



DANA POINT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The News *Drogher*

Winter 2025

HILBERT MUSEUM

OF CALIFORNIA ART • AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY



**Join us Wednesday, February 19, 2025
at Chapman University's
Hilbert Museum,
167 N. Atchison St., Orange, CA
for a tour of the art exhibit**

"Timothy J. Clark : Going Places"

**Artist Timothy J. Clark will
lead our tour.**

**Attendees should arrive by 10 a.m for
a self-guided general museum tour
from 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Enjoy Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the
Streamliner Lounge and Bar**

**After Lunch, view "Going Places,"
guided by the artist**

Reservations are limited to 30 people.

RSVP to: events@danapointhistorical.org or call (949) 248-8121

DPHS Introduces New President and Inducts Board Members

The Dana Point Historical Society held its annual meeting and potluck dinner on Wednesday, January 22, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church's Bankson Hall. The membership elected former Vice President Marsha LaRusso as President of the Society. In addition, Gary Macrides was elected as 1st Vice President and Jeff Lander was elected



as 2nd Vice President of Membership. Outgoing President Barbara Johannes was inducted as Historian and President Emeritus (read her farewell president's message following in this newsletter). Newly elected Dana Point Mayor Matthew Pagano was our guest speaker and inducted our new officers and board members.

Outgoing President Barbara Johannes, left, with a specially engraved crystal vase presented by the Society, is shown with incoming President Marsha LaRusso.



Mayor Matthew Pagano, left, inducts the Society's 2025 officers and board members. Left to right: Barbara Johannes, Historian and President Emeritus; Marsha LaRusso, President; Gary Macrides, 1st Vice President; Heidi Hyde, Secretary; Gary Prenovost, Treasurer; Jeff Lander, 2nd Vice President, Membership.

Farewell, But Not Goodbye

By Barbara Force Johannes



We had a beautiful day for our membership holiday reception, hosted by Steven Abraham at his historic Doheny home (pictured right), which was the headquarters of our first home tour in Capistrano Beach. Seventy people



attended and we thank the many Society members who generously donated to raise funds for one of two \$1,000 scholarships the Society will award to two graduating high school students who live in the City of Dana Point. My sincere thanks to our Board of Directors who volunteered to serve complimentary refreshments and lead guests on tours throughout Steven's home. Special guests included former presidents Mary Crowl and Terry Walsh, who were Home Tour Committee members on most of the 15 annual tours held from 2000 to 2015. The Society's Home Tours succeeded in bringing more interest in historic homes and structures whose owners have applied for the City of Dana Point's Historic Resources Register, the Mills Act and other incentives. It was the first Home Tour in 2000 at this same Doheny House when Keith and I were asked to have our Woodruff home included on the 2001 Woodruff Historic Home Tour and, consequently, we became more involved in the Historical Society.



Our newsletter editor, Max Brown, has asked me to recall the highlights while serving as president during the past 12 years. It was September 24, 2012, when City Manager Doug Chotkevys gave me the keys to Suite 104 (pictured left) after the City Council approved the Society as a City Hall tenant. The Society furnished the new

space with furniture and museum equipment and meetings were held to incorporate the City's updating of the suite with the Board of Directors vision. In March 2013, we celebrated a grand opening and ribbon cutting organized by the Chamber of Commerce (pictured right).



Since then, the Society has had docents volunteering at our museum two hours a day, three days a week, and by appointment. In addition, we meet the public when taking our Outreach Tent from storage to community festivals, the Vintage Redo Market and, recently, the “ArtFest” sponsored by the City’s Arts Ambassadors. There were the ongoing Community Book Readings of Richard Henry Dana Jr.’s *Two Years Before The Mast* to celebrate our namesake before, during and after Dana’s 200th birthday in 2015. Dana Point mayors and Dana’s relatives were among the memorable readers scheduled from Friday through Sunday. Additional special events included the Society adding a plaque to the pedestal of Dana’s statue and, together with Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, we acknowledged Les Remmers and thanked the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society for giving the statue of our namesake to Dana Point Harbor. Together with the Ocean Institute, we celebrated Dana’s birthday aboard the brig Pilgrim and invited Jeffrey L. Amestoy, former Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, to speak about his biography of Dana, *Slavish Shore*, especially timed to commemorate Dana’s 200th birthday. We purchased dozens of vertical light-pole banners to commemorate his birthday in 2015 and 2016. In 2016, we celebrated RH Dana Elementary’s 50th Anniversary when Bob Minty told the students Dana’s history with an interactive talk. The Society was also invited to work with Supervisor Bartlett, her Community Advisor, Sergio Prince, Orange County Archives and Harbor Partners on the Dana Point Harbor’s 50th Anniversary Time Capsule Celebration and Program. Elizabeth Bamattre, Special Events Chair, helped me turn the pages of my speech after I broke my wrist the morning of the event (pictured right). With the help of Chris Jepsen, OC Assistant Archivist, we exhibited the time capsule’s contents in the museum over the following year. In 2019, we were again honored to be the nonprofit organization to collect sponsors’ contributions and items for the new 2019-2069 Time Capsule Celebration.



Other highlights include our own celebrations: “Sunset at the Drogher Statue” (pictured left) for our 25th Anniversary and “Sailing Into History” on our 30th Anniversary in 2017, with the help of Dana Wharf, Coastal Kitchen, Wind & Sea and Waterman’s Restaurants. With Kirsten Reynolds as the Chair, we launched our first ornament, the City of Dana Point Seal, boxed with a brief history, for the City’s 30th Anniversary in 2019. Graphic Designer Rick Morgan spoke to our members about his presentations to the first City Council and his original drawings were exhibited in our museum. Rick later donated his City of Dana Point

Seal design portfolio to the Society archives. Our second ornament, of an original Dana Point Lantern, was released in 2022 to commemorate the Historical Society’s 35th Anniversary and

Dana Point's historic signature lanterns. The tradition will live on as we plan for a new ornament to commemorate Dana's 210th birthday this year. Additional memorable donations to the Society have been the beacon of the RICHFIELD Tower by Richard Deffenbaugh (pictured right) when he spoke to the Society at our January 2014 annual meeting. We have received original paintings and copies of paintings and prints important to Dana Point's history, as has been reported in The News Drogher. The museum's Hobie exhibit consists of acquisitions donated by Board Members Bob Minty and Bruce Beal. Bruce has also bequeathed his Surf Paddle & Sail Oceanic Heritage Journal to the Society's website, and Bob's 1929 Olds Woodie Station Wagon has become an extension of the Society at the Festival of Whales Parade and community events. Perhaps the most surprising donation was the set of Gorham Shell Pattern flatware engraved with "Dana Point Inn" on the back of each piece. Donors Linda and Terry Sonntag sent the silverplate originally made for Woodruff's never-completed Dana Point Inn, an important addition to our Sidney H. Woodruff collection. In addition to the speakers already mentioned, we have had Randle Biddle, who spoke to us on the design and capacity of the original brig Pilgrim, donated a copy of his research and recommended we contact Dr. William Brown, award-winning model ship maker, to display his model of the Pilgrim, which we eventually purchased from him and is now on permanent display at our museum. We managed to get through the Covid years with outside events and virtual programs by Eric Plunkett and others. Recent speakers and field trips have concentrated on filling in our local history. Speakers have included Joyce Hoffman



and David Boehne on growing up in legendary surfing families. We learned about immigrant Basque sheep-ranching families from Bob Zamora and the importance of Doheny Beach from Chuck Bassett, Don Kent and other inland Orange County surfers. There were the tours of Aliso Viejo Ranch, the Moulton Museum and Crystal Cove Cottages to learn about the history that surrounds Dana Point. We had descendants of Anna G. Walters (pictured left) visit, speak and give us



photographs and records of the Walters-Guy Family, who were early Dana Point founders. Dana family relatives had a reunion here and were so impressed with Mayor Federico's welcome and our assistance in planning their activities that they contributed a \$1,000 Dana

Scholarship in memory of their grandparents, who were descendants of Dana's first cousins. All these and more are cherished memories that could not have happened without our dedicated Board of Directors, who have faithfully attended monthly board meetings, chaired and volunteered at these activities and encouraged members to join in our mission to preserve the history of Dana Point for present and future generations.

There are so many more memories to share over the past 12 years, but not the space in this issue. My heartfelt thank you to all the Presidents, Board of Directors and members, before me and during my tenure, especially my husband Keith --- all of whom have joined me in making these memories possible.



2025 Scholarships



The Dana Point Historical Society will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships honoring prominent women in the history of our community: Doris I. Walker was a historian and the author of many books about local history as well as a founding member of the Dana Point Historical Society; Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson was the matriarch of the El Patio Restaurant family. She went into the restaurant business in 1937.

All graduating high school students who live in the City of Dana Point (92629 or 92624) and are planning to attend community college, university or trade school are eligible to apply. The award is based on need, interest in history and community service.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 18, 2025. They can be submitted by email to heidihhyde@gmail.com by that date. Please include a transcript and one or two letters of recommendation.

Download the application at https://danapointhistorical.org/Scholarship_Application

Dana Point Historical Society Website News

By Jeff Lander

We are excited to share that the Dana Point Historical Society (DPHS) website at www.DanaPointHistorical.org has a fresh new look as it has been redesigned with a custom theme. The site now offers social media integration with Facebook, Instagram and our YouTube channel and offers an overview of our local history, activities, exhibits, photographs, video, preservation and more.

Other features that have been incorporated into the newly designed site are:

- Membership renewal
- Updated ‘Store’ with new items and contemporary payment methods such as Venmo, GooglePay, Apple Pay and PayPal.
- Newsletter access with printable format options
- Access to prior years Newsletters

Courtesy of Technology Chair Grant Earl and Microsoft, our site is now backed up on Microsoft Share Point. While invisible site visitors, this ensures data security and backup, as well as the use of SharePoint’s indexing and storage capabilities.

Our new website is experiencing increased website activity, through links from other sites, social media interaction and receives better optimization when people search online for Dana Point information. These enhancements will result in greater exposure by the general public to the Society, as well as increased research access for students and all historians.

Please take a moment to view the newly designed site. When you do, be sure to note the newly released “LAST DAY AT KILLER DANA” T-shirt. These shirts are NOT STOCKED in the store but are available through special order from a third-party vendor. The cost of the shirts are \$33 each including tax: [Killer Dana T-Shirts](#)

Other new features found on the site are:

- Historic and current photos of landmark sites around Dana Point: You can view these by sliding your mouse across the photo to see old and new. We are continuing to expand this feature as we obtain additional current photos: [DPHS Vintage Photos](#) Scroll through this page and you will see a slider to see old versus new or before, and after photos.
- Exhibits and Archives: The Society maintains a rich collection of historical artifacts and exhibits that capture the essence of Dana Point’s history, including items related to Richard Henry Dana Jr., Sidney H. Woodruff and the local surfing heritage.
- Software: *Sign-up Genius* is now in use for our docents and volunteers, thanks to board member Gary Macrides.
- Archives access: Available for those interested in deeper historical research.
Try it out here: <https://danapointhistorical.org/exhibit/>
- MatterPort: A virtual walk-through of portions of the Museum. As if you were there.....
Check it out here: [Virtual Museum Tour](#)

Festival of Whales



Be sure to visit our outreach booth at the 2025 Festival of Whales, March 7-9. We will have our popular vintage photos available for order as well as our new Dana Point shirt, Dana Point Christmas ornaments, books, and other merchandise.

The Dana Point Historical Society is excited to bring back our popular Tile Booth, where you can create your own piece of history—one tile at a time! Your artwork will become a part of the Baby Beach wall, leaving a lasting mark on our community.

Find Us: Our booth will be located in the Parking Lot next to the Ocean Institute Campus.

Plan Ahead for Parking: Due to construction in the harbor and limited parking, we encourage you to take advantage of the **free shuttle** running from Dana Hills High School for easy access.

Historic Walking Tour: The Society will also have docents giving a walking tour at 2 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday starting at Coastal Kitchen restaurant. The walk takes about 90 minutes and features historic sites of downtown Dana Point. A small donation for this event is always appreciated.

Membership

As a reminder, the annual dues for 2025 were due in January. The membership categories are:

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

Please remit your dues at this time either via mail at P.O. Box 544, Dana Point, 92629; at our museum Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.; at one of our scheduled meetings or at events when our outreach booth is present.

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

Questions? Contact our new Membership Chair Jeff Lander at jeff.lander@icloud.com