



The News *Drogher*

Holiday 2023

The Dana Point Historical Society cordially invites you to a holiday reception on Sunday, December 10, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Society's museum in Dana Point City Hall, Suite 104, 33282 Golden Lantern.

Join us as we reminisce and review our accomplishments in 2023 with a slide presentation during the reception.

Raise a class of cheer with old and new friends and consider some of our merchandise, such as our collectible lantern ornament, our city seal ornament or a cozy Dana Point afghan suitable for holiday gift giving!

This is the time of year we give thanks for all of those who give their financial support, time and energy to the Society in myriad ways. We have museum docents, booth and outreach volunteers, technology and graphic design experts and board of directors members. In alphabetical order we wish to extend our gratitude to Bill Bamattre, Nik Bamattre, Ken Boyd, Judy Brandmeier, Max Brown, Lauren Boissevain, Mike Choate, Tricia & Michael Guthrie, Paul & Susan Hinman, Jeff Huston, Fay Kristjanson, Vickie & Jeff Lander, Rich LaRusso, Ellysa Marino, Rocky Parker, Stella Prenovost, Karin Schnell, Kevin Van Fleet, Kat Wallace, and Bob & Barb Wilson.

We also thank our hardworking Board of Directors: Elizabeth Bamattre, Bruce Beal, Joel Bishop, Grant Earl, Judy Henderson, Heidi Hyde, Nancy Jenkins, Barbara Johannes, Keith Johannes, Marsha LaRusso, Bob Minty, Gary Prenovost, Jim Proett, Kirsten Reynolds and Randy Roberts.

Giving Thanks As the Holidays Approach



November is our nation's official month of Thanksgiving. We celebrated Veterans Day on November 11th to honor and thank everyone who has served or is serving in our military. We thank our first responders who risk their lives to keep us safe at home. On this holiday we gather with family and friends to give thanks for our blessings. In the same spirit, I would like to personally thank the Dana Point Historical Society Board of Directors and volunteers for donating their time and talent and to thank all of our members for their dues and donations, which includes five new Life Memberships and many 2023 Scholarship Fund donations. In addition, we were fortunate to receive a \$2,500 grant from the Schlinger Family Foundation. We also appreciate the individuals who have donated historic books and photographs related to Dana Point's history.

All of our Society Members thank the City of Dana Point for the museum space to inform and meet the public as well as the use of the City Council Chambers for our program meetings. We appreciate and thank the 2023 speakers at our meetings who have included Mayor Mike Frost, Bob Zamora, Michael McCann and Chuck Bassett, assisted by Jean-Paul "The Fly" Van Swae. Their presentations informed us on a variety of topics including the city's regard for Dana Point's history, Basque sheep ranch history in Dana Point, the Golden Age of Surfing and the Toll Bros Apartments that could include a Capistrano Beach Historic Timeline Wall. In addition, we would like to recognize Kate Wheeler, President and CEO of Crystal Cove Conservancy who directed the Conservancy's staff to give our members a timely tour of the newly restored cottages in the Crystal Cove State Park Historic Cottage District.

As in the past, the Society has been invited to participate with other nonprofit organizations for the Festival of Whales, the Dana Point ArtFest, Ocean Institute Maritime Festival and the Arts & Culture Trolley Tour. In response to those invitations, DPHS Booth volunteers have reached out to the public seven days this year. In addition, our docents have kept the museum open three afternoons a week.

Thanks to the Dana Point Sister Cities Association (DPSCA), Keith and I were able to represent the Dana Point Historical Society for its visit to Sorrento, Italy, to help formalize the Dana Point Sister Cities Agreement. Upon arrival, our first activity was to visit the Cloisters of San Francesco, where Dana Point's Artist Exhibit was being unpacked. The Cloisters is in the heart of Sorrento's historic district, near ocean-view parks and hotels. After briefly assisting to unpack the shipped artwork, we were encouraged to see the local sites. We wandered into the nearby Imperial Tramontano Hotel and asked the uniformed doorman if there was an elevator down to the beach. He led us to the 'lift' and told us to press the bell at the bottom when we wished to return. We emerged into a long tunnel and followed it to the opening where changing tents and a long row of chairs were arranged near the water. Was this the hotel early Dana Point investors wanted Sidney H. Woodruff to emulate in 1930? Historian Doris Walker



The Imperial Tramontano Hotel. One can see the similarities of its design to the Dana Point Inn.

wrote that the Dana Point Inn, of which only remnants of the arches and elevator remain, was said to be patterned after the resort style of Sorrento, Italy. When we returned to the lobby and read the Tramontano's history, we were convinced it was. As a private mansion in 1541, the Tramontano was the birthplace of Torquato Tasso, the famous Italian poet who wrote "Jerusalem Delivered" and, as a hotel, it has sheltered many famous people including Goethe, Byron, Keats, Scott and Shelley. Longfellow stayed there and James Fenimore Cooper wrote the "Water Witch" while living there. A much longer list of famous names included royalty, but the Tramontano was certainly there in the early 1900s when Dana Point's future investors were guests in cliff-top hotels and rode 'lifts' to the seaside below. While in Sorrento, we presented an annotated copy of *Two Years Before the Mast* to Virgilio Marone High School and copies of Doris Walker's *Home Port for Romance* were presented to the City of Sorrento and the Sorrento Rotary Club by Bob Zasa, DPSCA President, on behalf of the Society. While at the high school, we met faculty members and two young ladies who gave a presentation to us in English on behalf of their fellow students. We were impressed with these students and with the student wall murals we saw, especially one commemorating journalists who were killed due to their newspaper articles about Mafia corruption. We also visited the Sant'Anna Institute, located in a restored convent, where we met the founder and had lunch with American students studying Italian and other languages during a semester abroad from their colleges here in the United States.

In our travels along the beautiful Amalfi Coast, we realized Dana Point is fortunate to have Sorrento as a sister city. We look forward to visits from Sorrento's officials, students and teachers in 2024 and beyond.

Please remember to join us for our Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 10, any time between 2:00 and 5:00 pm. Let's raise a glass of cheer for 2023 and toast the New Year!

Barbara Force Johannes

Marlene Beal



DPHS is saddened by the death of Society Life Member Marlene Beal in October after a long illness. In June of this year Marlene was preceded in death by her husband Bruce Leonard Beal, whom she assisted at Beal Business Law. Bruce and Marlene were honored at the Society's Founders Day event in 2016 and were avid supporters of DPHS. Both were Society volunteers for many years on home tours, at booth outreach events, as legal advisors and as museum docents. Both were avid travelers and were members of the Dana Point Yacht Club.

Ed Conway



The Society is sad, to report the death of DPHS Life Member Ed Conway in October. Ed arrived in Dana Point in the early 1980s. A local real estate agent, Ed joined the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce and was on its board of directors for a number of years. He served as the chairman of the board twice. Ed was Dana Point Citizen of the Year in 1987 and was also a supporter of various organizations including the Ocean Institute, the Capistrano Valley Symphony and the Dana Point Historical Society. With a big smile and generous laugh, he was considered a giving, supportive friend by those who knew him. Thanks to Ed's colleague Patti Short for providing the information on Ed's passing.

Crystal Cove Cottage Tour by Barbara Force Johannes

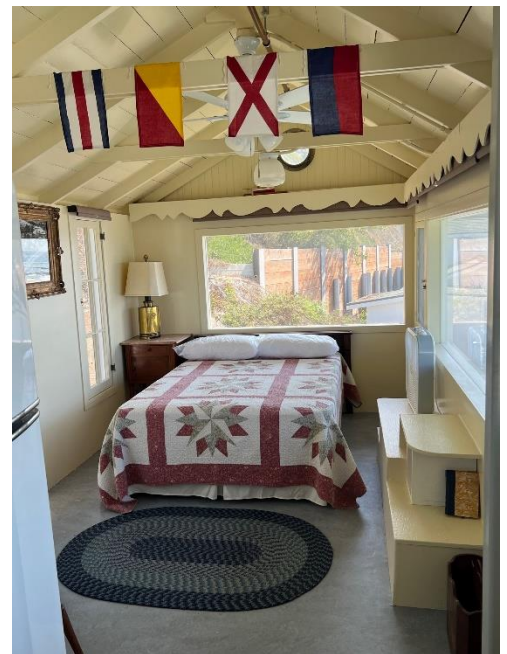
Photos by Vicki Lander, except where noted



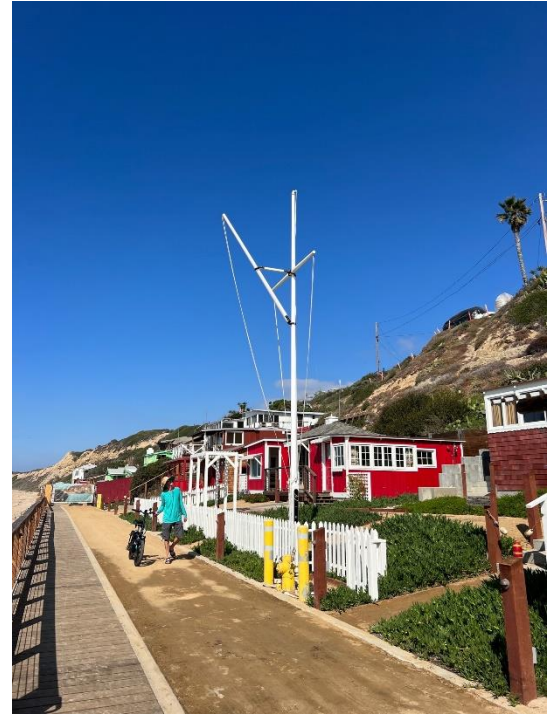
Photo by Joel Bishop

Twenty-six Society members relived the 1920s to 1940s on our October 26th tour of the Crystal Cove Historical Cottage District, located in Newport Beach, part of the 3,936-acre Crystal Cove State Park. Austin Barrow, Crystal Conservancy's Chief Operating Office, welcomed us to Crystal Cove

State Park at Cottage #35. The conservancy opened eight restored cottages this November and expects to open another 17 cottages over the next few years. A total of \$55 million for the entire cottage project came from many sources, including low-interest loans, donor pledges, grants, institutions and income earned from the existing cottages. Austin introduced us to Randy Gamache, Project Manager of Crystal Cove Management Company, who explained the



detailed process of restoring the cottages, taking each apart board-by-board, while bringing them up to current safety standards. The cottages are restored, inside and outside, to their original appearance. As we toured the interiors of the soon-to- be opened cottages, Randy and Austin shared stories of the families who lived there and of the unusual construction items discovered in the process. A member of one of those families, Laura Davick, is the founder of the Alliance to Rescue Crystal Cove, formed to protect the cove’s environment from the runoff of a nearby development, and to prevent the cottages from being demolished for a luxury resort hotel. The



Alliance ultimately became the Crystal Cove Conservancy. After the tour, eleven of us stopped for a delicious lunch at the Beachcomber restaurant and then made a brief visit to Erin Andreatta, Program Manager of the Advocacy and Engagement Office, to thank her for



arranging the tour. Tour participants donated over \$200 toward the Conservancy’s impressive educational programs as a thank you for their tour. To learn more, or to visit the Crystal Cove State Park’s century-old Historic Cottage District, go to crystalcove.org.

Seaside Inn Update



Renovation appears to be humming along at the former Swallows Inn of Capistrano Beach. Owners Jeff Finn and Danny Hyde, who operate as Artist Guild Hotels, bought the circa 1940s property in a 2021 foreclosure and have been restoring the historic motor inn ever since. Early on, supply chain issues created some problems, but now the project seems to be nearing completion. Many in the area hardly recognize the property from its previous days of dilapidation as a derelict and abandoned building. The entire community looks forward to an announcement regarding the motel’s opening.

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Upcoming events:

Holiday Party December 10, 2-5 p.m.

Membership

Welcome new members **Barbara Bates, Donna Berger & Danny Brawner, Steve Boehne, Mrs. Jerry Cowdrey, Mike & Sharon Emery, Marietta Hannigan, Dr. Sherry King, Lee Paschen,** and new **LIFETIME MEMEBERS John R. & Maria P.V. Young!**

As a reminder, annual dues will be payable in January. The membership categories are:

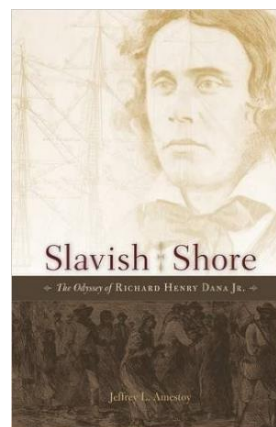
Individual	\$25 annual
Family	\$30 annual
Business	\$50 annual
Patron	\$100 annual
Life	\$500 lifetime

All contributions are tax deductible as the Historical Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Thank you again for your support of the Dana Point Historical Society --- active since 1987! Questions? Contact me at rmlarusso@msn.com

Marsha LaRusso

Plan Your Gift Giving Now!



Society members and friends are reminded that DPHS has many fun and interesting merchandise options that would make memorable holiday gifts for friends and family that love our area. We have new copies of Jeffrey Amestoy's *Slavish Shore: The Odyssey of Richard Henry Dana Jr.*, as well as historic photos suitable for framing, collectible ornaments and comfy afghans featuring woven image highlights of Dana Point. We also have Dana's classic *Two Years Before the Mast* and Doris Walker's *Homeport for Romance* detailing Dana Point's rich history.