Every June, with our mission statement in mind, we connect with and disseminate the unique history of our town to third-grade students from El Morro and Top of the World Elementary Schools.

This past June, El Morro students, along with teachers and chaperones, included the bungalow as a stop on their downtown field trip. Ed Storke, grandfather to two former students, scheduled a visit to present to Top of the World students in their multi-purpose room. Ed started with a general overview, Karen Lagrew compared and contrasted everyday life during the early 20s with life today, Anne Frank told the story of Bubbles the Hippo. This one remains a favorite!

Informative brochures, with 100-year birthday stickers, went home with students following the presentation.

This memorable experience prompted many repeat and first time visitors to the bungalow, accompanied by their parents, to show what they had seen and learned. Maybe it was the trap door or Bubbles poster they wanted to revisit, but we enjoyed their budding fascination with the history of Laguna Beach. This educational experience supports state curriculum, and it is hard to find local history in a textbook.

(continued on the following page)
A Message from our President

KAREN LAGREW, PRESIDENT

The grey skies didn’t stop a good turnout at the 100-Year Birthday Celebration on May 20th. The day was enjoyed by all.

Volunteer board members and docents helped greet people and speak to the bungalow’s 100-year history. Visitor’s shared their own stories of families and homes steeped in the unique history that make Laguna Beach so special. Community came together.

We are thankful for support from Laguna Beach High School Alumni and resident, Jeff Greenough, for t-shirts and shopper bag printing and supply. Jedidiah Coffee generously donated cold and hot brew for the event. Richard Kelley documented the festivities to video, and Matthew Papish created a historic video montage.

Thank you also to the Laguna Beach City Heritage Committee for including us in their annual event.

I’d like to address an error in postcard printing that occurred to our valued members. You may have noticed your name was wrong when you received the postcard announcement in the mail. This happened when, for the first time, we used a direct mail company. Their computer system took rows of the given spreadsheet and mixed first and last names together! While the use of this technology helped speed up delivery, helped track, cut costs and relieve the labor of hand stamping postcards, it was an embarrassment. We have since addressed the issue with the company and received credit for their mistake.

I hope you can understand, find humor in a name that the computer came up with and sincerely hope it doesn’t affect your continuing membership with The Laguna Beach Historical Society.

We look forward to resuming programs at The Susi Q this fall. Look for topics in upcoming newsletters.

Karen Lagrew
Thank you to Walker Reed for his docent help on the 4th holiday.

Video Montage
We have talented volunteers! Mathew Papish donated his time and professional video editing skills to create a photo montage of long ago and here & now. To view this, a monitor and professional video editing skills will be used for this video and our programs. Stop by and watch Laguna over time.

Recent Archival Donations
- Lyon’s Club photos and programs – 1930s
- Yearbooks – 1940s
- Pontiac Dealership photos - late 1940s 1950s
- Villa Rockledge slide collection

Diane Keplinger
October 19, 1934 - April 20, 2023

Diane and her husband George “Kep” Keplinger arrived in Laguna in the early 1970s, built their home, and grew to love Laguna Beach and support many causes in town. Along with donating her time with us as board member and Docent Coordinator, other causes she loved were Village Laguna and the Laguna Beach Playhouse.

During her career as an educator, Diane worked at The El Toro Marine School GATE program and then as a 4th grade teacher at Irvine Unified School District’s Santiago Hills School for over 37 years.

She and Kep followed a favorite band as they cruised and listened to Ragtime Jazz music. With their good friends Ryan and Anne Caen, they had tickets for the Laguna Beach Playhouse every first Thursday. Diane lost Kep in the fall. She asked to stay in the loop with the historical society as she fell ill shortly after his passing. She will be missed.

James Dilley Plaque:
We received a beautiful bronze plaque honoring the life and work of James Dilley. It hangs in the living room at the bungalow. You can find his typewriter in the office/bedroom. This donation comes from The Kalos Agathos Foundation supported by Bruce Hopping, and it was designed by local artist Bill Atkins.

Carol Lloyd
Carol is a 6th generation descendant of Henry Rogers and his son George, who both acquired early homesteads in Laguna Beach in 1876 and 1882. As an educator Carol supports schools with literacy and reading intervention support and also works online with students from Africa. She enjoys time with her children, grandchildren, travel and continuing her mother’s research of Laguna Beach History.

Why did you choose to serve on the board? To give back to the Laguna Beach community that my early ancestors in the late 1800’s helped to develop. I want to, with the other board members, make a difference in the preservation of our very unique local history.

Why do you think your position on the board is a good match for you? Because it allows me to utilize my skills and experiences in a meaningful way, contributing to the society’s goals and objectives. I enjoy working with such a wonderful group of board members who share a love and passion for our city’s history.

What is your favorite part of working with the LB Historical Society? It is the sense of fulfillment I get from being a part of something larger than myself. It’s rewarding to see the impact of our efforts in preserving the historical archives, which includes photos, documents, articles, and many other types of historical memorabilia. Also, participating in the planning and execution of local historical events and educating the community about our rich history has been very fulfilling.

Board Member SPOTLIGHT

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.
Dendinger Boys 1948: Jim Dendinger in glasses sits with brothers Stan, Phil, and John on the steps of the Murphy Smith Bungalow. Dendinger family members rented the bungalow from their neighbor Blanche Clapp. Jim shared these photographs of his home next door (labeled as "our old wooden house") prior to the building of the bungalow when he visited last spring. His father owned a sheet metal shop in town.

NOTE: If you would like to receive your next newsletter in a digital format to save paper and printing costs
Send your email address to: info@lagunabeachhistory.org