



Bring on the PUMPKIN SPICE!

It's actually feeling like Fall, so I've begun testing recipes -- Fall always sparks that baking feeling in me. And it's a good thing, because our Society's Annual Holiday Boutique is coming up on Saturday, November 8; like many of you, I will be baking some treats for sale there.

Our multi-talented new Hospitality Chair Karen Dorney is the Boutique Bake Sale coordinator this year, so if you are like me and love the smell of goodies warming in the oven, *please email*

solanabeachhistory@gmail.com by October 31 to let us know what you plan to

contribute. Bakers will need to drop off their creations during Boutique set up on Friday, November 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center, 715 Valley Ave. (or no later than 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 8.) Remember: Boutique proceeds help to fund our Scholarship Program.

We have lots of October events coming up, too. Our next General Meeting program is on Thursday, October 9 at 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center, with Stephen Wilkens of Wilkens Garden and Ranch Supply. Stephen will share memories of the family business that opened here in 1933 and served Solana Beach through to 1986. I have a funny memory to share with our members about that amazing store!

Also coming soon is Dia de los Muertos. Every year I build an "ofrenda," or altar-style offering, that includes photos and favorite food items of my late loved ones. For my dad I have Thanksgiving Stuffing mix, and for my brother...enchilada sauce and Corona beer. You'll see the work in progress on the left.



This year, the Solana Beach/La Colonia Dia de los Muertos fiesta is on Sunday, October 19 at La Colonia Park. Since our Society recently lost a fond friend and our longtime historian, Richard Moore, we are planning an ofrenda in his honor on a corner of the Heritage Museum porch. Please learn more about Richard on the following page; he was a true treasure to our community and our Society.

The history books that Richard helped research and get published, as well as his "The Service Eternal," a remembrance of servicemen killed in 20th century wars, will be available at the SBC&HS/SeaWeeders booth during the event. The latter tribute is particularly fitting since the focus of this Dia de los Muertos is "Honoring our Veterans, Heroes of the 20th century." Please let us know if you'd like to help at the booth.

We're also seeking volunteers to help at our booth at the Solana Beach School District's Halloween Carnival on Sunday, October 26, which will include events to commemorate the District's 100th year anniversary.

Please email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com if you would like to help at any of these Fall events!

Jolene "Jojo" Dodson Bogard

P.S. It's almost time to renew your annual membership dues. Please [check your 2025 membership status here](#), and use the online form before January 1, 2026 or follow directions to send us a check.

Richard Moore Celebration of Life

You are invited to share fond memories of Richard Moore's many contributions to our community on Sunday, October 12, 2 to 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center. Flowers are welcomed.

If you would like to make a donation in Richard's honor, the family generously suggests directing it to the Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society.

[Donate Here](#)



Frances and Richard Moore were honored at our 2021 Holiday Luncheon

Richard Moore, 1930 to 2025

The Society lost a dear friend on September 1, when Richard Moore passed away at his historic home on South Nardo Avenue. He was 95.

Frances and Richard moved to Solana Beach in 1964 from Kansas for a nuclear engineering position at General Atomics. They settled into their 1928 Spanish Colonial home when the neighborhood still featured avocado groves, flower farms and an orchid nursery. Their two children, Beth Ann and Richard, raised lambs and chickens.

After several apartment complexes went up on the bluffs above Via de la Valle Avenue, the Moores were instrumental in convincing the County Board of Supervisors to block further development of multi-family housing on then-rural Nardo Avenue by circulating a petition with neighbors. They later helped to promote the campaign for Solana Beach Citihood, which was successful in 1986.

Richard was born in 1930 on his family's wheat farm in Pratt, Kansas. He and Fran met in the 1950s at the University of Kansas, where he studied nuclear physics and she earned a BA in American History. After completing his Masters, Richard earned a Diploma in Nuclear Engineering from the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology in 1952. He and Fran later returned to the University of Kansas, where Richard earned his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics in 1963.

During the Korean War, Richard served in the Army, based with Fran at the large Utah weapons testing facility, Dugway Proving Ground. After completing his Ph.D., he was recruited to San Diego by General Atomics, where he worked for 21 years. The couple rented out their home for a move to Atlanta, where Richard partnered on a nuclear medicine startup. At Theragenics, Richard helped develop isotope treatments for liver, pancreas and prostate cancer.

From there, the couple moved in 1990 to Washington, D. C., where Richard took a seven-year position with the Office of Nuclear Energy in the Department of Energy, lending his expertise in nuclear physics to advancements for the military and other industries.

Retiring home to Solana Beach, the Moores became very active with the SBC&HS. Richard served for many years as our Research Historian, ferreting out the true story of the "pillbox" -- a World War II fire control structure -- as well as writing a regular newsletter feature called "The Way it Was -- I Think." He helped organize and transcribe many "older timers" interviews with long-time residents of Solana Beach -- a tradition Richard and Fran helped us continue in 2021 when they sat down with then-president Michele Stribling for a video interview. He also took a part in our Living History Program skit for third graders. He enjoyed dressing the part and demonstrating basic farm tools at the Stevens House.

Richard delved into the ancient history of the area to develop a limited-edition book and slide show on "The 11,000 Year History of the Western San Dieguito River Valley." Richard also was a key contributor of research for Jim Nelson's two history books about Solana Beach. He wrote the story of Ed Fletcher's sugar beet farm near what is now the Del Mar Fairgrounds. He also compiled "The Service Eternal," a Remembrance of local servicemen killed in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, which was presented to the City during dedication of the War Memorial in our Town Plaza.

Richard's intellect was matched by his insatiable curiosity and his quick wit. He left a considerable "to do" list of historical research topics for our continued pursuit! All of us will greatly miss this remarkable man.



SeaWeeders Honored as Environmental Heroes

Our SeaWeeders Garden Club has been chosen as an awardee for California State Assembly District 77th Environmental Hero Awards.

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner annually recognizes individuals and organizations that make our community a better place and protect our environment. After a community call for nominations (the SeaWeeders were nominated by a partner at City Hall), this year Assemblymember Boerner chose The SeaWeeders Garden Club to receive the Greening award. (There are a total of eight awards.)

The SeaWeeders sustain the long history of community beautification begun by our Civic & Historical Society founders, the Solana Beach Women's Civic Club. Over the decades, Club projects have included landscaping along Hwy. 101 and at the Plaza, median landscape designs on Lomas Santa Fe and Highland Drives, renovation of the Post Office garden (which our volunteers still tend) and El Viento pocket park, and our ongoing partnership with the City of Solana Beach to expand pollinator habitat through the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, including at our community garden along the Coastal Rail Trail.

Club members will accept the award at a ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 11th at Del Mar City Hall, 1050 Camino Del Mar.

If you would like to join the event, please email sbseaweeders@gmail.com.



Join the Wait List: Smartphone Basics + Emergency Features Training



Solana Beach Community Connections and Senior Tech Connect invite you to join the wait list for additional one-hour **workshops to review smartphone basics and emergency features**. If there is enough interest, the groups will add sessions on Tuesday, Oct. 2 and Tuesday Oct. 9, both at at La Colonia Community Center. Timing will be prior to 2:30 p.m.

The first class reviews smartphone basics for iPhone/iPad and Android devices, including how to access quick controls, connect to Wi-Fi, and adjust settings. Session two focuses on important emergency features, such as setting up SOS options and adding "In Case of Emergency" contacts so

first responders know how to find your friends, family and physicians, if needed.

Act fast to fill the wait list so additional sessions can be added! Email Marilyn Barnett at Marilynbarnett484sd@gmail.com or call 858-284-6619 to register by phone.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 5 p.m., Fletcher Cove Community Center



Remembering Wilkens Ranch and Garden Supply store

Stephen Wilkens will share memories of his family's business, Wilkens Ranch & Garden Supply store, which opened in 1933 at the corner of Lomas Santa Fe Drive and Cedros Avenue and served our community until 1986.

The store once carried more than 23,000 items of stock!

Save the Dates!

2025 SBC&HS Meetings & Events

Monthly member meetings have returned to **Fletcher Cove Community Center**, unless otherwise indicated.

Email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com to volunteer for coming events.

- **Thursday, October 9:** Stephen Wilkens remembers his family's business of 1933 to 1986.
- **Tuesday, October 14:** SeaWeeders meeting featuring Meg Blancato, co-owner of the Native Poppy floral business.
- **Sunday, October 19:** Volunteers needed to help staff our booth at Dia de los Muertos in La Colonia Park.
- **Saturday, October 26:** Celebrate the Solana Beach School District Centennial at the annual Halloween Carnival at Solana Vista Elementary School. Volunteers needed to help staff the Society's booth.
- **Saturday, November 8:** Holiday Boutique at La Colonia Community Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- On **December 4**, we're planning a new holiday tradition. Details to follow . . .

The SeaWeeders meet on the second Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. to the Center for a Healthy Lifestyle cottage behind the Boys & Girls Club on Lomas Santa Fe Drive. The Crafts Group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., at La Colonia Community Center. All are welcomed!



Honoring Our Veterans

Sunday, October 19, 2025

10 AM - 5 PM



Presented by
@LACOLONIA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
Free Admission

Holiday Boutique Sat., Nov. 8

Our Crafts Group is recruiting volunteers to help with Holiday Boutique set up and sales, as well as to bake savory and sweet treats for sale. To sign-up to help, please email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com

Oct. 4 is Sustainable Recycling Day

Register with EDCO for curbside pickup of bulky-items by calling 858.350.8544, or drop off items between 9 a.m. and noon at La Colonia Community Center. Free mulch, on-site paper shredding and electronic waste recycling also will be available.

[Learn more here.](#)

Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society

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