Please join us as we listen to author, realtor, and Laguna Beach resident from 1949 until the 1990s, Rick Balzer, speak about how his family came to call Laguna Beach home. Rick’s family’s first home was in South Laguna, but not long after, that they moved to their permanent residence in Wood’s Cove.

Rick’s experiences growing up in Laguna include starting first grade at Park Avenue then moving before the end of the year to Aliso School as a student in the inaugural First Grade Class. Many of his childhood adventures occurred in the immediate vicinity of Aliso School. Adventures included hiking up the hill behind the school, building rafts on Aliso Creek, catching frogs in the creek, stepping in quicksand, and playing on Aliso Beach, which created an environment of exploration and fun. Rick will also recount memorable grade school teachers and events that happened during his time at Aliso School.

Tuesday, April 18th
Susi Q Community Center
7:00-8:30 pm

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(continued on the following page)
Later his playground moved to Wood's Cove and the canyon behind the family home in the Wood's Cove neighborhood.

Rick's adventures included building many tree forts and foxholes. He learned to swim and ride the waves at Woods Cove and Arch Beach. There was always an adventure to be found at the beach.

When he got to 7th grade, it was back to the campus at Park Avenue and migrating from his home room to his other classes. It was about this time that he became more aware of the community. He will share some of those experiences in his talk.

He held several jobs before graduating high school. He left town after graduation but soon learned what a special town he had grown up in and came back to a satisfying career in real estate.

Karen Lagrew, President
Johanna Ellis, Treasurer
Nelda Stone, Secretary

Preparations are going on for the 100-year Birthday Celebration of The Murphy Smith Bungalow! You are invited to the festivities. Please save the date: Saturday, May 20th from 10am - 1pm. May is Laguna Beach's Heritage Month and celebration.

Built in the early 1920s, we are fortunate to exist in this space as a historical society and “mini museum”, ode to all things Laguna. The little bungalow located in the heart of downtown has served our non-profit organization well, since we were established in 1992.

Its curtains were just cleaned, and the front garden is now landscaped and irrigated just in time for the rains and spring flowers. John Hoover oversees bungalow operations and keeps it in tip top shape so we can continue at this location for years to come, fingers crossed!

Spring cleaning at the bungalow also included the bookshelf. It was organized, and shelves were labeled helping visitors to find topics of interest. One label, Laguna Authors, includes many titles. Laguna provides great content and is a well loved topic to write about!

I have been reading one of the books on our shelves and have enjoyed learning about the life of its author, Rick Balzer. The book is titled *A Laguna Kid*.

Rick breaks up the book into short, readable, and entertaining topics which bring back memories for anyone over 50 years old. It isn’t fiction that many of us played in the murky backwaters at Aliso or Main Beach, took the keys to the car in an effort for parental independence, or experienced a first kegger in a local backyard. These were rights of passage for many growing up in Laguna and surrounding areas.

Other Laguna authors on our shelves: Theodore Taylor, J.S. Thurston, Jane Petty Janz, Ronald Chilcote, Sarah Koops Vanderveen – too many to name. Stop by and take a look. Laguna Beach Books also keeps several local authors and titles on hand.

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Karen Lagrew, President
Thank you!

We want to thank you for your past financial support and encourage you to consider upgrading to the next level of support for the Laguna Beach Historical Society. We are determined to preserve and protect historical archives of Laguna Beach including photographs, quarterly guest speaker events, and an annual scholarship to an outstanding graduating LB high school senior.

[Image of photo]

Thank you also to Andeaux Borunda and Nathan Meier for helping to clean and seal the concrete.

Chris Reed
Chris is a retired local who knows gardens and native plants well and donated his time and expertise. He prepared, planted, and installed a self-timing drip irrigation system. He helped select shading blooming plants. Clivia and Heuchera “Old La Rochette” were the best choices. We will add color in interchangeable flower pots.

Thank you also to Andeaux Borunda and Nathan Meier for helping to clean and seal the concrete.

JAMIE PIOTTI
Laguna resident and historical society member, Jamie, donated funding to create a beautiful and tidy new front garden.

Photo: Jamie Piotti

Thank you to Andeaux Borunda and Nathan Meier for helping to clean and seal the concrete.

Board Member SPOTLIGHT
ERIC JESSEN
Born and raised in West Los Angeles with strong Laguna ties. Eric’s relatives built their first house here in 1923 and their second one in 1940. He has been a full-time resident of Laguna Beach for 56 years.

Eric is the Retired Chief OC Harbors, Beaches & Regional Parks, and served as foreperson of the U.S. Federal Grand Jury. Central District of California, chaired numerous city committees & task forces, and is an Irvine family historian. He is an art detective for museums, collectors, and dealers. Eric landscaped and lived at Villa Rockledge in the 1970s.

Why did you choose to serve on the board? To share my knowledge about aspects of Laguna history with others & learn from their experiences.

Why do you think your position on the board is a good match for you? I enjoy regaling people with stories about colorful Laguna people and events, many of them from first-hand experiences.

What is your favorite part of working with the LB Historical Society? It’s tons of fun!

Patriot’s Day Parade “Volunteer Heroes” Board Members, Docents, Community Members, and Family participated this year.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS LIST

HISTORIAN/PLATINUM/ CORPORATE MEMBERS

$1000 AND ABOVE
Chris & Patti Appel
Caduceus Medical Group
Jonathan Ellicichman MD
Mary Lynn Lowry
Dave Walker
Chris Quilter

$500 AND ABOVE
Don Crevier/Crevier Family Foundation
Festival of Arts of Laguna Beach
Sandy Desmond
David & Karen Lagrew
John & Caren Nootbaar
Jamie Piotti

HISTORIAN PATRONS

$100 AND ABOVE

Marisa Driscoll
Johanna Ellis
Emerald Bay Community Association
Robert & Nancy Englund
Gene & Johanna Felder
Scott & Tracy Ferguson
Carolyn Hobert Fisch
Josie Fox
Richard and Anne Frank
Cathy Fry
Mary Williams & Pat Gallis
Dale & Marilyn Chere
Jane Golden
Morrie & Barbara Granger
Robert Granger
Regina Hartley
Karen Hedges
Richard Hoder
& Barbara Dressler
John Hoover
Jarry & Renee Hornbeak
Lique Hoskins
Donald & Lona Ingwerson
Toni Iseman
Patrick Jackson
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Joseph & Susan Jahraus
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Eric Jessen
Mark & Kelly Johnson
Korey Jorgensen MD
Trudy Josephson
Catherine Jurca
Betty L. Kelly
Diane Keplinger
Penny King
Eric & Laurie Kirkland
Laguna Beach Greenbelt
Anders Lasater
Rob Leiter
Randy Lewis
Brent & Diane Ljestrom
Carol Vieback Lloyd
Joan Lowell
Cindy Love & Eric Smith
James & Carolyn Lyons
Greg MacGillivray
Jared & Kathryn Mathis
Glenna Matthews
Judy McKay
Ed Mellieux
Lindy Narver
William & Theresa Ann O’Hare

HISTORIAN/FRIENDS

$100 AND ABOVE

Roger & Mary Alderson
Warren & Mary Allen
Warren & Mary Allen
Joseph Ambrose Jr.
Jay & Gertrud Andrus
Chris & Patti Appel
Wayne & Faye Baglin
Curt and Jan Bartsch
Bob & Vicki Borthwick
Edward Brancard
Carolyn Smith Burris
Mike Carey
Ronald & Francis Chimote
Ann Christoph
Kathy Conway
Greg DeNicola MD
Karen & Roger Dennis
Michael & Sharon Donoff

Go to LagunaBeachHistory.org/support-us to join or renew now!
Laguna Beach Historical Society: Around Town

Laurie Sanders, head of The Archive Committee, along with Nelda Stone, board member and local librarian, assisted Roger Kempler in locating a specific photograph of Jack Norworth to be used for panels that were to be installed in Riddle Field. This is part of the recently completed park improvement project with the city's Recreation and Public Works Departments. The panels were intended to recognize Norworth's contributions to Laguna Beach.

As part of an education series, The Assistance League invited President Karen Lagrew to speak about our organization.

Board members Eric Jessen and Carol Lloyd assisted the City Planning Manager Amber Dobson with a presentation given to city staff on the general history of Laguna and development.