



DANA POINT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The
News

DROGHER

September 2013

DPHS September 25 Meeting to be Held at Casino San Clemente



Painting by Rick Delanty

Our first fall meeting is to be a highlight for 2013! San Clemente Casino, located just over the line in North Beach, is less than a 15-minute drive on PCH. Casino San Clemente is just six miles from City Hall and we will still have daylight to see the restored casino, patio and gardens. Program chair, Ann Shultz, writes the details below:

The **Wednesday September 25th** meeting of the DPHS will be held at **6:30 p.m.** at Casino San Clemente, located at 140 Avenida Pico in San Clemente. Owner Linda Sadeghi will talk about the history of this fascinating building. Opened in 1937, the casino was a seaside dance and music hall, the "little sister" to the casino on Catalina Island. Hollywood stars were known to visit on their sojourns to the Del Mar racetrack and to enjoy dancing under the stars and in the ballroom. Famous visitors included Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Vivian Leigh and Cesar Romero.

The Sadeghi Family (of LAB Holdings LLC and CAMP retail center fame) purchased San Clemente Casino in 2009 and have been restoring the property to its original use, that of celebrations and special events. In October, Ellie's Table at North Beach, the casino's signature cafe, will open as well.



Gather for refreshments provided by Jay's Catering at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by a presentation and San Clemente Casino tour by Linda Sadeghi. --- Ann Shultz

Dana Point Historical Society 2013 Home Tour

Sunday, October 6, 2013, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

“... from the hills of Hollywood to the sea ... in Dana Point”



This year, our 13th annual Home Tour is featuring those homes and buildings Sidney H. Woodruff built in Dana Point --- his dream of a resort and “play-land” by the sea. Our signature house for the 2013 Home Tour is Woodruff's own original home, pictured here.

Your day will begin with **coffee and registration** at your choice of either the DPHS Museum, Suite 104 in City Hall, or at *StillWater Spirits & Sounds*, 24701 Del Prado. There is plenty of parking at our City Hall museum and you will want to “set the mood” by viewing the Woodruff exhibit of his 1920s planned community. Registration starts at 11 a.m. but continues through midday to accommodate later arrivals. It is suggested you **allow approximately three hours** to tour the four homes and the unique Woodruff apartment building. This is a self-driving tour and three of the homes are within walking distance of each other. Each home will have a docent to greet you. Be sure to plan on attending the reception at *StillWater* starting at 2 p.m. which also includes our raffle drawing shortly after 4 p.m. (although you need not be present to win). Note that *StillWater* is open for brunch and dinner if you would like to begin or end your day with a meal. Stop in to see their historic Woodruff property (originally his sales and promotion auditorium) and vivid display of historic photographs.

Ticket and sponsorship order forms are enclosed in this newsletter. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the registration sites the day of the event. Details about the houses and their locations will be included in the day's Home Tour Program..

President's Message



The release of *The Great Gatsby* film last May served as a great introduction to our 2013 Home Tour. Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel, the film depicts and contrasts the cultural changes in American society in the years after World War I and before the Great Depression. The development of Dana Point in the 1920s was an example of wealthy businessmen investing in the future --- a beach community offering resort living to the newly wealthy and those aspiring to be part of the American dream. Developer Sidney H. Woodruff, having experienced success with *Hollywoodland*, arrived in Dana Point in 1926 and, despite the stock market crash of 1929, would continue to promote his *Community of Enchantment By-the-Sea* until a lack of finances brought it to an end in 1939. Our 2013 Lantern Village Home Tour recalls the optimism of the 1920s era with visits to five homes built from 1928 to 1930 and a reception at the *StillWater Spirits & Sounds* with its period décor complimenting one of Dana Point's oldest commercial buildings. This is a tour that celebrates our 1920s heritage. The DPHS Home Tour Committee invites each of you to "experience" this salute to 1920s optimism, rather than just being a spectator in a theater audience. The home once occupied by the Woodruff family has been restored to its original period within the last year. Another tour home is hidden in plain sight with a charming casita in a secluded patio. Two other beach homes were built as weekend getaway homes and there is a fifth property that has been nearly returned to its original appearance. In attending our home tour, you will have the added satisfaction of contributing to our one annual fundraiser and supporting our mission to preserve the history of Dana Point.

We hope you will invite a friend and gather with us to make an event of our first fall meeting at the *Casino San Clemente*, a local building constructed during the post-World War I Jazz Age. If the Charleston epitomized the 1920s, until crushed by the 1929 market crash, the Big Band era represented the country's hope for a better economic future in the 1930s. Folks across the country went to dances (for as little as 10 cents on a weeknight) during the depression. It is a testimony of faith in the United States economy that the Casino San Clemente opened during the depression in 1937. It is a smaller version of the casino in Avalon on Catalina Island that opened in May, 1929. "Casino" is defined as a gathering place and today's restored Casino San Clemente is an event center. You will want to meet our hostess, Linda Sadeghi, the owner and a preservationist who has repurposed this charming venue.

Our June Scholarship "Picnic Mexicano" in Lantern Bay park was one of our most successful ever thanks to our volunteers. We could not have done it without Jack Saunderson of *El Patio Café*, the family and friends attending in memory of Beverly Sels and all our members. The food was delicious and enough funds were raised for two \$1000 scholarships for two deserving young ladies with an additional \$500 reserved for next year's scholarships.

It is never too late to donate as a sponsor or get a donation from your favorite restaurant or shop for the 2013 Home Tour. Or buy a ticket for yourself and a friend to attend. The Home Tour Committee is spending untold hours organizing the tour and we need your support to spread the word and, of course, to attend. We can be a success with our members' support.

Barbara Force Johannes

Dan Raphael,
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In honor of Beverly Sels,
in memorium

Picnic Mexicano Scholarship Event



Beverly Sels

The Dana Point Historical Society honored **Beverly Sels** at “*Picnic Mexicano*,” its scholarship fundraiser held on June 26, 2013. More than 100 people attended. **Jack Saunderson**, son of scholarship namesake **Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson**, prepared a Mexican dinner that was a delicious representation of Lucy's famous authentic recipes served at *Lucy's El Patio Café* which included tacos, cheese enchiladas, rice and beans, and chips and salsa. Jack spoke about Doris I. Walker's kindness to his mother and about Beverly Sels establishing the DPHS scholarship program in honor of Lucy. Desserts were provided by DPHS board members with coffee service provided by member Jim Miller of Coffee Importers. The ocean-view setting at Lantern Bay Park had a charming south-of-the-border flavor with decorative white, red and green balloons, Mexican serapes and sombreros. A raffle featured prizes that included historic prints, gift baskets, gift cards and *El Patio Café* caps.

Two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to students **Melissa Chmelik** of San Clemente High School, who received the Lucy Chavarrias-Saunderson Scholarship; and **Sarah Ann Martino** of Dana Hills High School, who received



Blair Walker, Sarah Anne Martino, Jack Saunderson and Melissa Chmelik

the Doris I. Walker Scholarship. **Glenn Sels**, widower of past DPHS President Beverly Sels, introduced his family and friends who attended in her honor. Beverly initiated the scholarship program together with Jack Saunderson, in honor of his mother, Lucy, of whom he spoke in tribute. **Blair Walker** spoke about his own mother, **Doris I. Walker**, for whom the second DPHS scholarship is named. Each of the scholarship recipients introduced their family members and spoke of their educational plans and career goals

Our Volunteers are the Best!

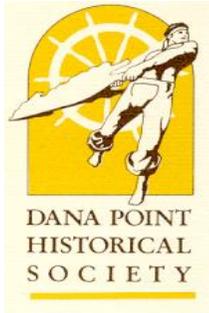
The Ocean Institute invited the Historical Society to have a booth at the Tall Ships Festival on September 7 and 8. Whenever we display Dana Point History there is a great deal of organization involved on the part of many volunteers to assemble the equipment, photographs and books to share with the public. Thanks to our members who set-up the booth, volunteered over two days and then took the booth down and returned everything to its place. And a big THANK YOU to ALL of our volunteers for contributing your precious time this summer for the Scholarship Picnic, as a Museum Docent and/or for the Tall Ship Festival Booth:

Regina Barnes, Elizabeth, Bill and Nick Bamattre, Barbara Boyd, Max Brown, Rene Cortez, Mary Crowl, Richard Gardner, Judy Henderson, Susan & Paul Hinman, Heidi Hyde, Rod Howorth, Sandie Iverson, Barbara & Keith Johannes, Christy & Eric Johnson, Ingrid McGuire, Barbara & George Miller, Jim & Michelle Miller, Linda Moore, Willa Porter & Pete Hammer, Beatrice Reed, Kirsten Reynolds, Jack Saunderson, Karin & Fred Scuncio, Glen Sels & family, Ann & Robert Shultz, Lucy Siebert, Ross Teasley, Hank Thomas and Mary Williams.

As is so often quoted:

Volunteers are seldom paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS.

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Membership

Thanks to all who have renewed your membership dues. It is very much appreciated. Our activities, such as the newsletter, program meetings, collection and preservation of documents and photographs, are funded by your dues.

We would like to recognize the following new members:

Ron Trerotola
Greg and Lanci Wall
Edward (Ted) Quinn, Technology Resources

And a special thank you to **Donna Kalez, Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching**, for becoming a Life Member.

All contributions are tax deductible as the Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 33-0359288.

Regina Barnes

Remember September!



September is the month to renew your Ralph's Community Contribution Program. Please watch your email for information on how to renew your participation. It can be done by printing the scan letter emailed to our members and taking it to your local Ralph's, OR, by signing up online. Instructions for signing up online can be received by dropping us an email at: DPHSNewsletter@gmail.com