



Another Busy Spring . . .

This month, we'll again host Solana Vista third graders to our Heritage Museum to learn about their community's history. Although we hope you all find the Holiday Boutique and our monthly meetings to be memorable, these Living History visits might be the most impactful of the programs we offer each year. Without fail, when we host visitors to the Museum on the first and third Saturday afternoons of the month, someone will stop by and say "I remember visiting here when I was a third grader!"

And it's soooo fun to host these young visitors as they try to figure out the crank phones and the pot-bellied stove and many artifacts representing life before the advent of running water and electricity -- and then after. Our "Living History" programs are scheduled for March 19th and 26th. Should you want to volunteer at these sessions, please let us know! Email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com or call me at 858.204.1711.

But first, **please join our Thursday, March 12 membership meeting, 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center.** Our presenter is a respected film-maker, founder, chairman and executive director of the Blue Water Institute (BWI) and the upcoming Blue Water Film Festival . . . and my long-time friend.

Greg Reitman and I met about 20 years ago when we were both attending events for an International Peace Day sponsored by renowned primate researcher Jane Goodall's Institute of Peace. In 2002, Dr. Jane had been named a United Nations Messenger of Peace -- we were *her* messengers for the Peace Day event -- I, as a producer of a benefit concert on the Santa Monica Pier and Greg, as a presenter at the event. Since then, Greg has formed a successful film production company, as well as BWI and its Festival, based right next door in Encinitas. (Films will be screened in La Jolla, Encinitas and Rancho Sante Fe.) He and his teams are dedicated to helping us understand the effects of climate change through compelling visual storytelling, and he's a great eco-storyteller himself!

By the way, if you'd like to host a delegate to the festival -- a striving film-maker or production assistant -- let me know. BWI is seeking housing for its creators. I have personally hosted many of Greg's speakers and filmmakers in recent years to help them manage their budgets. It's fun and rewarding; truly passionate and interesting artists. Email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com if interested.

Speaking of eco-storytelling, Society Vice President Michele Stribling did a stellar job of explaining our seven-decade history of supporting beautification along Hwy. 101 through Solana Beach during a press event sponsored by State Sen. Catherine Blakespeare on Feb. 20. Sen. Blakespeare helped to secure \$300,000 in funding for Solana Beach to extend the Coastal Rail Trail through Harbaugh Seaside Trails and connect to the Cardiff and Encinitas segments.

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

Federal Funds for Glencrest Dr. Sidewalks

California
Congressman Mike Levin
has secured \$500,000 in
federal funding for curb and
sidewalk improvements
along Glencrest Drive. The
improvements are part of the
City's Safe Routes to School
project.



**BLUE WATER
FILM FESTIVAL**

Thursday March 12, 5 p.m., Fletcher Cove Community Center



Exclusive Insights on the 7th Annual Blue Water Film Festival

Greg Reitman, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Blue Water Institute, will discuss that organization's mission and its upcoming Blue Water Film Festival at the March 12 meeting of the Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society, 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center, 133 Pacific Ave.

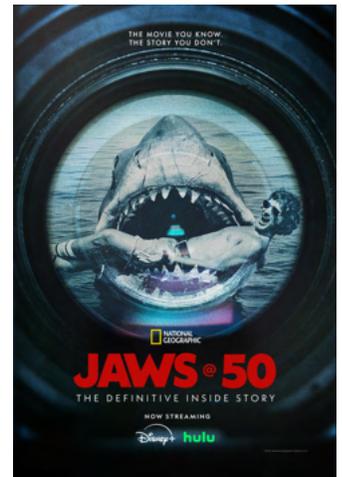
Reitman founded the Blue Water Institute in 2020 to encourage broad thinking about how climate change is affecting all of earth's creatures and eco-storytelling as environmental activism. From March 19 to 22, the institute will host its 7th annual Blue Water Film Festival, premiering films at venues throughout North County San Diego. The event includes a series of panel discussions and workshops on eco-storytelling through film-making, as well as the screening of more than 30 documentary and

animated films from around the world. These include the *50th Anniversary Making of Jaws*, a documentary showing at 6 p.m. March 21, poolside at the La Valencia Hotel.

The festival concludes on World Water Day, March 22, with the Blue Water Awards. Past honorary recipients have included Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Sylvia Earle, Dr. Wallace J. Nichols and Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, as well as local surf legend Rob Machado.

A New York native and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Reitman is an active member of the Director's Guild of America, SAG-AFTRA, and the International Marketing Association. He is a former adjunct professor at New York University-Tisch Film School and has been described by *Movie Maker Magazine* as "one of the top ten filmmakers producing content that impacts our world." He is the founder of Blue Water Entertainment, Inc., an independent production company. His films include *Hollywood's Magical Island- Catalina* (2003), *Fuel* (2008), *Rooted in Peace* (2016), *Crypto* (2019) and *5 Pounds* (2024).

For more information about the Blue Water Film Festival and to purchase tickets, visit www.bluewaterfilmfestival.org.



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

Our scholarships are available to high school students or adult learners to assist in financing college, graduate school or technical school tuition. The awards 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 are available at www.sb-chs.org. If you know of deserving students, please share this information with them!

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



. . .to create the beautiful, one-of-a-kind items that we sell at our popular Holiday Boutique each year. No artistic ability needed! We make it easy for you to find YOUR creativity. Next session: **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. at Fletcher Cove Community Center, 133 Pacific Ave.

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 several North County 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, why it matters, and how native plants may help in fire-safe landscapes

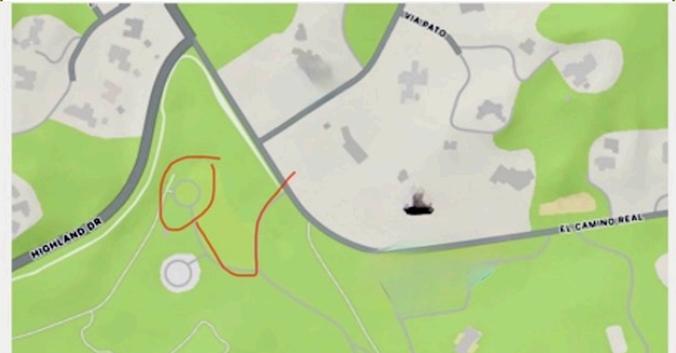
Thursday, May 14: Representatives from the City of Solana Beach will provide an update on the City's many public works and other initiatives.

June date to be determined: Scholarships award and 2026-27 SBC&HS Executive Board installation dinner at Tony's Jacal Restaurant.

March 10 Field Trip to San Dieguito Park



Join the SeaWeeders for a visit to the new SMRT garden at San Dieguito Park on Tuesday, March 10, 10:30 a.m. Meet at the lower parking area on El Camino Real after a right turn from Highland Drive, or at the garden, circled below.



SMRT stands for "Stormwater Makes Retained Treasure." The garden has been a project led by Jenny Parker of Solana Beach EcoRotary. The project has involved creating basins to capture stormwater, taking it off roads and parking lots and using it to nurture plants and attract wildlife.

Jenny won a grant from I Love A Clean San Diego's Stormwater Pollution Solution Challenge last year to tackle the project, which has been tested in recent months by our rainstorms!

If you would like to carpool to the meeting, please email sbseaweeders@gmail.com



Free Compost at the New Community Compost Hub!

Where? Public Works Yard, 1764 Highland Drive

When? Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring your own container, tools and gloves. The Hub is not staffed.

Bravo to the "clean and green" sustainability staffers at the City of Solana Beach for bringing free compost back home to our community!

Provided by EDCO, the compost at this innovative new hub started at *your* home in your green bin. EDCO collects organic waste and transforms it into a nutrient rich compost through their anaerobic digester. This recycling feat meets requirements of the 2016 California law mandating organic recycling *and* furthers EDCO's agreement with the City to provide us with free mulch for public and private landscapes -- now throughout the year, not just during Bulky Waste Day events!

Adding compost to your plants and garden enhances soil fertility, increases water retention, and reduces erosion. In fact, compost is the SeaWeeders' secret ingredient to keeping your Post Office sculpture garden thriving! [Click here](#) to learn about the Garden Club's epic 2024 visit to EDCO's organics recycling facility!



What Drives Cyber Crime -- Scams That Prey on Seniors?

Stefan Savage, co-director for UCSD's Center for Network Systems (CNS), will discuss how to understand the economics of cyber crime from a criminal stand point, how interventions against that threat have been developed along with the evolution of threats, and how you as a consumer can protect yourself. This lecture is sponsored by Solana Beach Community Connections and is open to the public.

- When: Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00 PM
- Where: La Colonia Community Center, 715 Valley Avenue, Solana Beach

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



Belly Up Co-Founder Dave Hodges Dies at Age 79



In the summer of 1974, after months of searching locations for their dream bar, Dave Hodges and Greg Gilholm bought the old Quonset hut on Cedros Avenue that still houses their dream today. The Belly Up Tavern opened on September 28, 1974 — Dave's birthday. He chose its name in response to naysayers who predicted that the venture would "go belly up."

Instead, it has become one of the premier music venues in the country, hosting bands as varied as the world-famous Rolling Stones and local favorite Atomic Groove.

Dave Hodges died on February 4, 2026. In her comments about his passing at the February 25 City Council meeting, Mayor Lesa Heeber lauded him as a "visionary."

In addition to shepherding the successful tavern and music venue, Mr. Hodges and his partner nurtured the careers of countless musicians over the decades. "He's a big reason why Atomic Groove is still around today and still flourishing," band member Carrie Weiland

told the San Diego Union Tribune.

Mr. Hodges also was a key promoter of the Cedros Avenue business community, Mayor Heebner noted. "He was the catalyst in transforming Cedros," she said. After he purchased the entire Quonset hut complex (originally the home to Bill Jack Scientific Instruments company), he made a point of renting to fledging small businesses. "He had a sixth sense about who would succeed."

"Dave contributed greatly to Solana Beach history, our economy, our culture and our notoriety," Heebner said. "May his vision live on in Solana Beach."

Firefighter Michael Mejia, Lifetime La Colonia Resident

Veteran firefighter Michael Mejia will be honored with a fire engine procession at the Del Mar Fairgrounds following a memorial service at The Sound at 2 p.m. on March 4.

Mr. Mejia joined the Del Mar Fire Department in 1993. He later joined the National City department in 2000 and was actively serving in a more than 30-year Fire Department career when he passed away in February due to complications from an illness.

U.S. Congressman Juan Vargas paid tribute to Mr. Mejia at the House of Representatives in Washington, D. C., citing his "bravery, kindness, and professionalism." Here in Solana Beach, he is also remembered for his volunteerism with local schools -- including a teamwork "egg-drop" practice where students learned to catch an egg without breaking it, according to Solana Beach City Council-member Kristi Becker, who honored Mr. Mejia during the February 25 Council meeting. He coordinated emergency medical services between the Fire Department and the Del Mar Fairgrounds during County Fair events, and helped provide free and low-cost Fair tickets to area residents.

Mr. Mejia is survived by his wife, two daughters and many family members still living in La Colonia.





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 . . .

Annual Dues (check your category):

Board of Directors

Individual \$ 30.00

SeaWeeders Garden Club

Family \$ 35.00

Crafts Group

Business \$100.00

Other volunteer opportunities

Lifetime \$500.00

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