Executive Director’s Column

It’s All About Community

It’s been a great couple of months for the La Jolla Historical Society. I am pleased to announce that Annual Appeal 2007 raised over $28,000 – far exceeding our goals for this important annual fundraising initiative. With your help, we continue to set our sights high to ensure that the Society continues to grow into a more exciting and relevant organization. For all those who gave (page 12), I again say thank you!

Thanks to your growing support, we’ve expanded your newsletter and added a few new features, including more images from the collection and more in-depth stories on La Jolla history. We also intend to bring you more information about preservation issues in our community. We thank volunteer Martin Lizerbram for coordinating our new “Monitor” column (page 10) and for his years of dedication in documenting La Jolla’s unique architectural landscape.

A Busy Schedule, Indeed

The Society has held a number of great events recently (“Happenings,” page 14). In January, we held our “Walking the La Jolla Beat” lecture. Our guest speakers, Steve Willard and Rick Carlson of the San Diego Police Historical Association, resplendent in 1930s-era uniforms, brought numerous police-related artifacts and presented over 100 years of La Jolla “cops and robbers” tales.

In February, the Society and Warwick’s bookstore co-hosted “La Jolla History Night.” After a guided tour of the historic central village, we were honored to have Ione Stiegler, Tony Ciani and David Singer, three of La Jolla’s most prominent architects, on hand to speak about La Jolla’s architecture. The event, part of Warwick’s “Year of Giving,” was capped off with a full month of the bookstore’s philanthropic efforts benefiting the Society (1% of total store sales in February were donated to the La Jolla Historical Society). We sincerely thank owner Nancy Warwick, Warwick’s Events Coordinator Susan McBeth, and the entire store staff for their selfless support. Show your appreciation for their generosity by stopping by Warwick’s today.

The spirit of community that Warwick’s demonstrates is a reminder that this spirit certainly runs in the family. We are saddened at the recent passing of Bob Warwick (page 5). A former member of the Society’s Board, Bob was a friend to all of La Jolla, and his legacy will endure. He will be missed.

10th Annual Secret Garden Tour

If you’re like me, you appreciate the efforts of a homeowner who has a passion for turning a simple backyard into a magnificent garden. And, if you’re like me, you can’t wait to see a few of La Jolla’s garden masterpieces again at this year’s Secret Garden Tour (page 3). Thanks to the efforts of event chair Betty Vale and her dedicated committee of volunteers, this – the event’s tenth year – is destined to amaze even the greenest of thumbs. I hope to see you there on May 10!

John H. Bolthouse, III
Executive Director
gardens are grand teachers. When you plant and care for a garden, you are always dreaming about what is to come. After we purchased our 1930s home in 1987, I wanted to become more involved to help preserve the charm and character of La Jolla. As I worked in my garden, I dreamed that maybe someday people would work to save the significant pieces of old La Jolla’s history for the future. In 1989, we chose to designate our home and garden historic and it has proven to be a rewarding experience that has opened many doors and answered quite a few dreams.

In 1998, my dear friend and fellow garden enthusiast Susan Vandendriesss and I began discussing ideas on how to raise awareness about the La Jolla Historical Society and the need to preserve the character and charm of La Jolla. As Susan put it simply, “When irreplaceable images of our seaside community are torn down or allowed to deteriorate, part of our history disappears forever. These buildings, gardens and the stories behind them are our connection to our past and each other.” We hoped that by facilitating a way for the public to visit La Jolla’s treasured secret gardens and historic homes, people would come away inspired. This was the beginning of the Secret Garden Tour of Old La Jolla.

With a lot of hard work from an ever growing event committee, the Society’s Board, community volunteers, designers, artists, and musicians, the first tour took place on April 17, 1999. Since that time, over sixty homeowners have allowed thousands of people to stroll through their gardens. Susan and I sincerely thank everyone involved who have carried on the tradition and worked to make the Secret Garden Tour the success it is today.

It’s now time for our tenth Secret Garden Tour! We hope the Tour will lift your sprits and inspire you to plant a garden of dreams and the seeds of preservation.

“ My garden of flowers is also my garden of thoughts and dreams. The thoughts grow as freely as the flowers and the dreams are as beautiful.”

- Abram Linwood Urban

**Mission Statement**

The La Jolla Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, collection and preservation of La Jolla’s heritage.

Through our collections and programs, we work with the community to discover and record La Jolla’s history; to preserve its historical objects, sites and structures; and to increase appreciation of the value of preserving the heritage of the community.
Educational outreach is becoming a fundamental part of archival reference work and introducing youths to their cultural heritage through access to historical records is an exciting component of that effort. I’m proud that the Society’s role in that effort continues to grow.

In February, the Society was honored to host a dozen members of the Gillespie School Girl Scout Troop of 4th graders. The young ladies toured the Society’s facilities and got an introduction to archival science and the on-going efforts to preserve and make accessible the Society’s expansive historical records. A special collection of La Jolla Girl Scout history featuring Troop Torrey Pines memorabilia (1918-1928) was used to describe archival sciences methods. After learning how to handle the rare materials with special white gloves, they examined a trove of unique Girl Scout history: a booklet entitled “Requirements for the Flower Finder Merit Badge” (1924); a publication of “Brownie Games” (1926); and two vintage photographs depicting the 1926 operetta In Grandmother’s Garden, presented at the La Jolla Community House. The girls walked away with a greater understanding of the differences between archives and libraries and a new appreciation for the legacy of scouting in their community. (See page 7 for more on the Society’s Girl Scout collection.)

We extend a sincere thanks to Mark & Terry Edwards who filled a gap in our collection by donating a 1952 issue of National Geographic, featuring “La Jolla, A Gem of the California Coast.” The rare publication will further enhance the collection donated recently by Louise Heenan, containing notes and correspondence for the National Geographic article written by La Jollan Deena Clark.

April 21 is the scheduled release date for the Society’s new book La Jolla, published by Arcadia. Look for book signings at local La Jolla businesses this spring!

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 for their recent gifts to the Society collections:

- Mariel & Marie Hannay for donating three black and white photographic prints from the 1920s and one color postcard of “Sunny Jim Cave,” featuring a poem by Charles Walt.
- Mark & Terry Edwards for donating one issue of National Geographic magazine from December 1952

The La Jolla Historical Society collects a wide variety of historically significant materials associated with La Jolla. These collections are maintained as primary and secondary resources and made available for research for 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.

- Andrea Dahlberg for donating one Viking (June 1981) and two Outlook (February 1982, 1983) student-produced publications from La Jolla High School
- Gary B. Fogel for donating one 1971 color edition of La Jolla “the jewel” pictorial map
- Nancy Reed Kennedy for donating one menu from The Honker restaurant
- Charlotte Rowe for donating three Rotary Club of La Jolla anniversary souvenir books (1952, 1962, 1997); one La Jolla Journal street map; one 1966 La Jolla Community Plan Draft; one La Jolla Legacy monograph by Nan Cuthbert (n.d.); two advertisement pamphlets on La Jolla (1929, n.d.); and one 1947 Union Title Trust Topics publication

Thank you for helping us grow the Society’s image collection! We accept original, unframed photographs in good condition with accompanying provenance information.
Before street addresses were assigned to La Jolla structures, approximately four hundred cottages, most located on streets in the central village, had mail addressed to the resident and cottage by name only. Cottage names were whimsical (Idlewild, Rest-a-While, Cozy Nook, Sunnycrest, and Done Roaming), while others had names influenced by the sea (Driftwood, Curlew, Low Tide, Las Olas, Sea Breeze, and Cliffs). They reflected the owners’ fancies like Brodiaia, Interlaken, Umpquay, Chioistri, and Amphitrite. Others were named for animals, insects and home towns – one owner even christened his cottage Aksarben, his home state (Nebraska) spelled backwards. Such was the eccentricity of La Jolla.

In an early Walter Lieber Real Estate Company brochure, sixty-nine “furnished bungalows and cottages” were listed as rentals. Features in the listings included “hot water for bath,” “gas for cooking,” “flush toilets,” “lighting by electric,” and “heated by wood stove.” Each description ended with a street block number from a company-generated map to ease locating the rental cottages. But no actual address.

Bob Wilson, who managed the La Jolla Western Union Office, started delivering telegrams at age thirteen. He recalled that the lack of street numbers made it necessary to consult a cottage directory compiled by previous messengers. The procedure was to select a well-known house and use it to locate other cottages ("the Jack O’lantern below the Green Dragon Village," "the Barn below the Jack O’lantern," etc.). “Above’s” and “below’s” appeared throughout the directory, reflecting the number of cottages built on the hill between Prospect and Coast Boulevard.

The La Jolla Historical Society’s files don’t quite identify the year cottage names were replaced by street numbers though a *San Diego Union* article dated April 17, 1913, entitled “House Numbering is Worrying La Jollans” offers a hint. The city warned home owners to number their houses in compliance with city ordinance or suffer penalties ranging from five to fifty dollars or twenty-five days in jail. La Jolla homeowners weren’t too pleased to lose their exclusivity and balked. The actual house numbers were known (they were included in water bills) and the City Inspector threatened to have the police chalk correct numbers on the houses. “Streets were being graded and sidewalked, the Post Office Department would not give service along streets not yet finished.” Alas, threatened with fines, jail time and reduced mail service, La Jollans finally acquiesced.

George Silvani is a volunteer in the Society Archives

### La Jolla Loses an Icon

**Robert Warwick**  (September 7, 1932 - January 29, 2008)

The Society and the entire La Jolla community is deeply saddened at the passing of Bob Warwick, a true icon and dear friend. A third-generation owner of Warwick’s bookstore, Bob was actively involved in community service, having served on a number of boards, including the original La Jolla Community Planning Board, La Jolla Town Council, Torrey Pines Association, and the La Jolla Historical Society. He was also an active Rotarian and instrumental in commissioning the Mary Buckman sculpture in front of the La Jolla Recreation Center to replace the James Tank Porter sculpture that had been stolen in 1995.

Bob was a wonderful husband to Marian, and father to Nancy and Cathy, along with two grandsons. Though his passing leaves us with heavy hearts, Bob’s legacy of selfless giving to his beloved community will endure.
Cultivating business interests founded on solid value and quality is what Pannikin Coffee & Tea founder Robert “Bob” Sinclair has always been about. Born in Hollywood on November 1, 1942, Bob grew up near Studio City, later moving to the Antelope Valley near Lancaster to grow alfalfa. It was here that Bob developed an appreciation for the simple tranquility of the country.

After graduating high school and spending four years in the Navy, Bob moved to San Francisco to attend community college. He quickly realized that scholastic pursuits were not for him, instead finding enjoyment working in the restaurants and espresso bars of North Beach near Chinatown and Fisherman’s Wharf.

Bob’s familiarity with San Diego developed while in the Navy. When he and his first wife, Eden, found themselves in La Jolla in the 1960s during a coastal road trip, the pleasant surroundings and weather captured their hearts. Job hunting in La Jolla was difficult for Bob at first which he attributed to his San Francisco-style moustache and goatee. Clean-shaven, he quickly found work as a busboy at La Valencia and then with Top O the Cove where he worked as a waiter and wine steward. In 1968, he and his wife opened a cookware store on Prospect Street which also offered whole bean coffee for sale. Hoping to appeal to the largely East Coast-bred Salk employees used to whole bean coffee, Bob set up an antique roaster in his home garage on Rosemont Street. His coffee quickly outsold the cookware. The Pannikin was born.

Realizing the future was in coffee, Bob opened retail coffee shops in Del Mar, downtown San Diego and Escondido. While the original cookware store was maintained on Prospect, the first Pannikin Coffee & Tea Café was opened on upper Girard Street in 1975. The eclectic atmosphere of the new café quickly became a draw, attracting academia and noted literary figures. Bob’s more famous customers included Manhattan Project scientist Herbert York and Christopher Canole who, right on the Pannikin patio, set a world record for the longest conversation (three days!). Expansion continued as Bob opened Brockton Villa as a coffeehouse and restaurant, winning acclaim for his restoration and adaptive reuse of the historic cottage.

Bob isn’t surprised that the coffee café culture was embraced by San Diego. It had a strong presence in San Francisco and wound its way south with the 1963 opening of the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf in Brentwood. By the Seventies, the café culture reached San Diego and the Pannikin was ready with its signature brew: plain good coffee. “Pannikin good” refers to quality lighter roasts with subtle nuances of flavor hand-brewed on espresso machines. As Bob says, “One of a kind done right in front of you, for you.”

These days, Bob Sinclair spends most of his time on a ranch in New Mexico, enjoying the quiet and solitude of the country. There, he enjoys welding antique trucks, a passion since the 1970s. He’s sold most of his San Diego properties, including the Pannikin chain, but his connections to La Jolla remain strong as he retains a home in Windansea and daughter Megan runs Brockton Villa and Beaumont’s restaurants. Bob enjoys investing in historic property like old Taos adobe buildings, many of which have been renovated into artist studios and galleries. And, not surprisingly, Bob owns a café and restaurant in the Taos area.

Some coffee masters never change.
n old brick façade rises distinctively from the street featuring a large iron gate that creaks to the touch. Beyond, a massive wood door leads to a magical world of antique chests, semaniers, cabriole-legged tables, and Chippendale settees. Welcome to the world of Ross Thiele & Son, one of La Jolla’s most prestigious interior design firms.

Their story began in 1932 when architect Ross Thiele moved to San Diego and joined the Marston Company to develop a design and home furnishings department in the 1920s. Sent on buying trips throughout Europe, he began accumulating a collection and opened his own store in downtown San Diego. He soon realized, however, that most of his clients were from La Jolla so in 1940, he relocated to 1227 Prospect Street.

Ross’ son, John Thiele, joined the firm in 1946. “We had a real congenial group of people in La Jolla at that time,” he recalls. “Jack Mosher was developing the Green Dragon Colony, the Coles had the bookstore on Ivanhoe, and Mabel Whitsitt Millinery’s famous hats had moved to La Jolla.” Through the years, the Thieles became synonymous with elegance and classic traditions that blended eighteenth and nineteenth century style with a touch of Modernism. They designed numerous styles of interiors, many to complement the architecture of Thomas Shepherd.

In the early 1980s, it was time for another transition. Ross Thiele passed away in 1981 and John carried on his father’s efforts. Recognizing the need to expand, John salvaged many architectural elements from the old Prospect location (particularly parts of the façade) and used them to create their unique offices now located on upper Girard. And business followed. “People started building 6,000 sq. ft. homes,” he recalls. “We never had any of that kind of business in the early days.”

Today, John’s daughter, Elizabeth Thiele-Barkett, is at the helm. “It’s been good,” John reflects on the years the Thieles have been in business.

John loves La Jolla’s history, taking pride in owning the oldest house on Sierra Mar Avenue, and having raised three children in the community. “History strengthens a culture,” John says. “Everyone needs a historical seed.”

### Collection Profile

**La Jolla Girl Scouts Collection**

by Heather Kuhn

The Girl Scouts were first established in San Diego in 1918 by director Nancy B. Waddell and the anticipation and enthusiasm of Girl Scouts coming to La Jolla was astounding. One new scout even squealed at Ms. Waddell in excitement, “Oh, I could squeeze you and squeeze you ’til there wasn’t any more squeeze left, I love you so for starting us in Girl Scouts.” This enthusiasm is obvious in these images of Girl Scouts from the Operetta *In Grandmother’s Garden*, presented at the La Jolla Community House on April 16-17, 1926.

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### Corporate Partner Spotlight

**Ensuring La Jolla’s Interior Beauty**

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"It’s really quite simple. Wisteria Cottage is a La Jolla landmark that will house our village’s history for generations to come. The century-old cottage was once the home of the Balmer School (now La Jolla Country Day) which Karen attended in the late 1940s. The old drinking fountain is still there… as are the memories. It doesn’t get any better."

– Orrin & Karen Gabsch

"Our support of the La Jolla Historical Society is a privilege based upon the generosity and vision of founders and donors who preceded us. They loved and enjoyed this unique community as much as we do and inspired the desire to preserve La Jolla’s history in the future. Thank you for all you do!"

– Jan Gobel & Virginia Barbey

"Our treasures should never be neglected. The Historical Society is our community jewel box."

– Gail Forbes

"Being from a family that arrived in La Jolla 72 years ago, I consider my giving to the La Jolla Historical Society’s campaign a privilege and a responsibility. It’s my way of honoring my parents’ contributions to this place we call home and guarantees the preservation of history and roots for my children and their children’s children."

– Susanna Lipe Aalbers

"Living in La Jolla for decades, we’ve seen many changes. We support the La Jolla Historical Society as the local organization for documenting & preserving past history… and history being made today. The capital campaign of the Society will help ensure its presence in the community for future generations of La Jollans and for visitors."

– Bailey and Sharilyn Gallison
Capital Campaign Donors
(As of March 1, 2008)

Pacesetters
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Orrin & Karen Gabsch
Las Patronas
J. Frederick & Susan Oliver
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The Right Rev. Robert M. Wolterstorff*
Donald & Jeannette Yeckel

* deceased
1894 Red Roost, Red Rest, (1179 & 1187 Coast Boulevard) Located across from La Jolla Cove; original buildings on original lots; listed on National Register of Historic Places (#76002247) and San Diego-designated Historic Site No. 101; prototypes of California and American bungalow architecture; upkeep and maintenance neglected by owners; repeated requests by owners to demolish structures have been declined by the City of San Diego.

c. Mid-century modern design apartment court (7417-7427 Olivetas Avenue) Originally named Moana Hotel Apartments; garden plan encourages human interaction and sense of community; application for demolition submitted with plans to build condominiums on the site.

1925 Barber Tract prototype model home (7272 Dune Lane) Low-density Spanish revival home with walled garden; associated with Philip Barber who laid out the Barber Tract’s narrow streets and placed homes of no taller than one-and-one-half stories; demolition requested by current owners to enable construction of larger contemporary home.

c. Mid-century cottage style garden court (7522-7532 Herschel Avenue) Symmetrical, sunny yellow cottage court encircled by white picket fences; immaculately maintained; permits have been requested to demolish this court as well as mid-century office court to the east to enable construction of townhomes.

1895, 1906, 1917 La Jolla Heritage Park (7210 La Jolla Boulevard) Colony of three cottages moved from other areas of La Jolla to this location. All three cottages are individually designated historic; originally conceived by J.W. & Patricia Schaelchlin as a preservation concept for La Jolla following example of Heritage Park San Diego complex.

IN MEMORIAM
Robert Warwick
1/29/08

NEW MEMBERS
Bruce & Mary Crabtree
Annette & Bob Henry
John Wilson Brown
Elizabeth H. Davidson
La Jolla Garden Club
Carol Crawford
Pete Hill
Patricia C. Clark
Debra Turner
Dan Walshaw
Ann Wallace
Laura Georgakakos
Teleia Tollison

La Jolla Structures on National Register of Historic Places

Martha Kinsey House (#92000968)
1624 Ludington Lane

La Jolla Woman’s Club (#74000546)
715 Silverado Street

Red Rest & Red Roost (#76002247)
1187 & 1179 Coast Boulevard

George H. Scripps Memorial Marine Biological Laboratory (#77000330)
8602 La Jolla Shores Drive

Torrey Pines Gliderport (#93000578)
2800 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive

Torrey Pines Lodge (#98000699)
12201 Torrey Pines Park Road

Torrey Pines Park Road (#98001248)
(Also known as Roosevelt Memorial Drive)

Source: US Department of the Interior

RENEW TODAY!
Show your support of the Society... and get a great deal at your favorite community bookstore!

In partnership with Warwick’s bookstore of La Jolla, all new and renewing members of the La Jolla Historical Society at the $100 and above membership levels receive a coupon for 10% off purchases of up to $500 at Warwick’s!

LA JOLLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Annual Appeal 2007

The Suzanne Whitman Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation

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Mary Burton Fussell
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Katherine F. Wilson
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Donations

Dr. Robert L. Fisher
Gail Forbes

Warwick’s, for naming the La Jolla Historical Society as February beneficiary of its “Year of Giving” Program

In Memory of Robert Warwick

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Ascot Shop
George & Darcy Ashley
Gilbert Atkinson
Bob & Betty Beyster
Thomas Cerruti
Mary Frances Connelly
Richard & Genevieve Conroy
Ann & Roger Craig
Don & Lael Dewhurst
Moreen Fielden & Jim Stewart
Orrin & Karen Gabsch
The Gillespie School
Victoria Gulley
Sandra Harding
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Cathy Litz
Janet Lutz
Rosamond Loomis
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Maltz
Adelia Martin
William C. Meaney
Barbara O’Brien Melkerson
Cathy O’Neill
Peggy O’Neill
Adrian Lynn Newell
Allen & Kay Phillips
Joyce Rafkin
Ellen Revelle
Simon & Schuster
Dick & Barbara Seymour
Stolper and Company, Inc.
Harry Stone
Richard & Linda Strauss
Gayle Tejada
David & Jill Torkelson
Margie Trailer
Bob & Melesse Traylor
Warwick’s bookstore staff
The Webb Foundation
David Weston
Ann Zahner

Wylie & Betty Vale
Stuart & Anne Marshall
Nancy Ames Petersen
Betty-Jo Petersen
Sheila M. Pickwell
Ross Thiele & Son
The White Sands of La Jolla
Claire Reiss
Shirley C. Seagren
George R. Voigtko
Susan G. Walden
Ann L. Zahner

Herbert & Judy Paige
Stephen & Debra Nichols
Mary Bryant Mosher
Ed & Jean Magee
Elaine W. Maffie
Sylvia Luce Heitzmann
Marjorie J. Lundberg
Mary Ruth Landaal
James & Lori Lambert
Julia H. Keelin
Frances E. Johnston
R.D. Johnson
Oliver B. James
Marjorie Jackson
Laverne J. Johnson
Mary Ruth Landaal
Marjorie J. Lundberg
Sylvia Luce Hitzmann
Elaine W. Maffie
Ed & Jean Magee
Sam & Sherri Marcus
Theodore & Shuzuko McNally
Mary Bryant Mosher
Frances C. Nagler
Stephen & Debra Nichols
Herbert & Judy Paige

Graham Parcell
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Peak
Joanne V. Pedersen
Charlotte K. Perry
Anne S. Plachtia
Prescott & Associates
Patricia S. Price
Myrna C. Radli, Ph.D.
Marcia Robinson
Peter W. Robinson
Michele Romano
Olivia Robert
Don Schmidt
Benjamin & Brenda Schneider
Lettitia J. Sherman
Gordon & Penny Shurtleff
George F. Silvani
Frederick Smith
Mrs. Julian C. Smith
Jim & Mimi Stake
Tania Reid Sumberg
Marc Tarasuck
Mary & Amy Wayne
Penny Anne Williams
Katherine F. Wilson
James R. & Adelaide Woodward

The La Jolla Historical Society invites you to join Heritage Circle, a new group of exclusive supporters of the Society. Heritage Circle recognizes and honors those friends and members of Society who have made a commitment to preserving La Jolla’s heritage by including the Society in their will or estate plans.

There are numerous ways to provide lasting support to the Society while benefiting you and your family financially, including bequests, charitable and deferred gift annuities, charitable lead trusts, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds, and life insurance. There are no dues or fees associated with membership in Heritage Circle. With their permission, members are listed on a special Wall of Honor and receive invitations to exclusive events at the Society. Most importantly, Heritage Circle members know they are ensuring the Society’s efforts for future generations.

The success and growth of the Society depends on your goodwill. Help ensure the Society’s future by creating a lasting legacy of friendship.

For more information on Heritage Circle, visit www.lajollahistory.org/getinvolved/donate/plannedgiving or e-mail info@lajollahistory.org.
he gifted and dedicated people that the La Jolla Historical Society depends on are numerous but, recently, one in particular stood out. Out of more than a thousand gardeners nominated statewide, Betty Vale, Society Board member, Secret Garden Tour Chair, and groundskeeper at the Bishop’s School, was recognized as the 2007 California Gardener of the Year by Pacific Region of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Betty received the honor as a member of the Village Garden Club of La Jolla. She serves on the Wisteria Cottage Facilities Committee, renovated the gardens of the La Jolla Recreation Center, and has beautified the Bishop’s School grounds for the last eight years. More than a Master Gardener, Betty really is a curator of sorts. Digging deep into the Bishop’s School archives allowed her to stay true to the vision of school founder Ellen Browning Scripps and maintain the integrity of the school’s designer, Irving Gill. “I included historical photos of the original gardens and proposed a historical restoration,” Vale said of her first foray into the gardens.

The La Jolla Historical Society congratulates Betty on this well-deserved and coveted distinction!

Volunteer Focus

Irma Waser

Though she calls her life “pedestrian,” Archives volunteer Irma Waser’s life has been anything but. Irma grew up in Zurich, Switzerland prior to the Second World War where she enjoyed an efficient and accessible public transportation system and weekends at her family’s home on Lake Zurich. She left an unfinished degree in teaching in 1941 to marry her Romanian boyfriend, Eric Weiss, in Cuba. Eric, Irma’s first husband, went on to design logic for some of the very first portable computers in Los Angeles.

From 1966 to 1971, Irma worked for Scripps Memorial Hospital in the very first Radio Isotope Lab. At the lab, she worked with radioactive tracers, diagnostic tools used to provide a picture of functioning tissue versus non-functioning tissue. In spite of having no prior experience, Irma’s work so impressed the pathologist in charge that a position was created specifically for her.

After the passing of her second husband, Ulrich, Irma, now retired, decided to add greater structure to her life by volunteering her time. In addition to volunteering with the educational department at Scripps Birch Aquarium, Irma volunteers once a week at the Society. When she joined the Society as a volunteer four years ago, one of her first positions was that of greeter. Irma readily shares that her greatest pleasure in working at the Society has been meeting the people who have filled the office over the years.

The Society welcomes new Archives intern Bill Jacobsen, and volunteer Darryl Templer. Bill is currently working on arranging and describing the Scripps Family Collection and Darryl is working on building an index to correspondence from the Howard Randolph Collection.

Heritage Through Art

Red Rest

Built by G.J. Leovy in 1894, the historically-designated Red Rest (along with its companion, Red Roost) is one of La Jolla’s most iconic cottages. Located at 1187 Coast Boulevard, it represents the epitome of the classic California bungalow but, sadly, has fallen into neglect. Artist Bernice Huntington primarily painted seascapes along the coast and landscapes of Southern California’s desert regions but also painted the redwood trees of Northern California. The influences of the rich red and green tones of the California Redwoods are apparent in her painting of Red Rest. Huntington studied with marine artist Bennet Bradbury and served as treasurer of the La Jolla Art Association.

The original, painted in 1971, is oil on canvas, part of a series of paintings commissioned jointly by the La Jolla Historical Society and the La Jolla Art Association. Reproductions of this original art are available through the Society at www.lajollahistory.org/shop.
Bungalows courts were a phenomenon of early twentieth century architectural history, offering less expensive single-family dwellings with amenities like gardens and private porches without the cost of a traditional property lot. Many were built as rentals throughout older middle-class neighborhoods nationwide but even more so in Southern California where the “California bungalow” became an icon. Unlike some San Diego neighborhoods like North Park, where courts seemed almost as common as regular residential buildings, La Jolla had few courts though some offered spectacular ocean views not available in other neighborhoods.

Nearly a hundred years later, some La Jolla bungalows remain highly functional in their original form and use. The most obvious and cheerfully inviting to the eye are the Sunset Courts in the central village. Located on 7769 through 7783 1/2 Ivanhoe, the court consists of eight cottages built around a central garden in a U-shape and accessed by unusual funnel concrete stairs leading from the top of Silverado. The structures date to 1925 when La Jolla developer and real estate salesman A. B. Harlan built them as vacation rentals. Today, each cottage wears an identical dress of gray and white paint and, judging from the rapid way “For Rent” signs disappear, they are still highly sought-after rentals.

Similar historic bungalows exist nearby on Exchange Place where eight Mission-style cottages, also situated in a U-shape configuration, are rented year-round. Parking is up for grabs, however, for whatever is on the street. (Courts were built in the era when street parking was plentiful so there was no concern for garages or spaces!)

The downside of the La Jolla bungalow court story is that the group on Herschel Avenue appears destined for demolition. Although recently renovated – and noticeably so with bright yellow paint – current plans call for the four cottages along with a two-story rental building at the rear to be torn down for the construction of twenty-four condo units.

Fortunately, some historic bungalow courts in La Jolla have survived to actually become significant investments for their owners. Redwood Hollow, a collection nestled cozily in a sylvan setting at 244-254 Prospect St. benefits from the high-season rental market, operating as a virtual mini-hotel. Believed to have been designed by architect Emmor Brooke Weaver, they are typical Craftsman-style with exterior redwood siding and wood shingles and crawling with vines, adding to their woody romantic charm.

Alas, arguably La Jolla’s prettiest bungalow court no longer exists. Once located at the top of Prospect Place near the Torrey Pines Road intersection, it enjoyed fantastic ocean views at 7961 Prospect Place, now commanded by a large condominium. Built circa 1900, it was first named La Belle Vista Court and later Roca Vista. Noted portrait artist Charles Filson built the court which, appropriately, was heavily artistic with four lap-siding cottages surrounded by cobble pathways and gardens. La Jolla writer Walt Mason spent a season at Roca Vista until moving into his permanent home on Virginia Way. Before leaving, he penned the following epigram that seems to catch the charm of bungalow court lifestyle:

So many happy hours I spent
In this house by the shore
I thought it fun to pay the rent
And wished it might be more.

Carol Olten is the Society’s Historian
# La Jolla Historical Society Membership Application

**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)

## STUDENT/MILITARY - $25

(Three years: $50)

- Membership card
- Annual subscription to newsletter, Timekeeper
- 10% off purchases of LJHS merchandise
- Discounts on purchase of photograph reproductions
- One hour free research assistance in Archives
- Free Historic La Jolla Walking Tour"guidebook
- Invitations to LJHS special events and exhibition openings
- Invitation to annual members’ meetings
- Discount on educational programs and art workshops
- Advance announcements on Society publications

## SOCIETY FRIEND/FAMILY - $50

(Three years: $140)

- Two personalized membership cards
- Annual subscription to newsletter, Timekeeper
- 10% off purchases of LJHS merchandise (online store)
- Discounts on purchase of photograph reproductions
- One hour free research assistance in Archives
- Historic La Jolla Walking Tour "guidebook
- Invitations to special events and exhibition openings
- Invitation to annual members’ meetings
- Discount on educational programs and art workshops
- Advance announcements on Society publications

## HERITAGE - $100

(Three years: $275)

- One hour free research assistance in Archives
- One (1) free Historic La Jolla Walking Tour "guidebook
- $10 off each ticket (limit two tickets) to annual Secret Garden Tour
- One (1) free LJHS annual calendar
- 20% discount coupon for Warwick’s Bookstore
- Plus all Society Friend/Family membership benefits!

## BENEFACCTOR - $250

(Three years: $700)

- Your choice of one (1) reproduction historic photograph from the LJHS archives (limited to 8” x 10” size)
- One hour free research assistance in Archives
- One (1) free Historic La Jolla Walking Tour "guidebook
- $10 off each ticket (limit two tickets) to annual Secret Garden Tour
- One (1) free LJHS annual calendar
- One (1) free Society Friend/Family gift membership for a friend
- 20% discount coupon for Warwick’s Bookstore
- Plus all Society Friend/Family membership benefits!

## JEWEL - $500

(Three years: $1,400)

- Your choice of two (2) reproduction historic photographs from the LJHS archives (limited to 8” x 10” size)
- One hour free research assistance in Archives
- Three (3) free Historic La Jolla Walking Tour "guidebooks
- Two (2) free LJHS annual calendars
- One (1) free ticket to annual Secret Garden Tour (self-guided)
- One (1) free ticket to annual Ellen Browning Scripps Luncheon
- One (1) free Society Friend/Family gift membership for a friend
- 20% discount coupon for Warwick’s Bookstore
- Plus all Society Friend/Family membership benefits!

## LEGACY - $1,000

(Three years: $2,750)

- Your choice of three (3) reproduction historic photographs from the LJHS archives (limited to 8” x 10” size)
- One hour free research assistance in Archives
- Three (3) free Historic La Jolla Walking Tour "guidebooks
- Five (5) free LJHS annual calendars
- Two (2) free tickets to annual Secret Garden Tour (self-guided)
- Two (2) free tickets to annual Ellen Browning Scripps Luncheon
- One-year listing on Donor Recognition Wall
- Two (2) free Society Friend/Family gift memberships for a friend
- 20% discount coupon for Warwick’s Bookstore
- Plus all Society Friend/Family membership benefits!

## DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE - $5,000

(Three years: $14,000)

- Your choice of five (5) reproduction historic photographs from the LJHS archives (limited to 8” x 10” size)
- One hour free research assistance in Archives
- Five (5) free Historic La Jolla Walking Tour "guidebooks
- VIP invitations to special events and exhibition openings (including receptions, sneak previews, and guided tours)
- Four (4) free annual LJHS calendars
- Two (2) free Platinum Tour tickets to annual Secret Garden Tour
- Four (4) free tickets to annual Ellen Browning Scripps Luncheon
- Five-year listing on Donor Recognition Wall
- Four (4) free Family Level gift memberships for a friend
- 20% discount coupon for Warwick’s Bookstore
- Plus all Society Friend/Family membership benefits!
Coming April 21: New La Jolla History Book!

The La Jolla Historical Society is pleased to announce the upcoming release of La Jolla, a 127-page soft cover book featuring nearly 200 images from the Society’s extensive archives, many published for the first time. Written by Society historian Carol Olten and archivist Heather Kuhn and published by Arcadia Publishing, the book features a comprehensive pictorial history of the village from its inception in the 1880s up through the start of the Second World War. The book retails for $19.95 and will be available at the Society and in bookstores in early May.