On Wednesday, May 10th, Mary Rabe will present the three points of interest regarding the St. Clair family through a talk and a slide show that will include pictures of the family, paintings, movies and architecture. The St. Clair family history covers over one hundred years of Laguna Beach history. They remain with us today through their contributions to the town’s art and architecture.

Norman St. Clair (1865-1912), father of the movie director (Malcolm) and the architect (Aubrey) were well known in his time, but not many of us know about him now. Norman was one of the founders of the Laguna Beach Plein Air Arts community. Well known artists such as William Wendt and Edgar Payne came to Laguna Beach through their connection to paintings of Norman St. Clair and started Laguna Beach as an art colony.

(continued on page 2)
Malcolm St.Clair, one of Norman’s sons, was a director in Hollywood. Malcolm was well known at that time for his many silent films. He started his career acting in Max Sennet’s "Key Stone Cops,” then went on to directing and producing. Three of his movies were filmed in Laguna Beach.

Aubrey St. Clair, a very talented architect, built one of his first houses in Laguna Beach for his brother, Malcolm. He designed commercial buildings and residential buildings, many of which we can still see today. During the Laguna Beach Historical Society’s May presentation, you’ll see the famous houses designed by Aubrey St. Clair and the city buildings he designed including: The Fire Station and The City Hall.

Save the date – May 10th – for an interesting and in-depth review of the St Clair family and their multi-faceted impact on Laguna Beach and it’s history!

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**Upcoming Programs:**

May 10
The St. Clair Family’s Influence on Laguna’s Art, Films, and Architecture by Mary Rabe

September 7
Pancho Barnes by Lou D’Elia

October 11
The Laguna Playhouse by Glenna Matthews

November 16
Laguna Presbyterian Church Centennial Program (will take place in Tankersley Hall)

Our next newsletter will be out in the fall where you can find program information.

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**Past Programs:**

See our past programs including our March program, The Laguna Greenbelt, on our YouTube page Laguna Beach Historical Society.

Most of these are on DVDs available at the bungalow for a donation.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In Memoriam: Vern Spitaleri

The Laguna Beach Historical Society pays homage to one of it's recent past Presidents – Vernon Spitaleri, Vern's passing in January was recently announced by his family. He was born at the height of the roaring 20s and moved to Coastal Orange County in 1957 when he was in his mid 30s. Vern would become responsible over the years for much of what we take for granted in Laguna Beach today.

Vern’s primary interest was newspapers. In fact, he founded The Laguna News Post, which was located for many years on Glenneyre and Forest Avenue downtown. He was one of the first newspaper publishers to solicit editorials from his opponents. He felt it heightened credibility. That trait would be very welcome today.

He served as President of The Boys Club, President of Friends of the Laguna Beach Library, and was also President of The Laguna Playhouse. He led the campaign for a local hospital which ultimately resulted in The South Coast Medical Facility when a local police officer’s death triggered the need for a hospital to serve the community.

He was integral in the development of Main Beach Park and the establishment of The Dilly Preserve. Of course he also served on the Board of Directors of The Laguna Beach Historical Society for many years, eventually serving as its President as recently as a few years ago. Vern professed a deep love for Laguna Beach and worked relentlessly to preserve its history. Above all, the respect he earned over his lifetime continues to be apparent.

One of his more famous quotes was, "Do the best you can. No one is perfect. Except your mother.”

Rest In Peace Vern, we will cherish the indelible imprint you left on our city.

Gregg DeNicola MD,
President, Laguna Beach Historical Society

Volunteer Opportunity:

Stories or narratives have been shared in every culture as a means of entertainment, education, cultural preservation, and instilling moral values.

The Laguna Beach Historical Society is seeking a volunteer who will conduct interviews and collect personal stories.

We have several stories waiting to be documented and many more waiting to be discovered.

If you or someone you know would like to keep the stories of our town and its eclectic history alive please contact us.
“History Patron” Members $750+
Gregg DeNicola MD
Mary Lynn Lowry
Judy McKay
Charlie & Anne Quilter
Karen & Matt Smith
Dave Walker

“History Friend” Members $100+
Roger & Mary Alderson
Joseph Ambrose Jr.
Jay & Gertrud Andrus
Wayne & Faye Baglin
Andrew Ball
Lisa & Rex Bell
Jerry Bieser
Bob & Vicki Borthwick
Meriam Braselle
Ronald & Frances Chilcote
Ann Christoph
Donnie Crevier
John & Stephanie Cunningham
Jane Cutting
Karen & Roger Dennis
Sandy Desmond
Johanna Ellis
Emerald Bay Comm. Assoc
Robert & Nancy Englund
Festival of Arts
Josie Fox
Richard & Anne Frank
Mary Williams & Pat Gallis

Jon Garmshausen
Jane Golden
Morrie & Barbara Granger
Willa Gupta
Arnold & Bonnie Hano
Regina Hartley
John Hoover
Jerry & Renee Hornbeak
Patrick Jackson
Susan & Joseph Jahraus
Eric Jessen
Trudy Josephson
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Ed Merrilees
Lindy Narver
Prof. Michael Onorato
Barbara Ring
Lester & Lori Savit
Chuck Schoen
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Marvina Shilling
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Nelda Stone
Ed Storke
Si Teller
Gil & Judy Thibault
Twig of Laguna
Village Laguna
Tom Robison & Nancy Wessel
David Wilson

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

Laguna Beach Historical Society Board of Directors

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The Orange County Historical Commission and OC Parks Presents:

Uncovering Hidden Histories in Orange County

Discover the rich history of Orange County and learn how you can connect with historical resources in your own community.

- Q & A - with authors of People's Guide to Orange County
- Story telling and children's crafts.
- Tours of the newly restored Irvine Ranch Historic Park

Saturday, June 10, 2017
10AM – 2PM
Irvine Ranch Historic Park
13042 Old Myford Rd
Irvine, CA 92602
Free admission

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 recognized 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

Name and/or Business: ________________________________
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The Laguna Beach Historical Society is a section 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.
Tax ID #33-0519882.
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!

Visit us on You Tube: 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