Ninth Annual Secret Garden Tour of Old La Jolla

By Betty Vale

Spring is just around the corner so mark your new 2007 calendars with the date of our ninth annual Secret Garden Tour! Join us to meander through breathtakingly beautiful gardens of La Jolla, featuring an array of landscape styles and plant species – Mediterranean, island tropical, English, etc. – that reflect the enduring charm and hidden scenery of La Jolla.

As is tradition, the locations of the gardens are secret, revealed the day of the tour when you check in at Wisteria Cottage, future new home of the Society.

On behalf of our 2007 Secret Garden Tour Committee, I am honored to serve as Chair and thrilled to announce that this year our Honorary Chair will be Georgeanna Lipe, longtime La Jolla resident and internationally-recognized artist who has captured the beauty of countless La Jolla gardens in her remarkable water color paintings over the years.

Georgeanna has been a staunch supporter of LJHS since its founding and has participated in the tour in the past as one of the artists painting in the gardens.

As a member of LJHS, you receive advance notice of the tour before we announce it to the general public.

Reservations for this year’s tour are $40 for LJHS members and $50 for non-members. We also offer the popular exclusive Platinum version of our tour for $150, featuring shuttle service to the gardens and lunch at La Jolla Country Club.

This year we are using a ticketless reservation system for the first time and encourage you to make your reservations on the LJHS website (www.ljhs.org). You may also call (858) 726-0227 to receive a recorded phone message. Reservations are limited and sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more about Secret Garden Tour 2007, visit the Society’s website at www.ljhs.org and learn about tour details, reservations, volunteering, e-mail addresses for communicating with the SGT committee, and much more.

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La Jolla Flyboy Frazier Curtis

By Sandy Spalding

Some of you may have seen or read about MGM’s September released movie Flyboys, inspired by the exploits of the Lafayette Escadrille, a group of Americans who flew for the French before America entered World War I. Did you know that one of the organizers of the group, Frazier Curtis, lived in La Jolla?

Born at the family’s country estate in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts on July 18, 1876, Frazier was the seventh child of ten born to Harriot Appleton, daughter of industrialist Nathan Appleton, and Greely S. Curtis, a Civil War veteran. He attended Hopkinson School in Boston before enrolling at Harvard in 1894. Intending to be a writer, he completed his degree and then earned an M.A. in 1899 while serving as a teaching assistant in the English department of the university.

That summer, Curtis began a nomadic life by first going west with the Forest Service to the Puget Sound area where he compiled a report on logging in Washington. Hearing of the gold rush in Alaska, he headed north and ran a coastal passenger boat before trying his own luck in the gold fields.

His career took many turns in the ensuing years when he worked as a reporter for a New York newspaper, as a private secretary to Col. J. J. Astor, and as a cattle rancher in North Dakota and Cuba before returning to Saskatchewan with a scheme for importing horses from Minnesota. In 1907 and back in Boston, Curtis worked as an assistant coach for the Harvard football team before again returning to the Northwest where he lectured at the University of Washington and worked on inventing an instrument for “calculating the contents of a standing tree”.

During the summer of 1909, Curtis married Diane Margaret Raper, a native of...
From the President

By Judy Haxo

Members of the Board and staff have been incredibly busy over the last two months.

On September 27, a breakfast was held at Wisteria Cottage to introduce past board members, lifetime members of the Society and sponsors of the newsletter and events to our plans for the renovation of the cottage. If you’re a lifetime member and did not receive an invitation, let us know. Somehow in the various transitions between computers and personnel that list has been corrupted.

The E. B. Scripps Luncheon on September 30 was a sell-out. Marye Anne Fox reviewed the development of the UCSD campus from a fledgling branch of UC to the major university it is today, lamenting only the general growth of the ratio of students to professors.

On Saturday November 4, under smiling skies, the second annual Historic Open was held at the Beach and Tennis Club. Thanks to Harry Rudolph III, who almost single-handedly organized this event, as well as to the many sponsors, golfers and volunteers, who made this a very successful event!

On November 9th Megan and Dave Heine, owners of Brockton Villa, celebrated their fifteenth year in business with wine and hors d’oeuvres and donated the proceeds to the La Jolla Historical Society.

On December 3rd, members of the Historical Society staff and Board, as well as friends, participated in the Christmas Parade and held an open house at Wisteria Cottage following the parade, serving homemade cookies (once again organized by Lydia McNeil) and donated by members of the National Charity League of San Diego.

John and Melissa Bolthouse with Megan and David Heine at the Brockton Villa Anniversary Celebration (photo by Rudy Vaca)

Thank You for Your Donation!

Tom & Coco Bancroft
SD Foundation from Carol & Henry Hunte Fund
Peter B. Clark (Life Member)
The Diane & Elliot Feuerstein Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
Megan & David Heine from Brockton Villa Restaurant
Anne & William Ferguson
Georges & Germaine Fusenot Charity Foundation
Archivist’s Note
by Kara West.

I am very excited to contribute to this, the first newsletter published since I became Archivist/Curator at the Society. It is a privilege to work with such an inspired staff, dedicated Board, and supportive community.

I intend to keep you informed of current activities in the Archives, and a lot is happening, indeed! As a demonstration of our commitment to increasing access to the Society’s collection, we have expanded our public hours to Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We’ve already noticed an increase in visitors.

Exhibitions offer another means for accessing the collection. In the last two months, we have prepared two displays that incorporate material from our collection.

First, a number of displays were installed at Brockton Villa Restaurant to coincide with their 15th anniversary celebration. The displays currently on view include historical photographs, postcards, advertisements from early La Jolla newspapers, and other items from the collection.

Also, a temporary exhibit was created for an open house held in Wisteria Cottage following the La Jolla Christmas Parade. We hope you had a chance to visit us and see the displays, which featured items from our collection retracing holiday celebrations from La Jolla’s past and a wonderful set of parade posters loaned by the La Jolla Town Council.

We are busy working on a number of exciting exhibition ideas in anticipation of our future move into Wisteria Cottage. The opportunity to expand allows us not only to design a dynamic exhibition space but also to transform the way we store, access and use our collections, allowing us to provide our resources to the public more successfully.

Please keep supporting our efforts to bring this great collection to you!

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The La Jolla Historical Society collects a wide variety of historically valuable materials associated with La Jolla. These collections are maintained as primary resources, and made available for research by generations to come. Donating personal, family, or business records allows us to increase the breadth and depth of our resources, and better serve the research needs of our patrons.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the La Jolla Historical Society, the community, and visiting researchers, we would like to thank the following people for their recent gift to the society:

**Sandra Erickson** for donating an original copy of the La Jolla High School yearbook, *The Viking*, for 2006.

**Diane Dawson** for donating a plaque presented in 1980 by LJHS to **Barbara Gaines Dawson**, the founding president and honored director of the society. It recognizes her services and leadership in the organization and community.

**Tom Cassidy** for donating two of his watercolor paintings, one entitled “Last Man in La Jolla” that shows a single male in the center of the beach surrounded by bikini-clad females; and one entitled “La Jolla Inventor Tests Robot Shark” depicting a shark swimming toward the beach while bathers flee.

**Jade Geneve Kepner** for donating a collection of dance-related scrapbooks, photos, videotapes and ephemera collected during her years as a dance instructor and Director of the La Jolla Dance Center and Ballet Theater.

**Diane & Roy Hollingsworth** for donating two small hardback books: *Continued on page 4*

What a Whirlwind!

The last few months have been extraordinary times for the Society! We’ve received extensive positive coverage in the media and benefited from a number of successful events. Our annual golf tournament was a huge success and, on November 9, Brockton Villa Restaurant held a private reception to celebrate its fifteenth anniversary, with proceeds going to the Society. Our sincere thanks to owners **Megan & David Heine** for their strong support!

Our fundraising efforts are really taking off! We have begun developing a Planned Giving program to enable your lasting support for the future. Also, hopefully, you have received a letter asking for your participation in this year’s Annual Appeal. We hope you’ll consider supporting us as we begin an exciting 2007.

We are pleased to welcome our new Archivist, **Kara West**. A graduate of San Jose State University, Kara brings years of experience working with historical collections. She’ll be developing a number of program initiatives that will help us take the Society into the future.

Finally, I’d like to recognize two of the Society’s greatest behind-the-scenes assets: fundraising consultant **Sharon Balidis** and media consultant **Ruth Varonfakis**. Their professional assistance has been and will continue to be key to our success.

Thanks, ladies!

The future looks bright for your Society… thank you for being a part of it!

John H. Bolthouse, III
Executive Director

In Memoriam

Boone Hayes
Frazier Curtis

Continued From Page 1

England, and settled in Seattle until the spring of 1910 when the newlyweds arrived in La Jolla. From the time of their arrival, the couple captivated the locals’ attention when it was reported in July that Curtis had acquired a Shafler glider kit and was putting it together. A number of people gathered on the slopes of Mount Soledad in August to watch his attempts at flight with his wife running down hill, rope in hand, trying to get him aloft. It was the beginning of his love affair with flying.

To learn about gasoline engines, Curtis (no relation to Glenn Curtiss) began taking machine works classes in Los Angeles where he helped Charles Day, an early airplane designer, build his first model near Venice, California. In 1912, he began taking flying lessons in Glendale and continued his training in Massachusetts and France. Finally in May of 1914, after more lessons at Hendon, north of London, he was awarded British pilot’s license No. 780.

Curtis was back in the United States when World War I broke out in Europe. Immediately writing a letter offering his services to the Royal Naval Air Service, he sailed back to England without waiting for a reply. He was disappointed when he was rejected as being too old (38). Another obstacle to serving with the British was he would have to renounce his allegiance to the king. Undeterred, Curtis made a second entreaty to the British before going to Paris where he

joined with a fellow Massachusetts native, Norman Prince, and together they formed the unit which was to become the Lafayette Escadrille, named for the French nobleman who came to America and fought during the Revolutionary War.

With Prince and four other Americans, Curtis was admitted to the French flying school in March of 1915. After two accidents, the second of which required hospitalization, Curtis was put on 45 days sick leave. During this time, Curtis went to Paris and recruited more flyers for the unit from among Americans already working as French ambulance drivers. After his leave ended in August of 1915, Curtis was released from the French service because of his injuries.

Returning to La Jolla in 1916 as he described it, “a complete wreck, Curtis spent the next two and a half years recuperating from his injuries. Unable to actually fight in the war, he and his wife worked to make La Jolla a military town for the soldiers stationed at nearby Camp Kearney. They helped organize dances and suppers for the men at the playground.

Curtis organized the “Treat ‘em Rough Club” in 1918 which urged American officers to show no mercy to our enemies.

When peace was declared the citizens of La Jolla held a celebration. It included addresses and singing and concluded with a blazing bonfire where the Kaiser was burned in effigy. Leading the participants in a serpentine line about the flames was Frazier Curtis.

Like many of his generation, Curtis shared the prejudices that were prevalent at the time. Back in England in 1919 Curtis became involved with an English anti-Semitic society called “The Britons” and helped get their version of the Protocols of Zion published. In 1923 he even boasted in his report to the Harvard alumni record about his anti-Semitic work. The class record of 1938 has Curtis writing about his work with anti-communist groups. “It has meant wearing persecution, expense, slander, and some bodily injury. My car has been rammed six times, once being rolled over a grade…In every case where I could get the assailants’ name; they were Communist agents with no insurance and no funds to attach.”

The Curtises eventually settled permanently in La Jolla at 1440 Virginia Way and became active in civic and social affairs. In his later years, Curtis suffered from depression and eventually committed suicide on January 26, 1940. None of his obituaries, including one in the New York Times, mentioned his suicide or his propaganda work, but all acknowledged his efforts in organizing the Lafayette Escadrille.

Acquisitions

Continued From Page 3

Poetry for Pleasure (1966) is a collection of poems (some about La Jolla) by Robert Fordham, a British school headmaster who retired to La Jolla; and a La Jolla edition called Guideposts to History (1978) published by Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association.

Dennis Wills of D.G. Wills Books donated the book La Jolla: A Celebration of its Past by Patricia Daly-Lipe and Barbara Dawson, Sunbelt Publications.


Virginia Barbey and Jan Gobel donated an original linoleum-cut print by Belle Baranceanu entitled Christ Light Enveloping the Earth at Christmas.
Help Our Heroes
By F.H. “Trip” Bennett, La Jolla Historical Society Board Member

Firefighters are the “first responders” to any type of emergency, including and especially medical emergency responses. A firefighter will spend 24 hours minimum, and periodically 48 hours, living in, training in, and responding from his/her fire station so that someone is always available for us in a time of need.

Last fall, it was brought to my attention that Local Fire Station 13 (on Nautilus St. directly across from La Jolla High) was long overdue for much-needed repair and upgrades; for example:

- Men and women sharing a common sleeping quarters with shower curtains and cardboard panels for privacy.
- An inferior-size room that functions as the firefighter’s kitchen, dining room, office, communications center, and day room in a single space.
- Deteriorated and sub-standard basic mechanical systems, i.e., heating, A/C, plumbing, etc.

This fire station was built as temporary structure 30 years ago, and nothing has ever been done to improve the facility. As everyone is well aware, the City has no money available at this time or for the foreseeable future. The lack of funding has altered this temporary facility into a permanent one. There are no plans of ever building a new facility for FS 13 and there are no funds to renovate this existing one.

Therefore, I am leading a community-wide effort, along with my La Jolla Sunrise Rotary Club, to raise the funds for a modest, but complete, remodel of the fire station, including a small 400-square-foot addition.

All architectural (Bennett + Associates), structural engineering (Curry, Price, and Court), mechanical engineering (Harold Magy & Associates), electrical engineering (Ken Busby), and Title 24 energy calculations (Salehi and Salehi) professional services have been donated at no charge. GDC, a La Jolla-based construction firm, will supervise the construction at direct costs with no overhead or profit fee(s).

To pay for the actual construction costs beyond the donated professional fees, our goal was to raise a minimum of $350,000 in cash plus $100,000 in like-kind goods and materials. To date we have raised a little over $240,000 in cash and $100,000 of in-kind donations. Pacific Scene Homes will donate the labor and material for the new addition’s foundation and all the wood framing. Grunow Construction will donate the labor and material for the new roofing. Smith Brothers Construction will be donating the labor and material for the new electrical, heating, and A/C. Beacham Construction will donate all the labor and material for the interior drywall and all the interior finish trim. Ankeney Brothers will be donating all interior and exterior painting. ALM doors and windows will be donating the labor and material for replacement of all exterior doors and windows.

Though we have not yet reached our fundraising goal, we are scheduled to break ground on January 15, 2007 and be complete by end of May 2007. If we are not able to raise the remaining funds we will have to differ some of the parts of the remodel. However, we remain optimistic that the community of La Jolla will continue to show its support of the men and women of FS 13 and we will be able to raise the entire amount before we are finished next May.

All gifts are fully tax deductible through the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary Foundation (501)(c)(3). We also have a very generous and anonymous donor that will match one dollar for every two dollars we raise.

For anybody interested in contributing to this great community project, please contact the Foundation at:

La Jolla Sunrise Rotary Foundation, P.O.Box 8625, La Jolla Ca 92038. or call (858) 456-1220 for information.

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This photograph depicts the original FS 13, which was located on Herschel Street where the current Firehouse YMCA is now.
We Thank All Our Many Friends

We thank the following opportunity drawing sponsors for contributing to the Ellen Brown Scripps Luncheon: Jack’s La Jolla, Warwick’s, Sammy’s & Roppongi, The Cookie Lady, Don Dewhurst, Roger & Ann Craig, Gale Forbes, and Betty Vale. Thank you to Gladys Kohn and Ruth Covell for being the Chair of the luncheon and to Kristina Gibbons for putting it together!

Thanks also to the sponsors of the 2006 Annual Golf Open at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club: Bennett & Associates, Bob’s Casa Del Habano, Diane Dawson, Gladys Kohn, The Ballidis Group, Cicone Construction Co., Inc., The Zelnick Group, Bone Builders Medical Clinic, The Tiara Foundation, Thank You Plants, Gardner F. Marston, Harry’s Coffee Shop, Dr. Charles Rudolph, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, Rick Strauss, Jim Barone, Randy Strada, Fat Cat Lager Beer, The Cave Store, Critter Friends of Computers, Café Del Mar, En Fuego, Warwick’s, Jewelry by Gidget, Come on In, Ann Zahner, Meanley’s, Bill Kelllogg, French Gourmet, Dr. Paul Dougherty, R-Design Group, and Sean Rodgers.

Thank you to Harry Rudolph III for putting the great event together with the help of Ann Zahner and Kristina Gibbons!

Thank you to all who came to the Brockton Villa anniversary celebration and helped support Brockton Villa and the Historical Society. Special thanks to Megan & Dave Heine for being great friends to the Historical Society and to Kara West and Carol Olten for helping put this together!

On November 18 local artists showed their work at Wisteria Cottage. It was a great, well-attended event. Thank you to the artists: Russell Duff, Larry Stolourow, Linda Fuchs, Sue Blakely, Patty Youckey, Joyce Rook and Sue Whitman.

On December 3rd, after the La Jolla Christmas Parade, the La Jolla Historical Society opened its doors to the public, with cider and treats for everyone. Thank you to Ann Zahner for putting this together with the help of Kara West, and to Lydia McNeil and Ruth Varonfakis for volunteering their time.

As of December 18, 2006
La Jolla Historical Society Newsletter Sponsors

The following La Jolla merchants and businesses have helped defray the costs of publishing our quarterly newsletter. When patronizing these contributors, please tell them how much you appreciate their support in helping us preserve our community's heritage.

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For your business to join this prestigious group, please contact the La Jolla Historical Society at (858) 459-5335.

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La Jolla Historical Society
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☐ Membership Application ☐ Gift ☐ Change of Address Information

Name _____________________________________________ Phone _________________ Date __________
Street Address _____________________________________ City _____________________ State __________

General Membership $40 ☐ La Jolla Diamond $1000 ☐
La Jolla Local $100 ☐ Jewel Circle $5000 ☐
La Jolla Gem $250 ☐ La Jolla Business/Professional $200 ☐
La Jolla Platinum $500 ☐

☐ Enclosed is a check in the amount of __________ payable to the La Jolla Historical Society.

☐ Charge credit card number ______________________________ Exp. __________ ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ JCB
Signature ______________________________________________ email ________________________

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.
Coming Events

9th Annual
Secret Garden Tour
of Old La Jolla
SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday May 19, 2007
Call 858-726-0227 for
recorded information

LJHS Annual Meeting
February 15, 2006
LJ Presbyterian Church

Call for Volunteers at the
La Jolla Historical Society

Volunteers greatly
enhance and complement
the efforts of the staff and
we could never accom-
plish all of our goals for
the Society without them.

We have a variety of
interesting volunteer proj-
ects and strive to match
volunteers’ interests and
skills with work that is
appealing and gratifying.
Whether you have a
couple or hours a month
or a lot of time to dedi-
cate, we would love to
talk with you about the
volunteer opportunities
we have available.

The newest addition
to our team of volunteers
is Brandon Schwende-
man. Brandon takes time
from his busy schedule
at Prudential California
Reality in La Jolla to help
in the Archives. Thanks,
Brandon!

And thanks to all our
volunteers for all the in-
valuable work they do for
the Society.

To become a volun-
teer, contact the La Jolla
Historical Society at (858)
459-5335.

Annual Meeting
Scheduled

The La Jolla Historical
Society is pleased to an-
nounce its winter pro-
gram, “The Heartbeat of
La Jolla - Service Clubs
Giving Back to our Com-

munity”. The meeting
will take place on February
15, 2006 at the La Jolla
Presbyterian Church.

Come and hear what’s
new from representatives
of our La Jolla service
clubs and how you can
get involved and support
their efforts.

New Members

Addie Scholfield TTE
Sarah Stonvall
Nancy Strong Walter
Suzanne Whitman
Helen Goldstein
Brandon Schwendeman
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