The Official Newsletter of the La Jolla Historical Society

TIMEKEEPER

Summer 2009
Volume 28, No. 2

Ellen Clark Reveille: 1910 - 2009
Carriage House Exterior Transformed
Summer and Fall Events!
Executive Director’s Column

Such Extraordinary Legacies

These past few months were particularly difficult for La Jolla as we said goodbye to some of our community’s most distinguished and beloved citizens. Ellen Revelle was one of the most passionate advocates for the heritage and vitality of La Jolla and one of the La Jolla Historical Society’s greatest friends and strongest supporters. We remember Ellen fondly in a special feature in this issue (page 3). As an original founder of the Society, Barbara Dawson worked tirelessly to change perceptions of what was important about La Jolla’s history and why that history should be important to La Jollans. Like the Revelles, Barbara and her family have been pillars of the community for decades (page 10). Finally, as we went to press we heard news of the passing of two other prominent symbols of La Jolla’s heritage: Bailey Gallison, a former president of the La Jolla Town Council, and Harry Rudolph, II, founder of the iconic Harry’s Coffee Shop. Both were influential community leaders and longtime supporters of the Society.

It’s hard to say goodbye to people who have meant so much to our town. The Society will take great pride in ensuring the legacies of these remarkable La Jollans remain part of our community’s collective memory.

Springraiser ’09
As you’ll see in this issue of Timekeeper, the Society is introducing a number of great new public programs later this year. Because your continued support is essential to our success, we recently launched “Springraiser,” a new seasonal initiative inviting friends of the Society to ensure our efforts going into the summer and fall months have the resources needed to develop these programs. By now, you may have received a letter appealing for your support of Springraiser ’09. We hope you’ll consider joining those who have generously contributed to date (page 17), to whom I say: Thank you!

Don’t Miss Out!
The Society is excited at the full schedule of great events in the months ahead. From our expanding exhibition program (page 6) to our schedule of appealing and informative events (page 14), we are working hard to develop initiatives for our members and the general public that are not only fun but also enhance our mission as a community historical society.

Join us at these events, view our great exhibits and discover our expansive collections. Take advantage of the valuable resource that is your La Jolla Historical Society.

John H. Bolthouse, III
Executive Director

Annual President’s Message

Last year was a watershed in the evolution of the La Jolla Historical Society. Not only did we receive the extraordinarily generous gift of our permanent home from the late beloved Ellen Revelle and her daughter Mary Revelle Paci, we also made great strides toward our fundraising goal of $2 million to restore Wisteria Cottage, the 1909 Cottage, and Carriage House, and to develop new programs.

Have you noticed the beautifully restored pergola to Wisteria Cottage and the artfully constructed new walkway underneath? These are thanks to Tom Grunow, Don Dewhurst, Trip Bennett and others. Have you spied Betty Vale improving the grounds which have taken on new life? Have you seen the vista to the ocean made possible by volunteer arborist David Garitty? Perhaps you have admired the new exterior finish on the Carriage House thanks to Chism Brothers and Peek Brothers. Remarkable changes, indeed!

Programmatically, we presented a popular lecture series, The Evolution of Pioneering Scientific Institutions in La Jolla; two exhibits, By the Beautiful Sea and Merchants & Memories; and our Feast on History progressive dinners in La Jolla homes.

This remarkable progress did not happen by chance. It was due to our dedicated Board of Directors along with the staff of the Society, headed by Executive Director John Bolthouse. Very special thanks are due to the two Board Presidents of last year, Roger Craig and Ruth Covell, the Co-chairs of the Capital Campaign, Melesse Traylor and Ann Zahner, and to departing Board members Diane Dawson and, particularly, Judith Haxo, a past President who also guided us in strategic planning.

I look forward to working with the Board, staff and our 1,200 members this coming year in advancing our mission of the preservation of La Jolla’s heritage. It will be hard to top last year!

Connie Mullin Branscomb
Board President

Cover image: Rosa Harrison, Mary Good and Kate Rannells Wetzel, frolicking along the La Jolla Cove beach and hamming for the camera, 1913.
Events of her lifetime included two world wars, the Great Depression, women’s suffrage, man’s first steps on the moon, a counterculture revolution, September 11, and numerous technological and socio-economic advances. Through it all, Ellen Virginia Clark Revelle seldom missed a beat. Ellen passed away peacefully on May 6, 2009, at age 98, leaving a lifetime legacy of friendship to the La Jolla Historical Society and love of the community.

Ellen was born on July 31, 1910, in the La Jolla home of her great aunt, Ellen Browning Scripps, and welcomed into life by Scripps’ ebullient half sister, Virginia, thus her being named Ellen Virginia. She was the third and last child of Rex Brainard Clark and Grace Messinger Singer, daughter of newspaper tycoon James Edmund Scripps. Quarrels between Rex and Grace’s father had obliged the young Clark family to move to California to join others of the Scripps family. Young Ellen’s childhood was a mostly happy one as her family moved between La Jolla, Julian and Pasadena. Living in La Jolla, they rented older cottages until Ellen’s mother decided to build her own home in the Barber Tract in 1922. The choice of the new home’s location was questioned at the time, Ellen once recalled, for being “dangerously far out from town.”

It was in this same house that Ellen resided at the time of her passing and the one she shared for many years with her world-renowned husband, Roger Revelle, until his death in 1991. The two married in 1931 and spent their honeymoon traveling up the California coast in a Chrysler convertible purchased with a monetary wedding gift from great aunt Ellen. They settled in La Jolla when Roger accepted a post as a research assistant at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Old friends recall that, early on, Ellen was content in the role of “shy young wife,” happily raising four children as Roger’s international status in the field of oceanography grew. In later life, however, she became far more individualistic, championing political causes locally and nationally and passionately supporting philanthropic causes.

The La Jolla Historical Society is honored to have benefited from Ellen’s unbridled generosity, just one of countless community organizations that stand today as a lasting legacy to her support of local heritage and culture and her shining example of selfless giving. Along with her family, Ellen enthusiastically carried on the philanthropic spirit of her beloved great aunt, Ellen Browning Scripps, on whose historic property the Society resides today—an honor we hold with the deepest regard and respect. In honor of her memory, the Society hosted a gathering of hundreds of friends and family members at Wisteria Cottage as part of a “Celebration of Life” ceremony on May 10.

For a woman with such a quiet voice, the silence now left by Ellen’s passing is deafening. May her extraordinary sense of community and spirit of generosity be cherished by La Jollans for many years to come.
La Jolla Painters Transform Exterior of Carriage House

During February’s Corporate Member Appreciation Night event, paint contractor John Peek of Peek Brothers Fine Home Painting noticed the 1894 Carriage House, future home of the Society’s archives storage, needing work on the exterior. Peek had an idea: he called friend Mike Chism of Chism Brothers Painting and together they decided to donate their time and expertise to bring it back to life.

“I was asked to submit a quote for painting to the Society,” John says, “and when I learned that my good friend, Mike Chism, was also giving a quote, it occurred that we might together donate our services as a ‘thank you’ to all our clients in La Jolla who have supported both our businesses over the years.”

The result is now a rejuvenated and visually stunning historic structure. For over two months, John and Mike and some of their employees volunteered countless hours prepping the surfaces, researching color palettes, and refinishing the exterior. They consulted with the Society’s Facilities Committee every step of the way. Additional expert advice came from Matthew Welsh, a La Jolla architect specializing in historic structures, and SOHO’s Bruce Coons. While the colors are not original to the Carriage House, they are contemporary to turn-of-the-century Southern California Arts & Crafts buildings, consistent with US Department of Interior standards for historical structures.

“John is the one who proposed that we work together to get the project completed,” Mike says. “It’s just a good thing to be involved in the communities that support us.”

“We had a wonderful time bringing this little gem back to its former glory,” John says. “I enjoy the Arts & Crafts house painting and wanted to share my abilities in appreciation of all the fine folks at the La Jolla Historical Society.”

Work on the interior of the building continues with completion of the entire project scheduled for late-2009.

Pergola Restoration Complete

As reported in the last issue of Timekeeper, work began on rebuilding the 100-year-old wisteria pergola at Wisteria Cottage. The project was completed in late April after an extensive five-week effort. Crews from Dewhurst & Associates, working from plans created by Bennett & Associates, using old-growth redwood secured by Grunow Construction, and coordinating with expert gardener Betty Vale, carefully replaced each component piece-by-piece to prevent damage to the wisteria. Designed and built to measurements identical to the Irving Gill original, the new pergola now features strengthened footings and subtle downwash lighting. Additionally, the wisteria vine was meticulously pruned, enabling it to grow in a healthier and more aesthetic manner.

Clear View to the Ocean

In order order to honor view easements on the grounds of Wisteria Cottage, the Society began clearing trees and bushes that had long blocked views to the ocean from Prospect Street. La Jollan David Garitty, a professional arborist and husband of Board member Leslie Davis, led a crew that trimmed and felled palms, pittosporum and bushes. David generously volunteered his time and expertise on an effort that has transformed the appearance of the property and drawn wide praise from the surrounding neighborhood.

This is the first major step in transforming the grounds into a first-class venue for events, both for the Society and for third party use.
Starting July 2, Wisteria Cottage will be open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 12-4 pm as part of the continuing effort to expand accessibility to the La Jolla Historical Society’s collections and showcase our growing exhibition program. Exhibits this summer include:

**Pets of the Past:**
*Animals La Jollans Have Loved*

Featuring images of everything from dogs to donkeys (originally displayed during La Jolla’s “Pet Parade” on May 16)

**Merchants & Memories: Reflections on La Jolla’s Business Community Heritage**

Condensed version of February’s popular temporary exhibit

**Humble Beginnings:**
*The Early Days of La Jolla*

Overview of the 1887 founding of La Jolla up through the 1920s

**Mooo! Cows & Dairies in Early La Jolla**

Photographic display of La Jolla’s past life as a “cow town”

**By the Beautiful Sea:**
*A Photographic History of Summers in La Jolla, 1870-1930*

By popular demand, the return of last summer’s temporary exhibit

**The Scripps Legacy: Story of a La Jolla Family**

Highlighting one of the most influential and philanthropic names in the community’s history

Admission to the exhibits will be free though donations are welcome. If you would like to be part of our efforts to assist with the Society’s growing exhibition program, contact us at 858-459-5335 ext. 3 or by email at volunteers@lajollahistory.org.

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**Exhibits in Wisteria Cottage This Summer!**

The Society recently wished a fond farewell to two of its most accomplished and long-serving Board members. **Diane Dawson** (left) joined the Society’s Board in 2003. She has been an active part of the Secret Garden Tour and Feasting on History fundraising events and served as Vice President for Development from 2007-2009. A former educator at The Bishop’s School, **Judith Haxo** (right) joined the Board in 1997, serving as Board President from 2003-2007 and again on an interim basis in late 2008. She is remaining active with the Society’s strategic planning and oral history initiatives.

We express our sincerest thanks to these two outstanding volunteer leaders. They have helped shape where the La Jolla Historical Society is today.

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**News From the Board of Directors**

The La Jolla Historical Society welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors, elected at the Annual Members Meeting in April.

**Christopher Albence**

A practicing attorney since 1993, Chris is founder and managing partner of the La Jolla firm Albence & Associates, specializing in estate planning and advocacy for senior citizens’ legal rights. Describing his goals while serving on the Board, he says, “I hope to assist the Society in becoming a permanent presence in the community and furthering the goals of making Wisteria Cottage a fabulous place for events and community gatherings, as well as documentation and preservation of historic properties.” Chris has been a valued member of the Society’s Secret Garden Tour committee for the last seven years.

**Christina Freundt**

A third generation Southern California native and eleven-year La Jolla resident, as well as a pilot, Christina and her husband recently restored their 1925 Barber Tract home where she raises their two young daughters. “I am passionate about architectural preservation and historic education,” she says, “and hope to help create a youth outreach program to engage our children in the appreciation of La Jolla’s heritage. With the wonderful acquisition of Wisteria Cottage, the Society is in a unique position to take itself to the next level and I am excited to be a part of this process.”

**Nell Waltz**

Nell has lived in La Jolla since 1970. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Diego Historical Society and the Museum Trustee Association. She has also served on the boards of the San Diego Museum of Art, La Jolla Music Society, Las Patronas, and Rady Children’s Hospital. “The celebration and preservation of our history is important to La Jolla,” Nell says, “and I’m proud to be a part of it. The acquisition of Wisteria Cottage and the challenge to make it as functional as it is beautiful makes this an exciting time.”

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Archivist's Notes
by Michael Mishler

As a child, one of my favorite books was Robert Louis Stevenson’s tale of adventure, Treasure Island. While I don’t have much time hunting for pirate chests filled with gold, during my time as Archivist & Curator, I have found quite a bit of hidden treasure amongst the Society’s collection. A few months ago, we moved the contents of our off-site storage that comprised rarely-used elements of the collection back to our main site in preparation for the move to our soon-to-be completed new archival facility. We discovered a large collection of 1960s-era negatives and prints by a local photographer along with a neatly typed list of descriptions that we are now going thorough to see what stories it will tell.

Sometimes, the treasure walks right through the door. In March, a woman who was born and raised in the 1909 cottage that now serves as our offices gave me a tour of the cottage as she remembered it. More recently, a couple from Northern California came in to research their family’s connection to La Jolla philanthropist Josephine Seaman and shared stories of Seaman’s life in 1900s China as a missionary.

Then there are treasures known as volunteers. We have historians, writers, bankers, builders, lawyers, students, teachers, and more who give of their time and experience to help the Society collect and share La Jolla’s history. Volunteers Janet Lowe and Nancy Koch are heading up a new volunteer recruitment and retention program to help us meet our goal of expanding programs like school outreach, oral history, survey of historic properties, and exhibit gallery docents.

So join the crew! Let’s find the map that will set us on the trail to historical adventure.

Michael Mishler is the Society’s Archivist & Curator

Expanding Outreach to La Jolla Schools

This spring, the La Jolla Historical Society gave local school children a better sense of their community’s heritage through field trips to Wisteria Cottage and outreach to La Jolla schools. In March, staff Historian Carol Olten participated in the “Readers Are Leaders” project at La Jolla Elementary School, reading aloud Dr. Seuss’ Hooray for Diffendoofer Day. Students responded with a stack of handwritten “thank you” letters and artwork.

In April, students from Gillespie School and Stella Maris Academy received a personal tour of the Society’s archives from Archivist/Curator Michael Mishler. He must have made an impression: written in the Society’s visitor comment book were remarks like, “You rock!”, “There are some amazing things here!”, and “owsomr!” In May, students from Kaplan Aspect International language school of La Jolla visited Wisteria Cottage, enabling people from all over the world to discover some of our local history.

To learn how your school can participate in the Society’s growing youth outreach program, or to get involved in our efforts, contact the Executive Director at 858-459-5335.

Learn More About La Jolla!
Now on sale at Warwicks, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, and the La Jolla Historical Society
To be a lifeguard is to enter a climate of coastal indemnity and suspense: a tranquil day of patrolling the shores can so quickly be followed by one marked by threatening rip currents. Lifeguards work as unassuming heroes. Sure, they are iconic figures in summer beach scenes, immortalized by the popular TV series *Baywatch*. But they generally go unnoticed unless crisis hits the shores during prime sun-tanning weather.

The noble dynamism of this profession has been its distinguishing characteristic even when the term “lifeguard” was nonexistent. The first men who patrolled the shoreline of La Jolla and San Diego County were called “coast watchers,” “lifesavers,” or “surfmen.” A couple of the first noted lifeguards in La Jolla were Fritz Robinson and Hiram Barton and, much like those today, they positioned themselves strategically at different posts along the beach in order to safeguard those in the open water.

Of the many newspaper articles that the La Jolla Historical Society amasses in its lifeguard-specific files, nearly all describe the tensions and anxiety that arise between developers and residents over the design of new lifeguard towers as planners attempt to reconcile the need for state-of-the-art facilities and a timeless expression of the picturesque La Jolla ambience. While the objective is admirable, the prolonged negotiations and trials leave lifeguards to patrol in older buildings and temporary or makeshift facilities. It is true that much of the appeal of La Jolla and its beaches come with a sense of charming simplicity and it is important that this be reflected in our beach infrastructure. However, it is more fitting that we recognize the courageous efforts of our coastal watchmen and women.

La Jolla lifeguards have contributed to the thousands of water rescues made every year in San Diego Country. But in addition to their chivalrous rescues, our lifeguards have interesting hobbies outside of their occupations that quietly get slipped into newspaper headlines available in our files amongst the numerous taglines of issues of new lifeguard towers. For instance, some La Jollan lifeguards have successfully competed in paddleboard races. In 1986, Mark Feighan raced from Catalina Island to Manhattan Beach, with a dolphin escorting him to a third place victory. Eleven years later, Brian Zeller won the second annual La Jolla Paddleboard race. Former lifeguard Joe Barnett gathers his own collection of underwater archeological treasures. A deeper look into the Society’s collections, beyond the debate over tower redevelopment, reveals how the lifeguards of La Jolla are a noteworthy group of individuals, on duty and off.

Volunteer Focus

Betty Vale

Few people know gardening better than Betty Vale. She has brought her exuberant spirit to gardens all over La Jolla and just finished her third and final year as chair of the Society’s Secret Garden Tour, logging hundreds of volunteer hours in leading this successful annual event. Add to that Betty’s active service on the Society’s Facilities Committee and Board of Directors.

“I’ve always liked good causes and participating,” Betty says. She first started working as a volunteer when her children were attending Montessori School. Believing that youngsters growing up in an urban environment needed hands-on lessons in nature, she took them on field trips and introduced them to trees and “real dirt.”

Betty is very much a hands-on gardener. You’ll often spot her around the Wisteria Cottage grounds, digging, planting and supervising landscape design and maintenance. “These gardens are such a great legacy to Ellen Browning Scripps,” she says. “It’s a real privilege to work with them.”

Her interest in gardens began as a Bishop’s School parent when she offered to make some minor landscape improvements to the school’s grounds. In a short time, she became Bishop’s official gardener, a position that occupies much of her time today—and with great joy.

Moving to La Jolla from Houston in 1969 after husband, Wylie, accepted a position at the Salk Institute, Betty was quick to appreciate the Southern California climate and its year-round plant friendliness. “The history of gardens here has come full circle,” she observes. “We started with no water and now we’re faced with a water shortage. It certainly will make our future gardens more challenging.”

Welcome New Volunteers

The Society welcomes new volunteer Philemonie Offen.

Volunteers Needed!

Contact the Society to learn more about how you can volunteer the gift of your time and talent to our efforts. Visit www.lajollahistory.org/get-involved/volunteer, e-mail at volunteer@lajollahistory.org, or call (858) 459-5335.

Jemma Mae DeLeon is a volunteer in the Society Archives
As the modern architectural movement hit its stride in mid-century, two camps emerged: one soaring towards space-age futurism and the other, following the concepts of Frank Lloyd Wright, rooted in organic principles of buildings being not “on the hill but of the hill.” It was amongst “the organics” that Sim Bruce Richards made his name.

A descendant of the Cherokee Indian nation, Richards was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in 1908. For his entire life, Richards lived with a disfigured face, the result of a bone infection he developed as a young boy. He had “a face gnarled as a mesquite root,” wrote Esther McCoy, an architectural historian who was both friend and mentor to Richards. When a plastic surgeon offered to rebuild his face, Richards declined, saying he “didn’t want to look at a new face in the mirror every morning.”

After Richards’ rug weavings caught Frank Lloyd Wright’s eye at a 1934 San Francisco art fair, he recruited Richards to study architecture at Wright’s Taliesin West in Arizona. A stint in the US Navy brought Richards to San Diego four years later. After the war, he began the serious practice of architecture, briefly working with architect Harold Abrams before setting off on his own, designing homes and an occasional public building throughout San Diego before his death in 1983.

Richards never forgot his roots. As McCoy observed, “Bruce’s sureness of line and form had the breath of Indian weaving and pottery.” During his most productive years, Richards kept an office at 1298½ Prospect with a large porch on a cliff overlooking La Jolla Cove – the simple, natural setting he always loved.

A maverick who preferred to work alone, Richards prided himself on the personal, if sometimes testy, relations he built with clients. Robert and Barbara Nemiroff, for whose La Jolla home Richards designed an addition in 1970, recall him as eccentric but engaging. “If you wanted something different or more traditional than what he had designed,” Barbara noted, “he’d just look you in the eye and say, ‘Trust me, kiddies.’”

“The houses are just very comfortable,” says Nancy van Dorn, who lives in one of Richards’ La Jolla homes at 10 E. Roseland Drive. “Lots of wood and glass,” she points out – signature features of Richards designs. He designed the original house in the early 1950s and returned in 1968 to create an addition.

Richards’ wife of nearly forty years, Janet, still lives in a 1959 house in Point Loma he designed. “Bruce had a wonderful time working with people and helping to make their homes with them together,” she recalls fondly. “He always felt houses needed to have some relation to the humans that live in them.” Fortunately, an oral history of Richards was captured and now on file at the San Diego Historical Society.

Richards’ work in La Jolla included more than a dozen residences and a church, the 1947 African Methodist Episcopal on 7517 Cuvier. Over time, some homes have been demolished or altered such that their original character has been compromised. Others remain intact, however, a paean to their creator who loved wood and natural settings, a marriage of sea and sky with the idea of human shelter.

Carol Olten is the Society’s Historian

Keenly aware of his Native American ancestry, Richards was fond of La Jolla’s 1907 Wheeler Bailey House (see Timekeeper, Spring 2009). Designed by the legendary Irving Gill, its design was inspired, in part, by the pueblo architecture of the Hopi Indians. Richards visited the house often and soon became friends with the owner who gave him several pieces of furniture as gifts, including a writing desk and small table Gill himself had designed. After Richards’ death, his widow, Janet, moved the furniture into their Pt. Loma home. The Society’s interview with Janet for this feature reminded her of the desire to someday return the pieces to the Wheeler Bailey House for which they had been specifically designed. They are now returning to their original home.

"Design Masters" is made possible by the generous support of:

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**SIS ARCHITECTURE**

**JONE R. STEIGLER AIA**
After the Second World War, Clark Skinner sold and repaired camera equipment in San Diego and, like many avid photographers, found La Jolla a wonderful backdrop for his work. These images are from a collection of sixty 3” x 4” glass slides taken by Skinner between 1946-1950, recently donated to the Society by his son, William. Unfortunately, the people in the images are not identified but the Society welcomes any information that might help enhance the knowledge of these striking images and their subjects.

The Skinner Collection

A balone were once plentiful off the coast of La Jolla, prized not only for their beautiful shells but the tasty meal they provided.

Before scuba diving became popular, the reefs and kelp beds off La Jolla’s coast attracted skin divers who hunted with little more than a mask, fins and a spear.

Though the one-piece bathing suit was still more common at the time, two-piece bathing suits were becoming popular in the years after the war.

A closer look at this image reveals a diver with an early underwater breathing apparatus strapped to his chest. Developed in the 1930s and used during World War II, these devices used a chemical process that created oxygen instead of pressurized air in a tank.

Display Case

It was a stormy night of high winter surf when, at two in the morning, Bob Shea’s telephone rang. As a lifeguard, he knew this couldn’t be good news. He was right – a woman had been swept off the rocks at La Jolla Cove.

Though more than forty years ago, Shea remembers that night like it was yesterday. “She was caught in a rip and the surf was really big,” he recalls. “Nobody wanted to go in but somebody had to so I went in and got her. But there was no way to come back into the Cove with that surf. I tried for Goldfish Point, pulling her along in the pitch black because the helicopter kept missing us. I finally swam to the Beach Club and carried her out of the water.” Shea doesn’t recall the name of the woman he rescued that day but remembers being awarded a free meal at the Top O’ the Cove restaurant for his heroic act – only one of the many he performed in four decades as a lifeguard, spent mostly on La Jolla beaches.

Born in 1937 in La Jolla’s old Scripps Hospital, Shea quickly learned to be an agile and strong swimmer by age five. He became a junior lifeguard while attending Mission Bay High School in 1954. At age 23, Shea became the youngest lifeguard lieutenant on the West Coast and a few years later, after rising to captain, all La Jolla beaches – south to Mission and north to Torrey Pines – were under his jurisdiction.

It wasn’t the easiest era for La Jolla lifeguards. Black’s Beach went nude during that time, Boomers was opened to body surfing only and tempers flared over public access to the Marine Street beach. Beach crowds grew larger but the city’s budget for rescue operations didn’t. However, Shea’s lifeguard and leadership skills gained him a reputation as one of the best in California. In the early 1980s, just before retiring, the U.S. Lifesaving Association asked him to develop the first training and reference text for ocean lifeguards nationwide.

Shea now looks back on his years of lifeguard service with pleasure and humor. The toughest jobs weren’t rescues, he says, but politics – the touchy things government officials thought they wanted or didn’t want on their beaches. Like seals, for instance. “When they first started to gather at the Childrens’ Pool in the fifties,” he says, “we had an easy solution: chase them into the water and that took care of it.”

After retiring from lifeguard service in 1981, Shea went into commercial diving, continuing until ten years ago when he bought a 160-acre ranch in Campo and finally got out of the water. “I love the ranch,” Shea says. “But miss the beach terrible.”

A retired Captain Shea (r) at a 2004 lifeguard reunion in La Jolla, alongside Captains Bill Norton (Shea’s successor) and Bob Nelson, former head of Port of San Diego lifeguards.
The Dawson family’s La Jolla roots go back to 1920 when Richard and Ada Gaines came to La Jolla from England with their daughter Barbara. Barbara spent virtually her whole life in La Jolla, attending school and taking tennis lessons from Archie Talboy who, with wife Agnes, supervised the Recreation Center from 1919 to 1952. After brief absences from La Jolla, Barbara returned to live in a house that her father built on Fay Avenue where she raised her children, Diane, Douglas and Joanne. “The family spent a lifetime building memories,” Diane notes, “like swimming at the Cove and beach picnics at the Shores and Coast Boulevard.”

To save those memories, Barbara became involved with the formation of the La Jolla Historical Society, serving as its first president. During the first four decades of the Society’s history, Barbara developed numerous programs to increase the community’s knowledge and appreciation of its heritage. She organized the Society’s collection of photographs, was instrumental in starting the Society’s original oral history program, and, for many years, organized the annual Rolls-Royce Tour fundraiser. Among Barbara’s favorite efforts was the presentation of programs at schools, retirement homes and community groups to encourage interest in La Jolla’s past and stress the importance of preservation. When Barbara had to move to a residential facility, her extensive collection of slides, photos and recollections, including scrapbooks of the Rolls-Royce Tours, was given to the Society. Sadly, Barbara passed away on April 6, 2009, at age 92.

Barbara enlisted her children early on in supporting the Society. Diane, who was taking a course in calligraphy, was drafted to write out the honor roll of lifetime members. Barbara’s mother gave all the children lifetime memberships in the Society for Christmas in 1963. Douglas and Diane remember volunteering many hours during the Rolls-Royce Tours.

Diane spent her working career in Beverly Hills. When she retired as Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Diane returned to La Jolla. She reconnected with her San Diego State University Kappa Alpha Theta sorority friends and discovered that many were volunteers for either the Society or St. Paul’s Senior Homes & Services. She soon became involved in the Society’s Secret Garden Tour and, after one year on the committee, was chosen to serve as chair. “It was a great experience, Diane says. “In addition to being an opportunity to give back to the community, it brought me friendships and opened the door for me on a lot of things. I thought the people and the mission were great.” That experience led her joining the Society’s Board of Directors, where she served from 2003-2009.

When asked why the family recently made a substantial increase of its contribution to the La Jolla Historical Society’s Capital Campaign recently, Diane said, “When this campaign began, the Society didn’t have a permanent home. Once the gift was given, the family wanted to be a part of the history.” Diane says that her mother also was very excited about the donation of the property.

The La Jolla Historical Society, as well as La Jolla, is a Dawson family tradition.
Capital Campaign Donors
(As of June 12, 2009)

Visionaries
Ellen C. Revelle* & Mary Revelle Paci
Anonymous

Pacesetters
Sandy Coggan Erickson
Erickson Family Charitable Foundation
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Sharon Ballidis
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In Memory of H. Bailey Gallison, Sr.
Sharon Ballidis
Bert & Gladys Kohn
Robert C. & Melesse W. Traylor
Ann L. Zahner
This summer, Merrill Lynch celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of its La Jolla offices, confident in a rebounding economy and optimistic about the future. “It may be a long and arduous journey but there are always bright spots,” says Tom Lawson, vice president and resident director of the financial services company that occupies the third floor of the Merrill Lynch Building at 7825 Fay Avenue.

Merrill Lynch opened its first La Jolla office on June 15, 1949, at 1028 Wall Street – interestingly, the only Merrill Lynch in the country to boast a true “Wall Street” address (Its company headquarters was located on Pine Street in New York.) Originally known as Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Beane, the firm offered investor services with the New York Stock Exchange, New York Curb Exchange and other principal security and commodity exchanges. Kenneth Rearwin, former executive in the aircraft manufacturing and air transportation industries, was the La Jolla office’s first manager. Ironically, Lawson, who first worked at Merrill Lynch’s downtown San Diego office, also brought an aviation background to the post, serving as a naval aviator for over fifteen years.

Merrill Lynch’s La Jolla office has fifty employees who work with clients on a wide range of financial services including wealth management, education planning, money market accounts, trusts, retirement planning, insurance, and tax management.

“It’s a real privilege to manage this office,” he says. “La Jolla is a wonderful place to do business. It’s also important for us to have roots in the community and to have been one of the first financial institutions like this to begin here. Being a corporate supporter of the Historical Society is a way of paying back.”

From our Friends at the Coronado Historical Association!

Everyone loves The Wizard of Oz... but did you ever wonder where the Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion or Yellow Brick Road came from? Learn about the life of Oz author L. Frank Baum in a new exhibit, “Ozily Yours: Frank Baum in Coronado” at the Coronado Museum of History and Art.

The Coronado Historical Association is pleased to offer members of the La Jolla Historical Society a special discounted admission price to this exhibition. Just show your LJHS membership card when you arrive.

“Ozily Yours” is on display at the Coronado Museum of History and Art through September 20, 2009. For more information, visit www.coronadohistory.org.
1912 Walt Mason House (1411 Virginia Way) Recently designated Historic Site No. 902, this single-story Craftsman house was the home of literary scribe Walt Mason for many years. Known as “the people’s poet laureate” and “master of rippling rhymes,” Mason lived in the residence from 1921 until his death in 1939.

1939 Adult Recreation Center Club (1160 Coast Blvd.) Commonly known by its original name, Bridge and Shuffleboard Club, this building in Scripps Park was recently designated historic by the City of San Diego. Designed by Richard Requa in the Craftsman-style and built by Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers in the 1930s, the site originally featured eight shuffleboard courts and several horseshoe pits.

Di Gesu House (7542 Cabrillo Ave.) World-famous portrait photographer Anthony Di Gesu and wife, Alice, purchased this unique property when they relocated from New York and created an artistic home with an extensive photographer’s studio on the ground floor. New owners are now adding a second story and garage that the Di Gesus originally designed and had approved.

Post-War Office Court (6633 La Jolla Blvd.) Built as part of Bird Rock’s post-World War II commercial development, this structure is scheduled for demolition to make way for an 8,268 sq. ft. condominium. Office courts such as this were a popular building style in La Jolla after the war, preceding the large office buildings opposed by the BLOB (Ban Large Office Buildings) organization in the 1980s.

Glider Historian Recognized for Preservation Efforts

Local historian, aviator and Society member Dr. Gary B. Fogel was the recipient of a 2009 People in Preservation Award from Save Our Heritage Organisation for his efforts to protect the historic Torrey Pines Gliderport from threatened development. Along with late father Larry, Dr. Fogel has been active for many years in the preservation of the gliderport. The elder Fogel received a similar SOHO award in the early nineties.

Noted for its spectacular wind currents and topography ideal for sailplanes, hang gliding, paragliding, and model gliders, Torrey Pines has been an aviation landmark since the 1930s. Sailplanes began flying from its cliffs in 1936 and numerous pioneers of flight, including Charles Lindbergh, have used the site to test models and gliders.

Although listed on local, state and national historic registers, the gliderport has faced challenges in recent years from encroachment by planned UC San Diego development. “We need to think of historic preservation not only in terms of buildings or walls or windows,” said Fogel, “but also in terms of the history that happened in a place and the need to preserve the quality of the open space.” Fortunately, development that has already occurred has preserved soaring on the site, he said. “We hope that landowners, historians and aviators will continue to appreciate the national importance of the Torrey Pines Gliderport to aviation.”

The award was one of many SOHO awards presented in May as part of National Preservation Month.
**Fall 2009 Lecture Series**  
A Century of San Diego Architecture, 1850-1950: Influences, Reflections & Transformations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>September 17</th>
<th>October 1</th>
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<th>November 12</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE FROM LONDON TO LA JOLLA</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE MEDITERRANEAN HOUSE &amp; THE AMERICAN RIVIERA</strong></td>
<td><strong>GREENE &amp; GREENE AND THE ENGLISH ARTS &amp; CRAFTS IN SAN DIEGO</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE RANCH HOUSE FROM SAN DIEGO TO SUBURBIA</strong></td>
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| Diane Kane, Ph.D.  
Adjunct Professor, Newschool of Architecture | Lauren Bricker  
Professor, Cal Poly Pomona School of Architecture | Ted Bosley  
Director, the Gamble House, Pasadena, CA | Alan Hess  
Author & Architectural Critic |
| SEPTEMBER 17  
THURSDAY 6:00 PM  
WISTERIA COTTAGE | OCTOBER 22  
THURSDAY 6:00 PM  
WISTERIA COTTAGE | OCTOBER 1  
THURSDAY 6:00 PM  
WISTERIA COTTAGE | NOVEMBER 12  
THURSDAY 6:00 PM  
WISTERIA COTTAGE |

Members: $10 per lecture  
Non-Members: $15 per lecture

Reservations require advance payment; reserve seating at www.lajollahistory.org/events@lajollahistory.org or 858-459-5335

**Tickets go on sale August 1. Space is limited.**

---

**Feasting on History**  
Progressive Dinner Fundraiser

**September 26**

Members: $175  
Non-Members: $200

Part of reservation price is tax-deductible

Reservations taken in the order received by mail.

For more information, visit www.lajollahistory.org/events/feasting or contact event chair Connie Branscomb at 858-454-6871.

**Tickets now available. Space is limited.**

---

**Ellen Browning Scripps Luncheon**  
Guest Speaker Bruce Coons

**October 17**  
11:30 – 2:00  
La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club

Members: $55  
Non-Members: $65

To purchase reservations by October 9, send a check to the La Jolla Historical Society, call the Society at 858-459-5335, or visit www.lajollahistory.org/events/ellen-browning-scripps-luncheon.

**Tickets go on sale August 1. Space is limited.**

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Hosted by the Society since September 1964, this annual event commemorates the October 18 birthday of La Jolla’s most famous community philanthropist, Ellen Browning Scripps. Event highlights include a noted and influential guest speaker with unique insights into the community’s social, cultural and political environment and issues of importance to La Jolla.

**Bruce Coons**  
Executive Director  
Save Our Heritage Organisation
All advertisements are subject to approval by the Society to ensure compatibility with organizational mission.

For more information, contact:
(858) 459-5335
info@lajollahistory.org

All advertisements are subject to approval by the Society to ensure compatibility with organizational mission.
First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day Picnic
April 18, 2009

Eleventh Annual Secret Garden Tour
May 9, 2009

New Members
As of May 29, 2009

Tom Benzing
Joseph & Mary Bloom
William & Wendy Brody
Ruth Bush
Thomas Frederick
Siv Garrod
Judith George
Uriel Grezemkovsky
Douglas Ingram & Jamey Skillings
Claudia Johnson
La Jolla Village Lodge
Mary Ruth Landaal
Lucille Catherine Lee
Hui-Lan Grace Lin
Christie Meehan
Lucy Moore
Susan Pack
Edward & Carolyn Parrish
Michael & Vicki Rainsberger
Mary Raisl
Nancy Rudolph
Theodore Rutter
Melanie Showalter
Tom & Kitty Spence
Margaret Urey
Nell Waltz
Richard Wildman Jr.

IN MEMORIAM
Barbara Dawson (April 6, 2009)
H. Bailey Gallison, Sr. (May 27, 2009)
Ellen Clark Revelle (May 6, 2009)
Harry Rudolph II (May 27, 2009)
Donations
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Jeffrey Shorn
Grinnow Construction
La Valencia Hotel
San Diego Foundation - Cliff & Carolyn Colwell
George Silvani
Torrey Pines Gliderport
David Lillo
Don Schmidt
In-Memory of Barbara Dawson
Dr. John & Betsy Anthony
Janet Becker
Irene Boylan
Helen Fox
Elaine Goralnick
Francis & Judith Haxo
In-Memory of Marsha Durham
Rita O’Hara
Secret Garden Tour Supporters
Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla
San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles Magazine
The Kenneth & Harle Montgomery Foundation
The Dr. Seuss Foundation / Audrey Geisel
The Late Ellen Clark Revelle
Dr. Wylie & Betty Vale
Marian & Nancy Warwick
Martin & Carol Dickinson
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The Lodge at Torrey Pines
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Eli & Diana Lombrozo
Ark Antiques
The Ascot Shop
Elizabeth Thiele Barkett, Ross Thiele & Son
Kathleen Buymaster, Inc., Interior Designs
Robin Dietsch, Red Floral Design
Estancia La Jolla Hotel
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Athenaeum Music & Arts Library
Beaumont’s Restaurant
Bird Rock Coffee Roasters
Brockton Villa Restaurant
Judith Haxo
Curt & Nancy Koch
La Jolla Playhouse
The Marine Room
San Diego Bike & Kayak Tours
Betty Vale
Warwick’s
Don & Jeannette Yeckel
Adelaide’s Florists & Decorators
Froglander’s
What type of architecture is it?

This 1929 Spanish Colonial Eclectic style home in La Jolla’s Barber Tract was recently historically designated and restored by its caring new owners whom I introduced to the house as their real estate agent. Designated Historic Site #805, it is now known as the Howard & Maude Brown House after its original owners. Mr. Brown was the manager of the Yellowstone Hotel in Yellowstone National Park and the home was built by the Gernandt Construction Company as the Brown’s winter retreat. By today’s standards, the home was lacking a few modern amenities, including a master suite. Under the masterful hand of preservation architect Lone Stiegler of IS Architecture, the home was meticulously restored and a new second floor master suite was seamlessly incorporated into a rear portion of the house as seen in the photo.

1920s Spanish Colonial Eclectic homes were part of the European Revival style of architecture that flourished throughout America and San Diego in the 1920s and 30s. Many of San Diego’s early architects traveled to Spain and the Mediterranean, returning with design ideas well suited to our climate and terrain. Tile roofs, thick stucco walls, wrought iron details, grill work, arched windows and walkways, balconies, terraces, loggias, and decorative chimney tops are all components of Spanish Colonial style architecture.

In May 2009, the Howard & Maude Brown House was given an award for its architectural rehabilitation by the City of San Diego’s Historical Resources Board. One of a growing number of historically designated homes in the Barber Tract – that numbers 17 to date – this house stands as a proud example of how a 1920s home can be sensitively expanded and restored to suit today’s needs.

Congratulations to homeowner’s Len & Susan Comden and architect Lone Stiegler for helping to preserve La Jolla’s architectural history.

LINDA MARRONE
Historic & Architectural Specialist
Coldwell Banker – La Jolla
858.456.3224
lmarrone@san.rr.com
www.LindaMarrone.com

Trained in historic real estate & architecture by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, DC, Linda blends her passion for preservation and gardening into her real estate business. A co-founder of the Secret Garden Tour of Old La Jolla, you can find Linda working in her historic Barber Tract garden or you can read her garden tips in the La Jolla Village News.

List or purchase a home from Linda and mention that you read about her in the “Timekeeper” and she will happily donate a percentage of her commission to the La Jolla Historical Society.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT
The Dewhurst crew breaking ground on their first project in 1929.
La Jolla Historical Society Membership Application

- Membership
- Gift
- Change of Address

Name ______________________________
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City_____________________ State______
Zip_________ Phone__________________
E-Mail Address _______________________

- Enclosed is a check in the amount of _______________________
  payable to the La Jolla Historical Society.
- Charge credit card number _______________________
  Exp. _____________
  Visa  MasterCard

Signature _______________________________________
E-Mail __________________________________

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS
- Student - $25 (three years: $50)
- Society Friend/Family - $50 (three years: $140)
- Heritage - $100 (three years: $275)
- Benefactor - $250 (three years: $700)
- Jewel - $500 (three years: $1,400)
- Legacy - $1,000 (three years: $2,750)
- Director's Circle - $5,000 (three years: $14,000)

The Society is a tax-exempt, public benefit, non-profit corporation and qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code of 1986, as amended. Your membership and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.