



The News Drogher

Autumn 2025

DPHS Celebrates Keith Johannes As Founders Day Honoree on September 10



The Dana Point Historical Society will honor our society's Preservation Chair, Keith Johannes, as our 2025 Founders Day Award recipient. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and our presentation will begin at 6 p.m. A reception will follow in our museum.

This award was begun in 2002 to honor residents of Dana Point who have made significant contributions to the community during their lifetimes --- contributions that improve the city and the life of those who live here and are part of its ongoing history. Pioneers of the incorporation of the city have been honored, as well as those contributing to its cultural life, city government, business, various boards and commissions and supporters of clubs and nonprofit organizations in Dana Point.

Since becoming a resident of the City of Dana Point in 1969, Keith has been an active and involved leader in the preservation and renovation of historical homes and buildings within Dana Point. His understanding and use of the Mills Act regarding historic structures has enabled the City of Dana Point to preserve such key places as Pines Park, the Palisades Gazebo, the Doheny House and the Seaside Inn. Many of these preservations involved legal proceedings, some of which were adjudicated at the California Supreme Court level. Moreover, his active and involved presence at City Council meetings, notable academic societies, preservationist gatherings as well as cultural events throughout Orange County is noteworthy. His promotion of the unique culture and identity of our wonderful city has resulted in Keith speaking to neighboring cities and communities as well as being an insightful participant in the Orange County Historical Society. Further, his knowledge of the local community and the process necessary to preserve and promote bygone architectural relics such as the original lanterns adjacent to Pines Park and the remnants of the Dana Point Inn has helped ensure our city retain its unique and stalwart identity. It is the Dana Point Historical Society's great pleasure to present the 2025 Founders Award to Keith Johannes.

Rocky Parker, Archives Chair

President's Message

Marsha LaRusso



As we watch August quickly pass by, and as I sit and gather my thoughts, I realize we are fast approaching the end of summer. We recently witnessed the unveiling of another city-sponsored statue in honor of Dana Point's iconic residents and surfing legends. This time we honored Philip and Walter Hoffman at Waterman's Plaza on July 31 and the Society was represented by several DPHS board members and spouses: Gary Macrides, Nancy Jenkins, Barbara & Keith Johannes, Elizabeth & Bill Bamattre and myself with my husband Rich.

Our Founders Day meeting will take place on September 10 in Council Chambers in City Hall. I am happy to report that this year our honoree will be Keith Johannes, our Preservation Chair. Keith has done so much to keep our local historic buildings and homes from becoming forgotten history. He is a true champion.

I know I started off by saying that it is still summer; however, we are fast approaching that time when we will begin the planning for our open house for the holidays. Speaking of the holidays, Kirsten Reynolds has been busy planning, designing and organizing two new ornaments for holiday sale. Stay tuned for information regarding our holiday reception.

I would also like to take this time to appeal to all our generous members to consider donating to our scholarship fund. Our \$1,000 scholarships are such a worthwhile contribution to our future generations and their education.



Congratulations to Katie McKay, left, on receiving our \$1,000 Doris I. Walker scholarship. Katie graduates from San Clemente High and will be attending Wheaton College in



the fall, studying elementary education. And, congratulations to Kristel Donis, shown right, with DPHS 1st Vice President Gary Macrides, on receiving our \$1000 Lucy Navarro Chavarrias Saunderson scholarship. Kristel graduates from San Clemente High School and will be attending Saddleback College and plans to transfer to a nursing program within the University of California.

Sister Cities Students From Sorrento, Italy, Visit DPHS Museum



Exchange students from The Dana Point Sister Cities International Program from Sorrento, Italy, visited the Dana Point Historical Society's museum this month along with their Dana Point counterparts who visited Sorrento in June. Shown left to right are DPHS President Marsha LaRusso, Dana Point resident Ilyse Stein, Sorrento resident Lorena De Martino, DPHS Events Chair Elizabeth Bamattre, Dana Point resident Laia Owens and Sorrento resident Pasquale Tito.

Society Representatives Attend

Waterman's Plaza Event

The latest addition to Waterman's Plaza on Pacific Coast Highway is a statue of surf-legend brothers Philip "Flippy" and Walter Hoffman. In addition to surfing they were both experienced divers and fishermen. They travelled the globe in search of water experiences and then eventually took over their father's business, Hoffman California Fabrics, a company that provided fabric to various water sports industries. Artist Bill Limebrook created their likenesses for the bronze statue.

Several members of DPHS attended the unveiling ceremony in July including Gary Macrides (who photographed the statue, right), Nancy Jenkins, Barbara & Keith Johannes, Elizabeth & Bill Bamattre and Marsha & Rich LaRusso.



Dana Point Featured in AAA Westways Magazine



Photo by Daniel Hennessy

Be sure to check out the fall issue of AAA Westways Magazine, which features a spread on where to visit in Dana Point which includes our very own Hide Drogher statue. You can view the magazine online here: [AAA Magazine article](#)

Social Media Volunteer Needed

The Society is looking for a volunteer to manage our social media sites. Ideally, the position would involve 2-4 hours per week posting and editing content on our Facebook and Instagram pages and could include increasing our presence on other sites. If you have experience working with social media and would like to volunteer, please contact Gary Macrides at Events@danapointhistorical.org or call 949-248-8121.

Membership

Please welcome new members **Kathleen Carlisle, Sarena Underwood** and **Lynne Yauger!**

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 Membership Chair Jeff Lander at
Jeff.Lander@danapointhistorical.org
630-240-9266.