



Love is in the air . . .

It's February! Please join us for the return of local, talented **Young Virtuosos for our February 12 program, 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center.** Bringing together these talented artists and our residents brings me so much joy. These young violinists -- students at the Solosoli Music Studio -- really wowed when they performed last year. You won't want to miss this performance!

Speaking of local artists, I was thrilled to use many artifacts from our Heritage Museum for my Solana Beach Community Theater recent production of "Little Women." Bringing these artifacts to our studio really transformed my actors. They used the ink well, magazines/newspapers, spectacles, candle sticks, old skates, tables, quilts and even items for making ice cream. Vice President Michele Stribling attended a performance and noted "to see items on stage and not just in a museum setting was so fitting for the production. What a treat."



Here's Robbie Harless playing Meg; do you recognize anything from our Heritage Museum in the scene?

In March, we invite more youths to see and touch our Museum artifacts as we open for "Living History" program visits by Solana Beach 3rd graders on March 19th and 26th. Should you want to volunteer at these sessions, please let us know. Teaching our history through living theater and local events is what we do.

Special thanks to the City of Solana Beach for tending to some of the many chores of keeping our Museum in top shape. Parks and Recreation Department employees emptied our shed and treated for termites some weeks back; additional treatments and roof repairs are planned this spring for the Museum.

Continued on next page



Solosoli music instructor Sang Shen, violinist, was herself a musical child prodigy! Shen was born to musician parents in Shanghai, China. She was accepted to the prestigious Shanghai Conservatory of Music at age 9 and went on to win most major competitions in China. She also performed as a soloist with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

In 1988, Ms. Shen moved to Chicago to study violin at Roosevelt University on a full scholarship. In 1989, she won the the Leonard Sorkin Award for Violin and the Harvey Mittenenthal Scholarship. In 1990 and 1991 she won second prize in the American Opera Society Competitions and became Concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Civic Orchestra under the direction of conductors such as Sir George Solti and Pierre Bolez.

Since moving to San Diego 11 years ago, Ms. Shen has developed a successful teaching career. Many of her students have won concertmaster positions, competitions and scholarships. In addition to teaching, she plays with the San Diego Symphony, the Classics 4 Kids concert series and the California Chamber Orchestra.

President's Message, continued

Finally – I wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate a local citizen who was not a member of the Society...but who truly shaped my upbringing. I thought that if she was so notable in my life, many of you Society members might remember her. Her name is Jacquie Baity Burt.

Jacquie was my soccer coach and referee, and she taught me how to swim in her backyard (she lived on Santa Victoria across from Solana Vista). She was also on the Solana Beach School Board; she worked with my Mom and was even her assistant for many years. She played soccer her entire life....even at 85 in her senior league. I feel as if, at some point, Jacquie was probably everyone's soccer coach or referee in Solana Beach.

Jacquie's family is planning a memorial for her on February 22nd, 1 to 3 p.m. at Fletcher Cover Community Center. Should you want more information, please contact me directly: jojo@heyjojoproductions.com

Also . . . we want your feedback. Have an idea for a program? Please let us know next time you see your Board members at a meeting or by emailing solanabeachhistory@gmail.com. We are here to celebrate our community and share our heritage.

Jojo Dodson Bogard

P.S. If you haven't already, please renew your membership for 2026 [online](#) or by using the form on page 6

SBC&HS to Award Two \$3,500 Scholarships in 2026

Your Board of Directors voted in January to increase our scholarship awards to \$3,500 this year, but we will offer two, instead of three. In addition, we will contribute \$1,000 to the Mexican American Educational Guidance Association's scholarship program, as has become an annual tradition. Our scholarship program would not be possible without the hard work of our entire Society, but especially the Crafts Group -- as the Holiday Boutique is our biggest fund raiser.

Our scholarships are available to high school students or adult learners to assist in financing college, graduate school or technical school tuition. Scholarships are available only to applicants who are current residents with home addresses in Solana Beach and who have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4-point scale, or equivalent. Application instructions will be available on our website on March 1 at www.sb-chs.org. If you know of deserving students, please share this information with them!

Special thanks to Pat Coad, who has shepherded our Scholarship Program since 2014. Pat is stepping down as chair this year; we will miss her. These photos capture her pride in delivering two of three awards to our 2025 winners, Allisa Berber and Ava Hsueh. Our third winner, Julia Snider, isn't pictured. If you would like to join our Scholarship Committee, please email



Performing for us on Thursday February 12, 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center

Meet the Young Virtuosos of Solosoli Music Studio



Zen Parris (left) is a 15-year-old violinist who performs with his school orchestra and the Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra. He has been concertmaster of the San Diego Union School District Honor Orchestra, Assistant Principal of the All-State Orchestra, and a winner of the Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra Solo Competitions. As a Concerto Competition winner, he made his soloist debut with the Coronado Philharmonic Orchestra last year. Recently, his achievements have been featured on Fox 5 and KUSI news. In addition to music, Zen is a dedicated sprint kayak athlete training for the Olympics, excelling at the highest levels in both artistic and athletic pursuits.

Brian Chen (right) is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Solana Santa Fe Elementary School. He began his musical journey in 2019 under the instruction of Ms. Sang Shen and continued to expand his studies with Mr. Hernan Constantino in 2023. Brian joined the Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra in 2020 and has greatly enjoyed being part of the program ever since. He currently performs in the Intermediate Orchestra, where he serves as assistant concertmaster. In 2024, Brian joined Quartet Strings for Wings, participating in fundraising performances in support of childhood cancer research. His favorite composers are Antonio Vivaldi, Niccolò Paganini, and Pablo de Sarasate.



Ethan Yi (left) is a 7-year-old violinist and first grader currently performing with Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra Prelude Strings. He began learning the violin at the age of five and has earned first place in the Solo Competition over the past two years. Ethan is also a proud member of Hearts in Harmony, sharing music with the community through outreach concerts with other young musicians. Outside of his music, Ethan enjoys reading, tennis, ice skating, and building with Legos. He hopes to one day inspire people around the world through his music.

Rachel Yu (right) is a 12-year-old 7th grader from Carmel Valley. She began learning the violin at the age of 7. Rachel is a member of the Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra since 2022 and has won honorable mention in solo competition. In the summers she played chamber music with Solosoli and Boston Youth Symphony. In 2025 she debuted her violin performance at Carnegie Hall. Besides violin, Rachel also excels in the piano. Rachel enjoys sharing her love for music by performing with Hearts in Harmony group in nursing homes around San Diego.



Julia Yu (left) is a 10-year-old 5th grader from Carmel Valley. She started her musical journey at the age of 5. She is a member of the Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra since 2022 and has won third place in solo competition. In the past summers she played chamber music with both Solosoli and Boston Youth Symphony. Besides violin, Julia is also an achieved piano player and recently debuted in Carnegie Hall. Julia shares her love for music through frequent performances with other young musicians in Hearts in Harmony sessions in nursing homes around San Diego.



You are invited! Our Crafts Group Meets on the 4th Thursday of the Month . . .



. . .to chat and create the amazing one-of-a-kind goods that populate our popular Holiday Boutique each year. No artistic ability needed! We make it easy for you to find YOUR creativity. After a January debrief on another successful 2025 Holiday Boutique, the group's hands-on workshops are again underway.

Next sessions: **Thursday, February 26 and March 26.**

1 to 3 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center.

2026 SBC&HS Meetings & Events

Unless otherwise noted, General Meetings start at 5 p.m. and have returned to Fletcher Cove Community Center, 111 South Sierra Ave.

Thursday, February 12: Young Virtuosos of the Solosoli Music Studio will perform classical works for the violin.

Thursday, March 12: Greg Reitman, Founder of the Blue Water Institute and the Blue Water Film Festival will discuss his organization and provide a preview of the 2026 film festival, which is scheduled for March 19-22 at Encinitas-area film venues. The festival is driven by its environmental programs that discover, innovate and support the next generation of environmental filmmakers from all over the world.

Thursday, April 9: Our SeaWeeders will host a discussion about their partnership with the City of Solana Beach and the citizens Climate & Resiliency Commission to expand native pollinator habitat in Solana Beach, and why it matters. Since 2021, these partners have sponsored plant giveaways and sales to support goals of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, a World Wildlife Federation program.

Thursday, May 14: Representatives from the City of Solana Beach will provide an update on the City's many public works and other initiatives.

June date to be determined: Scholarships award and 2026-27 SBC&HS Executive Board installation dinner.

Garden School



Learn about the Solana Beach School District's garden instruction at the next meeting of the **SeaWeeders: Tuesday, February 10, 10:30 a.m. at the yellow cottage behind the Boys & Girls Club, 533 Lomas Santa Fe Dr.**

Garden education is part of the District's Environmental Stewardship program and aligned with its Next Generation science standards. It is now available at all seven District schools for some 2,700 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Representatives from the District will join us.

Stacey Bostrom also will join us with an update on the Junior Gardeners and their Mindful Garden at Skyline school.

All are welcomed!



presents:

Love Your Library

SPECIAL SATURDAY OPENING!

Saturday - February 7, 2026
11:00am-12:30pm

Free!



Create Your Own Masterpiece!
Guided Painting Class
(While Supplies Last)
Children's Musical Performance

during the
**3rd Annual
Coast and
Ranch
Book Crawl!!**

See You at The Library!
Solana Beach Library
157 Stevens Avenue
www.FriendsofSolanaBeachLibrary.org



Line Dancing Class

On Saturday, February 28, the Sandpipers Square Dance Club will sponsor a Line Dance Lesson from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at San Dieguito United Methodist Church, [170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas](#). The fee is \$10.

**Walks
begin at
8:30 a.m. at
the north
end of the
Solana
Beach
Train
Station**



55+ SOLANA STRIDERS

Join us for a fun-filled walk that takes place once a month!

**1ST MONDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

Fletcher Cove got a little more fun in January with a new Beach Toy Borrow Box.



City leaders and Girl

Scout Troop 2200 snipped a ribbon to celebrate this creative sustainability project, which was built by the Girl Scouts themselves. The Beach Toy Borrow Box invites beachgoers to borrow, play, and return toys instead of purchasing plastic items, helping keep our shoreline clutter-free. Beach visitors are encouraged to snap photos while using the new Beach Toy Borrow Box and tag the City of Solana Beach on social media to share the fun.

Thank you Girl Scout Troop 2200 and troop leader Katie Mahzari for creating the box and donating the toys inside. Thanks as well to 5th and 6th grade students of Solana Santa Fe Elementary School for supporting the project.

Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society a 501c (3) organization

2025-26 Executive Board

President.....Jolene Dodson Bogard
Vice President.....Michele Stribling
Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones
Recording Secretary.....Lori Wolf
Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons

Committees

Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons
Communications.....Robbie Harless, Karen Dorney
Crafts.....Kathryn Schmiedeberg, Stephanie Wilde
Heritage Museum Curator.....Vacant
Hospitality.....Karen Dorney
Membership Recruitment.....Vacant
Newsletter, Website.....Kathleen Drummond
Parliamentarian, Programs.....Carol Childs
Scholarship Program.....Holly Smith Jones
SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond



Since our founding in 1953, the **Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society** has thrived thanks to the generous donations and dedicated volunteerism of our members. Your annual dues provide the funds we need to fulfill our mission: To promote artistic and cultural advancement, support public education about our local history, and sustain the beauty of our unique community. [Click here](#) to learn about our 70+ years of service in our 70th Anniversary booklet. Among the Society's contributions:

- We commissioned Kevin Anderson's murals at the Solana Beach Post Office, dedicated in 2025
- The Living History Program for third graders at the Heritage Museum
- Annual scholarships for college-bound students — \$49,500 awarded since 2014, plus we contribute \$1,000 yearly to MAEGA scholarships
- Torrey Pines grove at the north end of the Coastal Rail Trail
- Landscaping of the Lomas Santa Fe median
- The War Memorial at the Plaza
- Video interviews with notable citizens on our YouTube channel
- Contributions for the Harbaugh Seaside Trails land acquisition
- Designation of Hwy 101 as a Scenic Route
- Crafts Workshops and our cherished annual Holiday Boutique
- \$10,000 donation to help build the La Colonia Skatepark
- SeaWeeders' landscaping and benches at our Post Office

If you haven't already, please renew today to continue your membership in 2026

You can return this form or pay securely by PayPal or credit card [online](#).

Questions? Email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

2026 Annual Membership Renewal

Name _____ Spouse / Partner _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Please check if interested in joining . . .

- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ SeaWeeders Garden Club
- ☐ Crafts Group
- ☐ Other volunteer opportunities

Annual Dues (check your category):

- ☐ Individual \$ 30.00
- ☐ Family \$ 35.00
- ☐ Business \$100.00
- ☐ Lifetime \$500.00

Make your check payable to SBC&HS and mail to P.O. Box 504, Solana Beach, CA 92075