



# *The News Drogher*

Summer 2022

## **DPHS Program Features the History of Capistrano by the Sea Hospital on May 18**

The Dana Point Historical Society will have its next meeting on **Wednesday, May 18**, in council chambers located in Dana Point City Hall. ***Dana Point's Dolphin House: The Lost Years of Capistrano by the Sea Hospital (1979 to 1998)*** will feature a presentation by a panel of former Capistrano by the Sea Hospital professionals sharing anecdotes and slides about the complex's evolution, programs and clientele, documenting the years the Dolph House was used as a free-standing psychiatric hospital prior to being restored as a single family home. A Q&A period will end the program.



The event starts promptly at **7 p.m.** and will have Marc Skelton PhD, Sarah Steinmeyer PhD, Jay Bruhl, RN, Barry Havlik, MA, Dee Goodfellow, LCSW and Maria Ricaurte, LISW (via remote) as featured speakers. A reception in our museum will follow the program.

***Join us on June 27 for the Dana Point Sister Cities Kick-Off Event!***

You are invited to *Brio Tuscany Grill* on Monday, June 27, to celebrate the creation of the Dana Point Sister Cities International Association at the "Wine & Tastes of Italy."

**See PAGE 3 for details!** 

## A Hospital Revisited, and a Summer Salute to Sorrento



Our upcoming May meeting is the result of a Capistrano by the Sea Hospital & Clinic staff Zoom reunion of professionals who worked there from the late 1970s until the facility closed in 1998. It was in August 2021 when I returned a call to the museum from Dee Psychos Goodfellow, who subsequently emailed me c.1981 photos from Susan Griffin Van Leaven, a hospital employee. The photos were of the “Dolphin” house, the adolescent unit and the adult psych unit. Dee commented that it seemed like there were Eucalyptus trees everywhere, but there was one large grassy expanse with a gazebo overlooking the harbor. She also sent a photo of Dr. Charles O. “Tony” Sturdevant, the hospital’s medical director during those years. As a result, I asked Dee if former staff members would consider presenting an oral history program about their years at the hospital for our members.

The 2002 Historic Resources Assessment to preserve the historic significance of the Dolph Residence by Steven Fader, Architect, divides the Dolph estate into three general periods: The Blanche Dolph Era, 1914-1945; the Capistrano by the Sea Hospital & Clinic era, 1953-1998; and the restoration as private residence 2003-2006, which continues to this day. We have very little recorded history about the hospital years. For our meeting, a distinguished professional panel has been organized whose members will fill in the blanks and share their experiences from a time when the oldest historic home in Dana Point was a free-standing psychiatric hospital and clinic.

According to Barry Havlik, MA, panel moderator, the topics to be discussed include: the establishment of Capistrano by the Sea Hospital by Dr. Harold E. Day, who purchased the property in 1953; the evolution of the various programs and treatment modalities; how the hospital and clinic were set apart from other psychiatric facilities; how the clinical staff counseled and educated clients; what was done to create interdisciplinary team building and staff morale; and the types of clientele in which it specialized.

The program starts promptly at 7:00 pm in City Council Chambers on Wednesday, May 18, and will be recorded. A wine & cheese reception will follow afterward in the museum.

The Historical Society is honored to be a sponsor of the newly formed Dana Point Sister Cities International Association fundraiser. The goal of the new nonprofit is to choose a sister city with which to exchange arts, culture and international goodwill. Our participation helps sponsor a worthwhile organization and also helps to raise money for our scholarship fund.

It is appropriate that the first fundraiser celebrates the cuisine and culture of Italy. Did you know that early investors in Sidney H. Woodruff’s 1920s Dana Point wanted to develop a seashore community inspired by Sorrento, Italy?

Dr. J. L. Beebe and his wife, H. Eva Beebe invested in Dana Point as early as 1923-24 and were among those who envisioned an elaborate hotel overlooking the Pacific Ocean with hundreds of Mediterranean-style homes and numerous recreational facilities. Sidney H. Woodruff arrived in 1925 and subdivided Dana Point in 1926. His plans also called for a yacht harbor, polo field, golf course and a luxurious hotel patterned after hotels along the cliffs of Sorrento, Italy. Woodruff started construction of the Dana Point Inn hotel in January 1930, to be finished for the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. Photographs in Woodruff’s investor and realtor albums, entitled *DANA POINT, The New Seacoast and Recreational Community on California’s South Shore*, compared the similarities of the Dana Point Headlands and coastline with Sorrento’s coastline. However, hotel construction stopped the same year it began due to the faltering economy caused by the stock market crash in October 1929.

The three remaining hotel arches on the historic Bluff Top Trail above the harbor and the Dana Point Inn elevator entrance below, on Harbor Drive, seek to remind us of the never-completed hotel. Dana Point Inn stock certificates, stationery and engraved silverware, ordered for the hotel but never used, are displayed in our museum. The 1980s Admiralty condominium development is on the grounds of the abandoned hotel foundation, originally built to overlook a planned harbor. It seems Sorrento, Italy, was an understated influence on our local history.

Let’s toast to a future sister city when we gather at Brio’s Tuscany Grill on June 27th. If you are out of town or cannot attend, please consider donating to our 2022 Scholarship Fund.

*Barbara Force Johannes*

## Join Us for Our Summer Event on June 27 for the Dana Point Sister Cities International Association Kick-Off Event!

The Dana Point Historical Society has joined with the newly-formed nonprofit Dana Point Sister Cities International Association to promote the organization's first fundraiser event. Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for sister city programs in nearly 500 communities, with relationships in over 2,000 communities in more than 140 countries. It provides members with a number of programs to promote citizen diplomacy, and members work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through exchanges that focus on arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development. The organization is essential in promoting the importance of international exchange and people-to-people relationships worldwide.

Association President Robert Zasa invites you to join the organization and its members at its introductory event on Monday, June 27, for a salute to the ambience of Italy.



*This photograph of Sorrento, Italy, is from an S.H. Woodruff realtor's album, "DANA POINT: The New Seacoast Community On California's Beautiful South Shore." The photo served as inspiration for Woodruff's early designs of Dana Point.*

*You are invited!*

*What: "Wine & Tastes of Italy" wine tasting*

*When: Monday, June 27, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

*Where: Brío Tuscany Grill, 24050 Camino del Avión, Dana Point*

*Donation: \$75 per person*

*Each ticket includes admission to wine tasting, food, and  
a one-year membership in the nonprofit  
Dana Point Sister Cities International Association*

You may make payment for reservations at the Dana Point Historical Society located in City Hall (949-248-8121) open every Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 1-3 p.m., **OR**, mail checks, made out to: Dana Point Historical Society, PO Box 544, Dana Point, CA, 92629.

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## 2022 DPHS Calendar

**May 18** San Juan by the Sea Presentation      **June 27** Sister Cities *Taste of Italy* at Brio Restaurant

## Membership

Please welcome new members: **Diane Akers Family, Tom and Marjean Brascia, Peggy and Mickey Byrnes, Glenda Carhart, Elizabeth Keene, Vernon and Michelle Villasenor, Mark Whitley and Ben Kelly!**

**As a reminder, the annual dues for 2022 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 or at the museum Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.**

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

Contact Marsha La Russo at [rmlarusso@msn.com](mailto:rmlarusso@msn.com)

## Other News

We'd like to thank past Society President Don Burnes who donated and shipped two framed art items to the Society. One is a painting by local artist Cubby Rayfield of his and the late Alice Baum's former historic Doheny house. The second is a large photo of the house signed by Dana Point residents.

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Also, thanks to Joe Dunn, local author and Society member who donated an original Capistrano Beach "Birth of a City" brochure, in pristine condition, to the Historical Society archives. The brochure advertises "3 miles of Bathing Beach, 1000 acres of Homesites and J. A. Waldy, Exclusive Agent in Los Angeles."

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The Society would also like to congratulate 2010 Founders Day honoree Lynn Muir and his wife, Juanita, on their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Lynn's architectural firm dates to 1963 and he knows much of the history of Dana Point.