



LAGUNA
BEACH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Laguna Beach Historical Society

presents

St. Francis by the Sea Cathedral:

Navigating the Tides of Changing Times

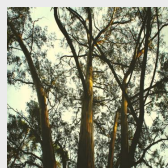
September 20, 2016 7:30PM, LAGUNA BEACH CITY HALL

Locals can view the program live on Cox Cable **852**

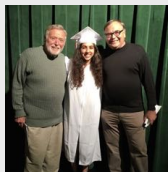
IN THIS NEWSLETTER



Allene Symons
Speaker Laguna
Beach City Hall



The Grove of
El Mirador



Laguna Beach
High School
Scholarship



President's
Message and
Announcements

The September 20 talk with a slide presentation will focus on St. Francis by the Sea Cathedral and its colorful history in Laguna Beach. The period under discussion spans the early 1930s from its founding as an American Catholic church by Bishop Percy Wise Clarkson, through its second phase during the years before and after World War II, continuing up to the present.

The visual presentation will highlight how St. Francis by the Sea, until recently record-holder as the World's Smallest Cathedral, has survived despite cultural changes and upheavals in leadership that sometimes result in a shift in vision. Although listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1988, during such transitions the structure itself remains at risk of modification of the interior and possibly exterior features that make St. Francis so unique.

Slides will show original and early-period decorative details, along with rare documents and artifacts that reflect an eclectic expression of spirituality absorbed from world religions as well as from the tenets of Theosophy. Among

these are symbols associated with yogic practice, the study of astrology, developing extra sensory perception, and what today might be called energy healing.



To add perspective on the middle period of the church, there will be a brief sidebar about the post-World War II era when Laguna Beach attracted spiritual adventurers, among them Aldous Huxley who, along with friends such as then-Laguna resident author Christopher Isherwood, were involved in psycho-spiritual techniques at a monastery in Trabuco Canyon, mirroring practices at St. Francis by the Sea.

Historically speaking, this is not your typical Catholic church. Yet over the years, St. Francis by the Sea has celebrated mass, weddings, and baptisms, serving the needs of Laguna's less conventional Catholic community.

- By Allene Symons, September Guest Presenter, and author of "Aldous Huxley's Hands"

The Grove of El Mirador

As you drive down El Bosque and turn up onto Arroyo Chico, you will see what remains of a Eucalyptus grove that dates back to 1897. These were not homestead trees, but planted to beautify what was just vacant land. They were planted by an early merchant and postmaster, John Nicholas Isch (everyone called him Nick.) His sister and brother-in-law, Kate and Joe Yoch, owned the property. In 1921 the Yochs gave permission for this grove to be used for staging "Kitshi Manido - The Peace Pipe Pageant," a play that was being used to raise money to help build a new art gallery. In 1928, the Yoch Company developed the area, naming it El Mirador, which was praised for its winding streets and larger lots. Houses along El Bosque and Arroyo Chico and a small part of Cleo St. were nestled in among the trees. In his later years, Isaac Frazee, the author of "Kitshi Manido" lived at 495 El Bosque.

- By Jane Petty Janz, lucky to be a granddaughter of Nick Isch



The Eucalyptus grove standing as you turn up Arroyo Chico dates back to 1897 and was planted by Laguna Beach early postmaster, "Nick" Isch.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

After many months of dealing with insurance companies and researching the 1923 architecture in Laguna Beach, we have restored our Murphy Smith bungalow to its previous glory. The bungalow was holding up nicely after a nearly a century of wear and tear, only to have the front of the house taken out by a BMW trying to create a parking space on top of the porch.

Simultaneously, we have replaced the flooring in the bathroom and kitchen. Please stop by and check out the bungalow. We are continuing to upgrade and you'll see these improvements over the next 6 to 12 months. While you're there, check out all the memorabilia and feel free to make a small donation. Better yet become a full-fledged member of the Laguna Beach Historical Society.

We continue to be on the lookout for new volunteers and docents to work with us. Please email if you or any of your friends might be interested. It's a great way to work with the community and enjoy the ambience of the bungalow.

We also would welcome any historic photos and memorabilia you may have documenting the history of our beautiful city. As the weather cools down and the crowds thin out, it's a perfect time to reflect on who we are as a city and how we got here. That will always be the main goal of The Laguna Beach Historical Society.

Gregg DeNicola MD



Congratulations to the 2016 Laguna Beach Historical Society Scholarship recipient, Elle Madhavi from Laguna Beach High School. We wish her much success in her future endeavors!

The Murphy Smith Bungalow shown below restored to its previous glory! After nearly a century of wear and tear the front porch and bathroom and kitchen floors have been restored.

Thank you to Gregg Abel Design & Construction for going above and beyond in completing repairs at our bungalow!



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**Murphy Smith Bungalow
 Visiting Hours:**

**Friday: 1:00-4:00pm
 Saturday: 1:00-4:00pm
 Sunday: 1:00-4:00pm**

Telephone: (949) 497-6834

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Thank you to all our members for your support – We couldn't do it without you!

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***Please contact us at:
lagunabeachhistory@gmail.com***

Laguna Beach Historical Society Memberships

- \$25 for Historian** (Individual)
Includes: Newsletter mailed to you, entry to historical programs at City Hall, Bungalow Visits
 - \$100 for Historian Friend** (Individual, Business, Organization)
Includes: All of the above plus name recognition in the newsletter
 - \$750 for Historian Patron** (Individual, Business, Organization)
Includes: All of the above plus name displayed at programs
- Online donations gratefully accepted now by PayPal or credit card on our website at lagunabeachhistory.org

You can also mail this form with your check to:
Laguna Beach Historical Society
278 Ocean Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

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EL MORRO AND TOP OF THE WORLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS LEARN ABOUT LAGUNA BEACH HISTORY

In June Ed Storke, Sandy Desmond and Anne Frank gave a presentation to one hundred and five third-graders at Top of the World Elementary School; displays of historical artifacts were included.

Later in the month, third-graders from El Morro took a tour of the Murphy Smith Bungalow with Ed as their host. An all-time favorite story is the visit to the town of "Bubbles," the hippopotamus. After the school presentation and visit, students were given a brochure and invited along with their parents and friends to visit the bungalow or stop by again.

Dana Point Harbor 50-Year Time Capsule Celebration

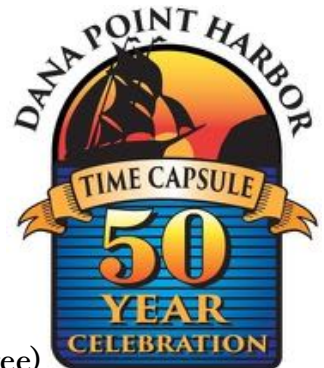
Monday, August 29th
at Baby Beach
34451 Ensenada Place,

Dana Point Harbor

4pm - Time Capsule
Unveiling Ceremony (free)

5pm - BBQ Dinner
(with purchased ticket)
BBQ Dinner \$10 per person in advance
(limited numbers available)
(includes dinner and beverage)
\$15 cash on day of event (if still available)

For more information please contact:
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce
Dana Point Historical Society at
events@danapointhistorical.org



Laguna Beach Historical Society

278 Ocean Avenue

Laguna Beach, CA 92651

A Special Note to our Loyal Members:

We couldn't keep up the bungalow, have our programs, or send out this newsletter without your support. Thank you!

Be sure to check page 5 of this newsletter for our 2016 membership categories – and more details on our website.

Thank you for your support!

Visit us on YouTube: Laguna Beach Historical Society

Visit our Website: lagunabeachhistory.org

Contact us at: lagunabeachhistory@gmail.com

**We would be honored if you would follow us on Facebook,
Instagram, and Twitter**

