Women's Civic Club, stand in front of the Stevens home built in the 1890s.

Historical Society is Born, Historical Museum in the Making . . . continued

Among new Society's first initiatives was to establish a headquarters for itself and a historical museum for the city. They already had identified the candidate -- the Stevens House, built in the 1890s on Lockwood Mesa, now Peppertree Lane. Because of a planned condo development (Del Mar Downs), the old house was slated to be moved to a temporary site near St. James Catholic Church during construction. After a lot of back and forth between the City Council and the Society -- now newly involved in local historical preservation -- agreements were reached in 1991 to move the historic home to La Colonia Park. The move cost of \$4,000 was shared by the Society and the developer of the townhomes that replaced the Stevens home. City Council allocated \$25,000 in the 1990-91 budget to pay for exterior restorations, including building a foundation and painting.

In coming newsletters, learn more about the move, the repairs and how our museum collection was curated.



May Bike Tour and Scavenger Hunt

On May 7, meet at La Colonia Park at 10:00AM for a 13.7-mile community group ride, sponsored by Bike Walk Solana. Learn more at www.bikewalksolana.org

Throughout May, take a self-guided bike/walk Solana Beach Scavenger Hunt, highlighting local points of interest and historical sites. The Scavenger Hunt is co-sponsored by your Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society. Register and get a free map at www.bikewalksolana.org

Updated "Living History" Program Welcomes Students to Heritage Museum



That new-fangled "smart TV" you see in the photo on page 1 isn't the only recent addition to our Museum -- we now have WiFi, as well!

But sack races, jump rope, hand-made ice cream and -- new this year -- hand-made tortillas might still be the favorites among the third-graders who returned to the Museum for our long-postponed Living History program.

Over two days in April, four classes of students visited our



Museum to learn how early settlers to what was then called Lockwood Mesa farmed their land and kept house without running water or electricity. "It those days, each of you would have a chore to do to keep the household running," said Grandma Stevens, played by Tarey Gerardy and Rose Andrews this season. The students were fascinated by the appliances required to pump water, light stoves, and heat an iron in an era without light switches and electrical outlets.



Likewise -- in the half of the museum depicting life after running water and electricity -- the player piano, crank telephone, and manual typewriter delighted.



When pandemic restrictions closed the Museum and cancelled our annual education program, your Board brainstormed ways to continue keeping students engaged in Solana Beach history. Plan A was to expand on the long-time skit script to include more about information about the first families of La Colonia de Eden Gardens and their valuable contributions to our community. Then, videotape the play and make it accessible via our website. It's still a great plan; but, unfortunately, our Covid-era casting call was not answered.

So when Solana Vista officials said "yes" to our invitation to resume the popular field trips, Society President Michele Stribling, Museum Curator Lisa Montes and Nominations Chair JoJo Bogard put their heads together to come up with an engaging new way to tell our history -- through their own family experiences. Call it, "where do you live?"

Continued

"Where do you live?" Helps Connect Students with Solana Beach History... cont.

Lisa is a fifth-generation descendent of one of the first families of La Colonia and still resides in her family home. Michele also is a native to Solana Beach; her parents bought their home in 1956 on the bluffs above the tide pools. JoJo's parents were original buyers into the Lomas Santa Fe development in 1971, where she raised her own family and still lives.

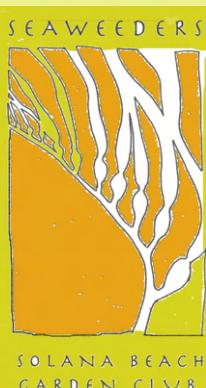
Each asked the students where *they* lived, and based on the answer, told them a little about growing up in that area of our community.

"Here in La Colonia, our families built their own houses," Lisa shared. "Down the hill from your house, that used to be the dump," Jojo told the students. "And I used to go there with my Dad," Michele added.

"What's a dump?" came one student's query.



Well, some might say say it is archeology -- where history is unearthed and bright minds are inspired.



SeaWeeders! Meet May 3, 6:30 pm

Join us at the cottage behind the Lomas Santa Fe Boys & Girls Club.

- Sign up for our booth at Fiesta del Sol
- Plan for our June social, and
- *Finally*, set our date for a September field trip to EDCO's Anaerobic Digester.

May 13 -- Free Bulky Item Pick Up by EDCO

This is your opportunity to put out trash, green waste and up to four bulky items -- such as broken appliances -- that are too large for collection bins.

Schedule a pick-up by calling (858) 350-8544. Put items at curb-side by 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 13.

Bulky yard waste will be recycled and must be bagged or bundled. Tree trimmings should be cut into 3' lengths and tied securely into bundles not greater than 18" in diameter.

**Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society
a 501(c)(3) charitable organization**

2022-23 Executive Board

President.....Michele Stribling
Vice President.....Judy Hegenauer
Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones
Recording Secretary.....Karen Grossman
Corresponding Secretary....Cindi Clemons

Committee Chairs

Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons
Communications & Education.....Pat Coad
Crafts....Phyllis Schwartzlose, Pam Dalton
Hospitality.....Vacant
Membership.....Lori Wolf
Historian, Museum Curator.....Lisa Montes
Newsletter.....Kathleen Drummond
Nominations.....Jolene Dodson Bogard
Parliamentarian & Program..Carol Childs
SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond
Website. Lenore Dale,Kathleen Drummond

Digital Assets Consultant.....Sandro Alberti
Research HistorianRichard Moore

